Syllabus

WOMEN WRITERS IN THE MIDDLE AGES - 39402

Last update 30-09-2013

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: History

Academic year: 2

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Esther Cohen

Coordinator Email: msecohen@huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesday 13.00-14.00

Teaching Staff:
Prof Esther Cohen
Course/Module description:
The course will analyze the writings of lay and religious women throughout the Middle Ages, Latin as well as vernacular (in English translation).

Course/Module aims:
To examine and understand the socio-cultural context of women's writing: their motives, choices of genre and language, their reception and their consciousness of difference.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
Reading and understanding a literary text as an historical document.
Examining within gender history, the position of the intellectual or visionary woman.

Gaining understanding of medieval women's literacy and patriarchal attitudes towards it.
Conducting independent research on a pre-determined topic.
Writing a scientific research paper for a seminar.

Attendance requirements(%):
Minimum of 75% of meetings. In addition, absence for three consecutive meetings without an acceptable notification and reason will be considered as dropping the course.

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: The course will be interactive, with the teacher providing leading questions and the students providing most of the argumentation. Given the quantity of the reading, it will be apportioned to separate sub-groups, who will share their knowledge with each other in class.

Course/Module Content:
Women's literacy
Autobiographies
Biographies and vitae
History
Playwriting
Advice literature
Poetry
Music
Correspondence
Illuminations
Prophecy and visions
Theology and heresy
Feminism?

Required Reading:
Rublack, Ulinka, "Female spirituality and the Infant Jesus in Late Medieval Dominican Convents," Gender and History 6,1 (April 1994), 37-57.

The Book of Margery Kempe. Trans. B.A. Windeatt. Harmondsworth, England:
Penguin, 1985 – modern English


http://www.smu.edu/ijas/cdepisan/index.html

Comnena, Anna, The Alexiad of Anna Comnena, books 11, 15.
http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/AnnaComnena-Alexiad.html


Latin
http://www.fh-augsburg.de/~harsch/Chronologia/Lspost10/Hrotsvitha/hro_dr02.html
http://www.owu.edu/~o5medww/hrotsvit/index.htm
English translation
http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/roswitha-toc.html


Case, Mary Anne C., *Christine de Pizan and the Authority of Experience.* *Christine de Pizan and the Categories of Difference,* ed. Marilyn Desmond (University of Minnesota Press, 1998), 71-87.


Hildegard of Bingen, *Ordo virtutum*


Kathryn Kerby-Fulton and Dyan Elliott, *Self-Image and the Visionary Role in two letters from the Correspondence of Elizabeth of Schânau and Hildegard of Bingen,* *Vox Benedictina* 2:3 (July 1985), 198-223.

[http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/~young/trnintro.html](http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/~young/trnintro.html)

Ferrante, Joan *Correspondent,* in *Voice of the Living Light: Hildegard of Bingen*


Additional Reading Material:
84-106.

**Course/Module evaluation:**
- End of year written/oral examination 0 %
- Presentation 0 %
- Participation in Tutorials 30 %
- Project work 60 %
- Assignments 0 %
- Reports 0 %
- Research project 0 %
- Quizzes 0 %
- Other 10 %

**Additional information:**
- 10% of the grade is for attendance