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Fall 9-1-2004

### ENLT 495.01: Sex and Gender in Medieval Literature

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## EN/LS/WS 495: SEX AND GENDER IN MEDIEVAL LITERATURE

**Prof. Joanne Charbonneau**

LA 146A Office x4894

Office hours: Tu 10:30-noon and Thurs 4-5:30 and gladly by appt

Email:

### Texts:

*Anglo-Saxon World: An Anthology* (lyrics plus *Beowulf*)

Meg Bogin, *Women Troubadours*

Marie de France, *Lais of Marie de France*

*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

Old French Romance *Silence* (only for students who have not read it before)

### on the Web, on reserve, or by word attachment sent by email:

Alcuin Blamires, ed. *Woman Defamed and Woman Defended*

Anglo-Saxon version *Judith*

Hildegard of Bingen

Abelard and Heloise

Fabliaux from *Gallic Salt*

*Sir Gowther*

Chaucer's *Man of Law's Tale* and *Emare*

Margery of Kempe

*Aucassin et Nicolette* (only for those who are not re-reading *Silence*)

Criticism, scholarship and gender theory articles (as assigned)

### Grading Criteria: (NB: Plus and minus grades are in effect this semester)

**50%:** Extensive yet informal journal, which you will bring to each class. Be prepared to read from your journal in class. This journal will be your responses to the reading especially in terms of the text's treatment of sex and gender issues; engagement with scholarship and sometimes answers to specific questions. For each major text, I expect you to have read and responded to at least one piece of criticism/scholarship on that specific text (one you will find from the bibliography or on your own **or** one that I have specifically assigned for the whole class). I do **not** want plot summaries or synopses. (If you wish to jot down notes for yourself, please do it in a separate section or one clearly marked in your journal. Ditto for class notes. Mark clearly). Minimum: 5 pages per week.

**25%:** Research paper: 12-20 pages with at least three pieces of scholarship consulted.  
Due December

- 25%**
- a) Active engagement in class discussions and depth of insights
  - b) Presenting a one-page abstract of a piece of scholarship to all members of class
  - c) 3-5 page response due November 30th to either *Silence* or *Aucassin et Nicolette* (read independently).

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** In this class, as in many others, your attendance is essential in the give-and-take, the exchange and challenge of ideas at the heart of a true education. This exchange is particularly important in an upper-level literature course, which asks that you **engage** in the ideas of the texts, that you **talk** with others about your responses in order to sharpen your ideas and clarify your positions on important issues. You will hear views you disagree with; some you may find repugnant, offensive, or threatening. I expect civility and a level of discourse that allows other opinions in an exchange of viewpoints and ideas.

To attend class, then is to hear the issues raised, to hear other voices responding to these ideas, and to voice your own response to them. To miss class, then, is to miss out on a memory--no matter how small--to miss a link that connects us to other minds. I hope you will understand why it is so important to come to class prepared to talk, to share your insights and questions with others in the class. **THUS,**

2 absences: lower your final grade by 1/2 grade point;

3 absences: lower your final grade by a full grade point;

4 absences: lower your final grade by 1-1/2 grade points;

5 or more absences means automatic failure. You have missed too much of the course to say that you have "taken" or "passed the class. IF there is a family emergency or you are struck by a horrible illness, flu, or accident, the attendance policy may be more flexible. But I need to know if there is a problem; so please call me, leave a message on my voice-mail, e-mail me, or ask a friend to notify me about your problem.

### **Tentative Syllabus:**

#### **ANGLO-SAXON LITERATURE**

**Aug. 31:** Introduction to class

**Sept 2:** Riddles, Chapter 38, pp 235-50 in *Anglo-Saxon World: An Anthology*

**week of Sept 7:** Wife's Lament and Husband's Message, pp 56-58 in *Anglo-Saxon World: An Anthology*

from Alcuin Blamires, ed. *Woman Defamed and Woman Defended: An Anthology of Medieval Texts*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1992.

**week of Sept 14:** *Wulf and Eadwacer* p 59 in *Anglo-Saxon World: An Anthology*

**week of Sept 21:** *Beowulf* pp. 70-154 and Heroic Poems (pp 2-21) in *Anglo-Saxon World: An Anthology*

male heroism (codes of masculinity) and absence of women in the heroic world of men as valiant warriors or their marginalization as cupbearers peace weavers, mourners.

**week of Sept 28** Judith (on line or reserve) plus article on Judith as hero  
further discussions of gender and sex roles in Anglo-Saxon lyrics and epic

#### **OLD-FRENCH LITERATURE in translation**

**Week of Oct 5:** Introduction, Prologue to Marie de France's *Lais*  
and 6 *lais* per class; read from R. Howard Bloch's *Anonymous Marie de France*

**Week of Oct 12** Troubadours: male and female  
Meg Bogin, *Women Troubadours*  
Male troubadour songs on reserve

**Week of Oct 19** Abelard and Heloise: Letters and Abelard's Story of his Calamity

**Week of Oct 26** Hildegard of Bingen: views of males/female roles; chants for women's voices, illuminations.

**Nov 2:** Election Day holiday

**Nov 4:** Fabliaux from *Gallic Salt* (on reserve)

### MIDDLE ENGLISH LITERATURE

**Nov 9** *SGGK*

**Nov 11:** Veteran's Day holiday

**Nov 16** *Sir Gowther*

Jeffrey Jerome Cohen's chapter on reserve

**Nov 18:** Constance stories: Man of Law's Tale from Chaucer's CT

**Nov 23:** Reading Day on OF *Silence* and writing 3-5 page response to turn in on Nov 30th (at least one piece of scholarship consulted) OR *Aucassin et Nicolette*, 3-5 page response with one piece of scholarship consulted

**Nov 30:** *Emare*

**Dec 2:** Margery of Kempe

**Dec 7:** Margery of Kempe

**Dec 9:** Last Discussions

**Dec 13-17:** FINAL EXAMS and Research Paper due no later than Thursday, December 16 by 10am