

DESPAIR & CONSOLATION

Emotion and Affect
in Late-Medieval
and Reformation
Christianity



RLST 21330
Dr. M. Vanderpoel
T/R 1:30-2:50



This course surveys major texts in Christian thought and culture from the fourteenth through the sixteenth centuries, focusing on how these authors understood despair and how, if at all, despair may be remedied. In particular, we will think alongside these late-medieval and early-modern figures about the phenomenon of emotion, the relations between feeling and knowing, possible responses to (especially negative) affects, and how religious belief, practice, and experience shape and are shaped by emotional life.