

FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 609.54-01

Spring 2015

Instructor: J. Jenkins

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Class Time: Monday / Wednesday 10:00 am—12:45 pm

Office Hours: Monday 2:00—3:00 pm, and by appointment

Margery Kempe and Julian of Norwich in their Medieval Context

This course will consider the works of Margery Kempe and Julian of Norwich, the two known women writers in Middle English. We will frame our reading of *The Book of Margery Kempe* and *A Revelation of Love* with an examination of a wide selection of contemporary documents and texts in order to investigate features of the writers' late medieval context. The supplementary readings will be drawn from the following intersecting areas of research:

- their social and religious histories; that is, Kempe and Julian as women with specific and fraught relationships to late medieval authority
- the lively textual community of which they are a part; that is, Kempe and Julian as inhabitants and participants in the flourishing literary community of East Anglia, home also to writers such as John Lydgate, John Capgrave, and Osbern Bokenham
- their literary activities; that is, their individual engagements with a range of devotional writing which both reflects and shapes their identities as devout subjects and influences their own literary work
- their place in the larger picture of women's literary activity, for despite the prominence of their reputations now, Kempe and Julian were only two of the many women who, through translation or compilation or patronage, contributed to the late medieval textual culture as producers and consumers of literature
- the spatiality of their lives, that is, the particularly important, and occasionally spectacular, relationships to space experienced by Kempe, the wandering pilgrim, and Julian, the anchoress
- late medieval mystical writing and literary authority; Kempe and Julian are two of five English medieval mystics, and (almost certainly) the only two women
- drama and the performance of late medieval devotion in East Anglia

All medieval texts will be in Middle English, but the proposed editions are designed for broad student use, so even students with very little experience with Middle English should find the readings accessible.

Text List:

The Book of Margery Kempe. Trans. and Ed. by Lynn Staley. Norton Critical Editions, 2001. [** Students who wish to read the text in Middle English are invited to use *The Book of Margery Kempe: the Annotated Edition*, ed. Barry WIndeatt. DS Brewer, 2004. Either edition is acceptable for this class.]

The Writings of Julian of Norwich: A Vision Showed to a Devout Woman and A Revelation of Love. Eds. Nicholas Watson and Jacqueline Jenkins. Penn State Press, 2006.

A Broadview Custom Course-Pack (available at the bookstore)

Supplementary readings will be listed on the reading schedule, and links to the library’s online holdings will be provided.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Seminar paper (8-10 d.s. pp)	25%
[note: completed seminar papers are to be submitted to the entire class electronically at least two working days before your presentation is scheduled]	
Seminar Response	15%
Oral Report	10%
Essay topic description and preliminary annotated bibliography	10%
Research Essay (approx 15 d.s. pp, i.e. 3000 words)	40%

Please note the following class requirements:

- There will be no final exam in this class.
- Students must submit the essay topic description and bibliography assignment before submitting their final research papers.
- Students must submit a final research paper in order to pass the course.
- Classroom activities may not be recorded by any means without written agreement.
- Please make all efforts to take assignments directly to the instructor. If it is not possible to do so, take your assignment to SS1152 and put it in the dropbox, where your assignment will be date-stamped and placed in the instructor's mailbox. Please keep a copy of your assignment in case of loss by any cause. Assignments **cannot be returned** by staff in the Department office.

Late assignment policy:

Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day assigned. Extensions must be negotiated with me before the due date; all late work (i.e. work handed in late without an extension, or work handed in after the extended deadline) will be penalised one letter grade (for example, from B+ to C+) and will receive reduced written comments. Late work will not be accepted later than one week past the deadline without documented medical reasons.

General Information:

I have assigned two texts and one custom course-pack (Broadview) for this class, available through the bookstore. In addition, there are several more assigned readings, both primary and secondary texts; some are available through our library's online holdings (noted on the class schedule below), and some are not. It is your responsibility to get the copies of the materials we will be discussing; some are in the library on the stacks, some are in my own library which I will lend, and some are available through inter-library loan. I may introduce additional readings—depending on the directions the class discussion take—but I will announce those well in advance of the class for which they are assigned.

Seminars (approx 10 d.s. pp, 25% of grade) are due no later than two working days before the class in which the presentation is scheduled, with no exceptions. In other words, for a Monday seminar, the paper is due on the Thursday before the class; for a Wednesday seminar, the paper is due on the Monday before class. Seminar writers will circulate completed papers to all members of the class and each member of the class is responsible for printing out her/his own copies. Seminars will not be presented orally in class; members of the class will read the seminar as part of the assigned readings before class begins.

Respondents will prepare comments in response to the written seminar and the readings (10-15 minutes worth of comments), and will be responsible for directing the class discussion in the first part of the meeting. Responses are worth 15% of the final grade. Seminar presenters will have an opportunity to respond to the response immediately following it. All members of the class will be expected to participate in the discussion of each seminar each week. Regular attendance and preparation is assumed; if you must be absent from the class, I would appreciate advance notice over email.

Research Papers (approx 15-17 d.s. pages; 40% of final grade), on a different topic than your seminar papers, are due at the end of classes. **Essay topics and preliminary annotated bibliographies** (10% of the final grade) are due Wednesday, 17 June.

Each student will present **one oral report** on a historical and/or cultural topic (to be chosen from a list of topics provided for each week on the reading schedule). There is no written component to this assignment, though students are required to circulate a complete and accurate bibliography for the report (in MLA style) at the beginning of their presentation. A schedule for the oral reports will be set up in the first few classes.

Email vs. Office Hours: I am happy to reply to short specific questions via email, and will answer as promptly as possible during business hours. If your questions require a more detailed answer or conversation, I will advise you to come by during office hours or make an appointment with me at a mutually convenient time. Written work is due at the beginning of class on the day assigned, in printed form, unless other specific arrangements have been made. *Do not submit work to me by email without prior agreement.*

Grading system:

Please note that the department has now standardized the percentage conversion scale.

90 + %	A+	4.0
85 – 89 %	A	4.0
80 – 84 %	A–	3.7
77 – 79 %	B+	3.3
74 – 76 %	B	3.0
70 – 73 %	B–	2.7
67 – 69 %	C+	2.3
64 – 66 %	C	2.0
60 – 63 %	C–	1.7
55 – 59 %	D+	1.3
50 – 54 %	D	1.0
0 – 49 %	F	0

Final grades are calculated according to the 4 point scale used in the *Graduate Calendar*:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-e-1.html>

Grade	Grade Point Value	Graduate Description
A+	4.00	Outstanding
A	4.00	Excellent-superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70	Very good performance
B+	3.30	Good performance
B	3.00	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	Minimum pass for students in Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	All grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted towards Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements.
C	2.00	
C-	1.70	
D+	1.30	
D	1.00	
F	0.00	

Please note: A B- is considered a minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the four-point system, the course instructor will employ this mark to distinguish superlative work that exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.

Plagiarism:

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

English Department Website:

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <http://english.ucalgary.ca/graduate>. Please note that the course outlines posted on the English Department website constitute the official course outline for purposes of appeals. Students should verify any hard copies against this posted version. For courses which employ numerical grades, the official departmental percentage to letter grade conversion scale is also posted on the department website.

Writing support:

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Library and Research Support:

Melanie Boyd, Librarian for English, offers research support to students, including strategies for finding articles, books, and other library materials. Contact:

maboyd@ucalgary.ca

Find *The English Pages* research guide here: <http://libguides.ucalgary.ca/english>

Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:



Academic regulations and schedules:

Consult the Department of English's graduate website for courses, departmental deadlines, and other related program information at <http://english.ucalgary.ca/node/245>.

Consult the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar for university and faculty regulations, dates, deadline, fees, and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar is

<http://grad.ucalgary.ca>.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact the Graduate Office at 403 220 5484 or visit us in Social Sciences Tower 1148 in the first instance.

For program planning and advice, contact the Graduate Program Administrator at enggrad@ucalgary.ca to make an appointment with Dr. Aruna Srivastava, Graduate Program Director.

Grade appeals:

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.”

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

Deferral of term work and final examinations:

Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferment of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See Calendar:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>,

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>.

Academic Accommodation:

It is the students’ responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may

require academic accommodations and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact them at 403-220-6019. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodations.

More information about academic accommodations can be found at www.ucalgary.ca/access.

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>;

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/>

“Safewalk” Program:

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

Contact for the Graduate Student Association: <http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/>

Contact for Students Ombudsman’s Office:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University Calendar states:

1. Plagiarism - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

- (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
- (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
- (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University Calendar, (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html>) "The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, ..., to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community". The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a "positive and productive learning and working environment." This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that "seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff". Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.