

EN 8513 The Medieval English Theater

Holly Johnson
Spring 2012
Tuesday 3:30-6:00

This course explores the rich field of English medieval drama, focusing not only on the plays themselves but on the culture in which these plays were written, produced, and performed. For some plays, such as the York Corpus Christi Plays, we have records of their funding, staging, and occasion. For others, such as the morality play *Mankind*, we have only the play text itself from which to draw inferences about stagecraft and audience. We will also look at other forms of performance, including John Lydgate's Mummings, Disguisings, and Pageants. We will read all works in Middle English, but no prior experience with Middle English is necessary.



Above is a painting by the French painter Jean Fouquet (1420-1481) which includes an image of a pageant master (the medieval director) with his script and baton.

Required Texts (all published by TEAMS):

The York Corpus Christi Plays
John Lydgate's Mummings and Entertainments
Mankind
Two Moral Interludes: The Pride of Life and Wisdom
The Castle of Perseverance
The N-Town Plays

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