

HIST 3110
History of Women in the Middle Ages
Remote Learning
MWF 1:30-2:20 pm
Prof. Roisin Cossar
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September 9-Dec 11, 2020
Available for individual meetings: Mondays, 2:30-4:30 pm

Welcome to this course on the history of women in the Middle Ages, with an emphasis on the era after the Black Death in both England and Italy. The course examines medieval women's lives mainly through primary sources, investigating women's roles in the economy, religion, politics, households, medicine, and more. Classes will be organized around hands-on historical interpretation. One of my main aims is to introduce you to some of the approaches historians use to analyze our work. To that end, we will work together to build research tools and make arguments about the historical lived experiences of women in the medieval period. My hope is that although we won't be meeting in person, we can create a community of researchers as we explore some important questions about the medieval past.

Required Course Texts (available for purchase at the bookstore)

Anthony Bale, ed. *The Book of Margery Kempe* (Oxford, 2015) 9780199686643
Heather Gregory, ed. *Selected Letters of Alessandra Strozzi* (University of California Press, 1997) 9780520203907 – also available as an e-book on the UM Libraries site
Gene Brucker, ed. *The Society of Renaissance Florence* (U of T, 1997)

Required electronic sources (available on UMLearn)

P. Cheyney, *English Manorial Documents*
Shannon McSheffrey, ed. *Consistory Database: Testimony in the Late Medieval London Consistory Court* <http://consistory.cohds.ca/>

I will also make other readings and links available on our UMLearn site.

Assignments and Evaluation

All of the assignments in the course will help you develop a final paper or project. They will draw on our assigned texts and articles/essays available electronically through the UM Library system. Please also keep the following in mind:

1. If you need an extension, please ask. I reserve the right to deduct 2% per day from unexcused late work, but mistakes happen and I don't penalize them. If you have forgotten to hand something in by the due date, please get in touch with me as quickly as possible.
2. All materials must be typed using a standard 12-point font and clearly marked with your name and student number.
3. Please upload all assignments to the folder marked with the due date in our UMLearn portal. ***I will not accept emailed submissions.***

I. A 500 word description of your historical interests. Use this as an opportunity to introduce yourself to me (even if we have met in previous years!) and to think about what draws you to History courses. Why are you taking this course? What kinds of papers have you written in other classes, and why did you choose those topics? What topic or course has most interested you and why? And most important: what do you think is the value of the study of history in contemporary society? Due on September 18. This assignment is marked pass/fail, meaning that completing it will net you 2.5% of the final mark

II. A research database designed and completed with information from one or more primary sources we will study. I will distribute further information about this assignment via UMLearn. Due on Oct 23. 17.5%

III. A 2500-3000 word assignment based on primary and secondary sources (6-8 essays/articles available through the UM library databases) on a topic in medieval women's history of your choice. There are two options for the assignment:

1. A research essay
2. An alternative project such as: a board game, a piece of historical fiction, or a graphic novel version of some aspect of medieval women's history. Please speak to me before embarking on this project.

I will allow collaborative assignments (2 collaborators only) but bibliographies for those projects must be twice as long as individual projects and in addition to the finished work, each collaborator must write a 500-word description of the collaborative process and their specific contributions. Due November 27. 30%

IV. Participation. This will include oral discussion, at least two weekly contributions to our UMLearn discussion forum (one observation about a reading or class discussion and one response to someone else's observation), and occasional in-class collaborative research/writing. If you are unable to participate in our live discussions, 20%

V. Final take-home exam due in the December examination period (Dec 12-23). 30%

Late submissions

As stated above, if you can't meet a due date for any reason, please contact me in advance and we will work out a solution together.

IMPORTANT information about class structure

You should normally be available during our scheduled class time. Lectures will usually be delivered "live" at class time but they will also be available as recordings, and I will post any lecture slides to UMLearn. Discussions will not be recorded, but if you can't participate in a discussion we can work around that – just let me know and we will make a plan. There are lots of ways to participate "asynchronously" in the class, by writing in the discussion forums,

contributing to our class research work, etc. You do not need to appear on camera to participate in the class. We will have an orientation for all of this on the first Friday of the year, September 11.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about the work we do in class. It is also essential that you contact me immediately if you are having trouble accessing the class materials.

Class platform

UMLearn is home to our course materials, including lecture recordings, slides, and folders for you to upload assignments. Our lectures will be delivered on Zoom; look on UMLearn for the password for the term.

Office hours/communication

I will be online every Monday afternoon from 2:30 until 4:30 pm. You can get access through the password on our UMLearn page. If that time does not work, please get in touch and we can make an appointment.

Look for regular emails from me about class events/announcements. I will also remind you about upcoming events, assignments, etc. at the beginning of most classes.

Academic Integrity

Doing your own work is essential to your success at university and beyond. I'm aware of the many temptations to cheat, especially when you are stressed or unsure how to complete a challenging assignment. This period of remote learning might make such temptations even stronger. Please don't fall for them – talk to me instead. *There are real and lasting penalties for academic dishonesty.* We will discuss plagiarism, cheating, and academic misconduct in more depth during our first class meetings. In the meantime, please take note of the penalties for plagiarism in the Faculty of Arts:

The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism on a written assignment is a grade of F on the paper and a final grade of F (DISC) (for Disciplinary Action) for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as purchase of an essay and repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five (5) years from registration in courses taught in a particular department/program in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty.

The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism or to other experts for authentication.

The common penalty in Arts for academic dishonesty on a test or examination is F for the paper, F (DISC) for the course, and a one-year suspension from courses acceptable for credit in the Faculty. For more serious acts of academic dishonesty on a test or examination, such as repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department or program in Arts or from all courses taught in or accepted for credit by this Faculty.

Evaluative feedback will be provided by the Voluntary Withdrawal date November 23, 2020

Numerical range of letter grades in this class

A+: 88-100 %

A: 80-87 %

B+: 75-79 %

B: 70-74 %

C+: 65-69 %

C: 60-64 %

D: 50-59 %

F: Below 50%

Uncollected term work will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.

Students who wish to appeal a grade given for term work must do so within 10 working days after the grade for the term work has been made available to them.

Policy on medical notes

Students who are unable to meet a course requirement due to medical circumstances are currently not required to submit medical notes. However, students are required to contact their instructor or academic advisor by email to inform of the missed work and to make arrangements for extensions, deferrals, or make-up assignments. Please follow these guidelines if you are unable to meet an academic requirement for your courses.

- Contact your instructor for term work such as a class, quiz, midterm/test, assignment, lab;
- Contact an advisor in your faculty/college/school of registration for a missed final exam (scheduled in the final examination period);
- Inform your instructor/advisor as soon as possible do not delay. Note for final exams, students must contact within 48 hours of the date of the final exam; and
- Email your instructor/advisor from a U of M email address, and include your full name, student number, course number, and academic work that was missed.

Student Resources

***Student supports and resources are available throughout the Fall and Winter terms. Please consult the appropriate webpages for information on virtual appointments or other modes of contact during this period of limited in-person services.**

Academic Resources

You have access to several important resources to help you navigate your classes and university life more generally. There are writing tutors available to help you with your essays through the Academic Learning Centre (ALC): <http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/>. The History department will also make a writing tutor available exclusively to History students in the department on one day a week. More information about scheduling, etc., TBA.

The ALC page also has resources to help you with study skills, organization, as well as assistance for students using English as an Additional Language (EAL). Other issues, including accessibility services, workshops, and tips about academic integrity are addressed at the Student Advocacy Services webpage (http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/).

All of the above services can also be accessed under the heading of Student Resources on the Student Affairs website: <http://umanitoba.ca/student/studentlife/index.html>.

History students can also take advantage of the huge range of academic materials (including primary and secondary sources, as well as pages to help with writing and referencing) made available by the History subject librarian, tailored just for you! They are available on the Libraries page at this link: <http://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/history>. Students who need research assistance can also schedule an appointment with a librarian through the website.

Student Counselling Centre

Contact SCC if you are concerned about any aspect of your mental health, including anxiety, stress, or depression, or for help with relationships or other life concerns. SCC offers crisis services as well as counseling. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/counselling/index.html>

Student Support Case Management

Contact the Student Support Case Management team if you are concerned about yourself or another student and don't know where to turn. SSCM helps connect students with on and off campus resources, provides safety planning, and offers other supports, including consultation, educational workshops, and referral to the STATIS threat assessment team. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/case-manager/index.html>

University Health Service

Contact UHS for any medical concerns, including mental health problems. UHS offers a full range of medical services to students, including psychiatric consultation. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/health/>

Student Advocacy

Contact Student Advocacy if you want to know more about your rights and responsibilities as a student, have questions about policies and procedures, and/or want support in dealing with academic or discipline concerns. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/advocacy>

UM History Student Association (UMHiSA)

UMHiSA is a history undergraduate student run organization that seeks to establish a sense of community for students studying all facets of history, and provide support for them in their academic career. Students interested in fun times, spirited debate, new opportunities, a community of like-minded students, or all of the above, check out UMHiSA on our twitter

account @UMH_Undergrad, our instagram account @UMHISA_Undergrad, or emailing umhisau@gmail.com .

Class schedule (subject to change before Sept 9 and with class consent afterwards)

Please begin reading the assigned texts before the first discussion. You might find it helpful to read a chunk of text every day rather than trying to digest all of it at once – and do take notes as you read to help you focus/identify questions/sort out what does not make sense. We will discuss forms of note taking in class.

Week of	Class Topic	Discussion date(s)	Reading
Sept 9	Introductions	Sept 11	syllabus
Sept 14	Foundations: women in the medieval past and in historical scholarship	Sept 18	n/a
Sept 21	Women's bodies/medicine I	Sept 23, 25	Articles on UMLearn
Sept 28	Women's bodies/medicine II	Sept 30, Oct 2	Articles on UMLearn
Oct 5	Women on the English manor	Oct 7, 9	Cheyney
Oct 14	Women and religion I	Oct 16	Margery Kempe
Oct 19	Women and religion II	Oct 21, 23	Margery Kempe
Oct 26	Politics, economy, and family in Italy	Oct 28, 30	Alessandra Strozzi
Nov 2	Marriage in Italy	Nov 4, 6	Alessandra Strozzi
Nov 9	November break		
Nov 16	Marriage in England	Nov 18, 20	Consistory database
Nov 23	Women, Criminality, and Courts in Florence	Nov 25, 27	Brucker
Nov 30	Women, Criminality, and Courts in Florence	Dec 2,4	Brucker
Dec 7	Catch-up and review	Dec 9, 11	n/a