HCHCR48700/THEO 48701/HIST 60909
Late Medieval Women: Authorship and Authority

Willemien Otten, Tu. 1:30-4:20 S208
Office: Swift 300b, tel. 773-702-1901;
Office hours: W. 2:00 – 4 pm. (or by appt)
Email: wotten@uchicago.edu

I Course Description:
In recent decades there has been a great deal of interest in vernacular theology, as complementing and complicating the more traditional division of medieval theological texts into monastic and scholastic. This course will focus on a number of medieval women writers, dealing mainly, albeit not exclusively, with texts written by women in the vernacular. After an introductory historical overview of the position of women in the early Middle Ages, the course will focus on Heloise and Hildegard of Bingen as two twelfth-century spiritual authors, and continue with five women writers writing in the vernacular, but representing different linguistic regions. They are, respectively, Mechtilde of Magdeburg (German), Hadewijch (Dutch), Marguerite Porete (French), Julian of Norwich, and Margery Kempe (English). Meister Eckhart will primarily be read for purposes of comparison and to account for the influence of these women’s texts.

The course will link the spectrum of vernacular languages which these women authors represent with the diversity of their individual positions and try to analyze that span of diversity in terms of ecclesiastical development, gender division, authorial identity, theoretical position, and theological criticism. The final aim of the course is to come to an assessment of the constructive contribution of these vernacular treatises to the tradition of late medieval theology and spirituality.

II Course requirements are the following:
1. Completion of all required readings on schedule. Please, familiarize yourself with the readings, especially the primary ones, and be ready to discuss them in class.
2. At least one oral presentation on (a portion of) the assigned primary or secondary readings. A schedule will be drawn up at the beginning of term.
3. A final research paper of approx. 15 pp.

III Required Texts: Available at the Seminary Coop and on reserve at Regenstein
Hildegard of Bingen, Scivias (Mahwah NY: Paulist Press, 1990) CWS
-----, *Acute Melancholia and Other Essays: Mysticism, History, and the Study of Religion (Gender, Theory, and Religion)* (New York: Columbia
Beatrice of Nazareth, *On Seven Ways of Holy Love* (see chalk-e-resource)
Patricia Dailey, *Promised Bodies. Time, Language, and Corporeality in Medieval Women’s Texts* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2013) (not ordered; available as online library resource)

**Recommended Texts:**
Peter Dronke, *Women Writers of the Middle Ages: A Critical Study of Texts from Perpetua (d. 203) to Marguerite Porete (d. 1310)*, (Cambridge UK: CUP, 1984)

**Further Texts on Reserve:**
-----, *Holy Feast and Holy Fast: The Religious Significance of Food to Medieval Women* (Berkeley; Univ. of California Press, 1988)
Gerard Loughlin (ed.), *Queer Theology: Rethinking the Western Body* (Malden
IV Course Schedule:

Week 1:
3/28 Introduction and Historical Overview
Read: Dronke, 1-139;
   McGinn, Flowering of Mysticism, Introduction
   Newman, From Virile Woman to WomanChrist, ch.1
   Hollywood, Soul as Virgin Wife, chs. 1-2
   Dailey, Promised Bodies (e-book available), ch. 1

Week 2:
4/04 Heloise and Hildegard
Read: Letters of Heloise
   Newman, From Virile Woman to WomanChrist, ch. 2
   Dronke, Women Writers, ch. 5 (Heloise)
   Hildegard of Bingen, Scivias, Book I and III
   Dronke, Women Writers, ch. 6 (Hildegard)
   McGinn, Growth of Mysticism, ch. 8
   Newman, Sister of Wisdom, chs. 1 and 2

Week 3:
4/11 Mechtild of Magdeburg, The Flowing Light of the Godhead
Read: text Mechtild
   Bynum, Jesus as Mother, pp. 170-262
   Hollywood, Soul as Virgin Wife, ch. 3
   Newman, Virile Woman to WomanChrist, ch. 5
   McGinn, Flowering of Mysticism, chs 1 and 5 (pp. 222-44)

Week 4:
4/18 Hadewijch of Antwerp, Works
Read: texts Hadewijch
   Hollywood, ‘Sexual Desire, Divine Desire: Queering the Beguines’ in Toward a Theology of Eros, pp. 119-34 (e-reserve) (also in Acute Melancholia)
   McGinn, Flowering of Mysticism, ch. 5 (pp. 199-222)
   Newman, From Virile Woman to WomanChrist, Excursus 1 (Hadewijch and Abelard

Week 5:
4/25 Discussion of Hadewijch, Works, continued; Beatrice of Nazareth, Seven Ways of Holy Love;
overflow of readings of the first weeks

**Week 6:**
5/02 **Marguerite Pereite**, *Mirror of Simple Souls*
Read: texts **Marguerite**
  Dronke, *Women Writers*, ch. 7
  Hollywood, *Soul as Virgin Wife*, ch. 4
  Hollywood, ‘Queering the Beguines’ in *Queer Theology*, pp. 163-76 (e-reserve)
  McGinn, *Flowering of Mysticism*, ch. 5 (pp. 244-65)

**Week 7:**
5/09 **Meister Eckhart**
Read: **Eckhart**, *Selections from the Commentary on John* (pp. 122-73); *Selected Sermons*, pp. 177-208
  Hollywood, *Soul as Virgin Wife*, ch. 5 – 7
  Newman, *From Virile Woman to WomanChrist*, Excursus 2 (pp. 172-82)

**Week 8:**
5/16 **Julian of Norwich**
Read: **Julian**, *Showings. Long Text*
  F.C. Bauerschmidt, *Julian of Norwich and the Mystical Body Politic of Christ* 
  (chalk, ch. 2)

**Week 9:**
5/23 **Margery Kempe**
Read: Book of **Margery Kempe**
  John Hirsh, *The Boundaries of Faith* (Author and Scribe in the Book of Margery Kempe)
  Karma Lochrie, *Translations of the Flesh*, chs. 1-3

**Week 10:**
5/30 Final class: closing discussion, overflow of readings week 6 through
Read: Catherine Keller, ‘The Apophasis of Gender: A Fourfold Unsaying of 
  Feminist Theology’ (e-reserve)

Paper DUE date: Friday, June 2
This course will consist of the close reading and discussion of primary texts (in translation) of the Chan and Zen Buddhism of China and Japan, with a few secondary descriptions of Zen institutions and cultural influences. This will be done both with an eye to the historical development of these schools of thought and practice within the context of East Asian Buddhism in general, and for whatever transhistorical valences we care to derive from the texts.

The following required texts are available for purchase at the Seminary Co-op:


Photocopied materials will also be sent to all students as a pdf file over email. There are required readings. If a paper copy is preferred, students can obtain the original materials for photocopying on their own from the instructor.

Though the readings for this course are in English, students with proficiency in classical Chinese are encouraged to read original texts whenever possible, and bring up any issues arising from discrepancies or extra resonances discovered thereby in class, time permitting. Depending on the classroom demographics, we will work out a way to integrate the Chinese and English aspects of the discussion *in situ.*

This schedule is subject to change depending on the pace of our stride during the course; if we find some topics more worth discussing or more interesting to the present company, we will stretch the time allotted thereto. Our schedule is roughly as follows.

1/6/2014: Introductions, Basic Buddhism, Mahayana
Read: “Quick Pop Overview of Early Buddhist and Mahayana Motifs” (Ziporyn), and if not already familiar with them, take a little dip into a few key Indian Mahayana scriptural texts: E.g., “The Heart Sutra,” (aka “Maha-Pratijna-Paramita-Hridaya,”) and the “Diamond(-cutter) Sutra,” (aka *Vajracchedikā Pratijñāparamitā Sūtra*) (http://www.sacred-texts.com/bud/sbe49/sbe4929.htm). Also have a taste of *The Vimalakirti Sutra* (Chapter 3, “The Disciples,” and Chapter 9, “Entering the Gate of Nondualism,”) in *Coursepack pp..7-18.*


1/20: Southern School of Chan: The figure of Huineng, the new "Sixth Patriarch": *Sutra Spoken by the Sixth Patriarch,* (http://www.buddhistdoor.com/resources/sutras/6_Patriarch_Platform/sources/contents.htm)
Heze School: Coursepack, pp. 76-90  (Peter Gregory, Tsung-mi and the Sinification of Buddhism, pp. 224-252.)


2/3: Hongzhou School: Coursepack, pp. 91-156  (Mazu (Ma-tzu) (pp. 148-152), Baizhang (Pai-chang) (pp. 62-75), from Chang, Original Teachings of Chan Buddhism. Huangbo (Huangpo) teachings, from Blofeld, The Zen Teachings of Huangpo, pp. 29-66, 87-93, 103-121. Linji (Rinzai), in Luk, Chan and Zen Teachings, pp. 84-126.)

2/10: "Shi-tou School": Coursepack, pp. 157-196. (Dongshan and Caoshan (Tung-shan and Ts’aoshan) in Luk, pp. 127-180.) Further Materials to be sent over email.


2/24: Relations with Broader Buddhism: Coursepack, pp. 275-292.  Chappell, "From Dispute to Dual Cultivation: Pure Land Responses to Ch’an Critics," pp. 163-194.)


Assignments and Grading:
Students will be expected to write one substantial final term paper at the end of the term, due March 24, to be submitted over email to me at ziporyn@uchicago.edu.
DVPR 51404 The Pantheist Controversy: Spinoza to Hegel  
Brook A. Ziporyn M 3:00-5:50 S208

Books: Please purchase the following at Seminary Co-op or online:

Shirley, trans., *The Essential Spinoza: Ethics and Related Writings* (Hackett)
Hegel, *Faith and Knowledge* (SUNY)
Macherey, Pierre, translated by Ruddick, *Hegel or Spinoza?* (Minnesota)
*Philosophy of German Idealism: Fichte, Jacobi, Schelling* (PGI), in *The German Library* series (Continuum)

Additional materials (TBA) may be distributed over email and/or be available on CHALK in pdf form.

Additional secondary readings (Ziporyn, “Notes on TEI and MT”; Garrett, “Spinoza’s Theory of Scientiva Intuitiva,” available on CHALK.
Begin *Principles of Cartesian Philosophy*: Part 1 (all up to Proposition 15), Part 2 (also all up to Proposition 15, especially Propositions 9-11) and *Metaphysical Thoughts* (all).

April 3-17: Read *Ethics*, topped off with splashes of the parallel sections of *Short Treatise on God, Man and his Well-Being*. We should try to finish Part 2 and be well into Part 3 before beginning Jacobi.


May 1: Continue reading *Ethics*; RECOMMENDED read Kant, *Critique of Judgment* (in any edition) Sections 10, 72-78;
Read Schelling, “Ideas on a Philosophy of Nature as an Introduction to the Study of This Science,” (1803) and “Deduction of a Universal Organ of Philosophy, or Main Proposition of the Philosophy of Art According to Principles of Transcendental Idealism,” (1800), in *PGI*, pp. 167-217.


June 5: Finish reading *Ethics*.
Read Don Garrett, “Spinoza on the Essence of the Human Body and the Part of the Mind that is Eternal,” (available in *Cambridge Companion to Spinoza’s Ethics*).
Schelling, *On the History of Modern Philosophy*, “Spinoza” (pp. 64-75), “Hegel” (pp. 134-163), “Jacobi and Theosophy” (pp. 164-185)

Final research paper (4000-6000 words) due June 10.