

**Late Medieval Literature and Culture:  
The Fifteenth Century  
EN4990/6990  
Holly Johnson  
Fall 2011  
TuTh 12:30-1:45**



This class will explore the literature and culture of late-medieval England (post-Chaucer). We will explore several literary genres and works written during one of the most tumultuous periods of English history. Works may include John Lydgate's *Siege of Thebes*, Lydgate's contribution to *The Canterbury Tales* when he joins the pilgrimage on its way back to London (the image above shows Lydgate among Chaucer's pilgrims); the fascinating *Book of Margery Kempe*; the N-Town plays or the York mystery cycle; the morality play *The Castle of Perseverance*; Sir Thomas Malory's *Le Morte Darthur*; and works of the Scottish Chaucerians William Dunbar and Robert Henryson, whose *Testament of Cresseid* is a continuation of Chaucer's *Troilus and Criseyde*. We will read all works in late Middle English, but no prior experience with Middle English is necessary. Requirements include two exams, regular quizzes, a short translation project, an annotated bibliography, and a research paper.