

EN 8513
The Medieval Religious Imagination

Holly Johnson
Spring 2010
Tuesday 6:00-8:30

This course will explore the multiple ways that the medieval imagination transformed spiritual experiences and theological ideas into literary expression. The focus will be on major works of English literature in the late-medieval period. The course will cover a number of medieval genres, including lyrics, biblical and morality plays, saints' lives, the spiritual autobiographies of Margery Kempe and Julian of Norwich, the dream vision *Pearl*, culminating 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:

Middle English Lyrics
York Mystery Plays
Mankind
Wisdom
The Castle of Perseverance
Middle English Legends of Women Saints
The Book of Margery Kempe
The Shewings of Julian of Norwich
Pearl
William Langland's *Piers Plowman*

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