Spring 2018 Course Descriptions

Instructor: Nancy Warren
Course: 481
Title: The Middle Ages and Its Representations

Description: This course jointly considers medieval texts and cultural phenomena in their own historical moments and later representations of those texts and phenomena. We will investigate what sorts of literary, historical, and political questions get negotiated through engagements with the Middle Ages. We will ponder why particular characters, tropes, and themes recur so persistently in texts of various genres. We will consider such figures as Joan of Arc, Julian of Norwich, and King Arthur, among others. Students will be expected to participate actively, read both extensively and intensively, and conduct research using both primary and secondary sources.

Proposed Readings: Karen Winstead, Chaste Passions
Regine Pernoud, Joan of Arc by Herself and Her Witnesses
Margery Kempe, The Book of Margery Kempe
Julian of Norwich, The Showings of Julian of Norwich
William Shakespeare, Henry VI, Part I
William Shakespeare, Midsummer Night's Dream
William Shakespeare and John Fletcher, Two Noble Kinsmen
George Bernard Shaw. Saint Joan
Ron Hansen. Mariette in Ecstasy
Thomas Malory, Morte d'Arthur
Alfred Tennyson, Idylls of the King