

EN 8513

Dream Visions and Visionaries

Holly Johnson
Spring 2016
Tuesday 6:00-8:30

This course will explore the medieval dream vision, a popular genre in the late Middle Ages, along with works by English visionaries. We will investigate the ways that the medieval imagination transformed experiences, both secular and spiritual, into literary expression. The course will cover a number of medieval texts, including Geoffrey Chaucer's dream visions, the poem *Pearl*, the mystical guide *The Cloud of Unknowing*, and the spiritual autobiographies of Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe. It will culminate in William Langland's masterpiece *Piers Plowman*. We will read all works in Middle English, but no prior experience with Middle English is necessary.



Probable Texts:

Chaucer's *Book of the Duchess*
The Parliament of Fowles
The House of Fame

Pearl

The Cloud of Unknowing

The Book of Margery Kempe

The Shewings of Julian of Norwich

William Langland's *Piers Plowman*

Requirements include two exams, a presentation, a short translation project, an annotated bibliography, and a research paper.