

AS.100.222 Love, Sex, and Marriage in Medieval Europe Fall 2021

Instructor: Kalina Hadzhikova | kalina@jhu.edu

Meeting time: Wednesday & Friday @ 1:30-2:45 PM in Gilman 219

Office hours: Tuesday 1:00-2:30 PM in the Gilman atrium | before class in Gilman 346 for quick conversations | or by appointment

Course description:

The course will examine the institutions, practices, and attitudes that governed love, sex, and companionship in medieval Europe, with a focus on western Europe between 1100 and 1500. We will chart the development of marriage as a social institution, of love as a cultural artifact, and of the overlaps and disjunctions between them. We will also study the socioeconomic, legal, literary, and religious contexts of medieval normative sexuality. Specific topics we will touch on include: courtly love and its inversions; clerical sexuality and chaste masculinity; the economic and political significance of marriage; medieval sexual morality and its transgressors; the gendered erotics of Christian piety; same-sex relationships and historiographical treatments of homosexuality and homosociality; widowhood, virginity, and female chastity; the medieval definitions of sexual desire and sexual violence; and more.

My objectives in designing this course were, first, to introduce you to medieval sexuality and the forces that shaped it, and second, to provide a model for studying the humanities that could serve you in other courses and beyond the university. I believe the ability to read attentively, critically, and sympathetically is the most important skill for a scholar of the humanities, which is why our class is largely about learning to read texts and respond to them. Please keep that in mind and attend to your reading assignments and in-class participation with diligence.

Grades & assignments

I will calculate your final grade based on two weighted components: participation (40%) and homework (60%).

Participation

Your participation grade, out of 100 points, will depend on whether you complete the following tasks:

- attend class regularly (10 pts)
- come to class on time (10 pts)
- bring your own electronic or paper copies of the readings (10 pts)
- respond to your colleagues' comments and questions regularly (10 pts)
- comment on the readings with reference to specific passages and/or page numbers (10 pts)
- submit discussion prompts to me ahead of time when it's your turn to do so (10 pts)
- guide the class through your discussion prompts (10 pts)
- communicate with me promptly, especially if you are having problems (10 pts)

If I notice you are struggling with one or more of these requirements, I will reach out to you to discuss potential mitigation strategies. That said, please notify me first if you are facing difficulties and I have failed to notice.

If an issue persists throughout the semester or becomes worse over time, I will dock 10 points from your participation grade. If your class attendance is especially poor, i.e. if you miss 6 class meetings or more without clearing it with me ahead of time and formulating a plan to make up the material, I reserve the right to lower your final participation grade by as much as I see fit.

Finally, I will also be evaluating the *quality* of your contributions in class. When commenting on the reading, please strive to:

- make frequent comments that go beyond summarizing the text; for example, draw connections between different works, point out implicit arguments or meanings unintended by the author, critique flaws in the argumentation or propose complementary lines of analysis, suggest alternative interpretations of the historical evidence, etc. (20 pts)

Learning to generate observations of this kind can be difficult and take time. I know that and will appreciate your effort.

Some students may not feel comfortable speaking up in front of others. If this applies to you, please let me know and we will discuss additional ways for you to contribute to the class. For example, I may ask you to come to office hours regularly and discuss the readings with me or to contribute to a shared Q&A document.

Homework

You must complete the following homework assignments, which are also worth 100 points in total (but are weighted more heavily than participation):

- **4 reading exercises (1-2 pages long, 10 points each)**

due in class on the Friday of weeks 3, 5, 8, and 10 (September 17, October 1, October 22, and November 5) and based on one of the assigned readings for the day

For each exercise, read the corresponding text and pull out: 3 terms, concepts, or passages you don't understand; 3 terms, concepts, or passages that are key to understanding the argument of the text; and 3 terms, concepts, or passages that remind you of other texts we have read in class. Explain each of your 9 choices in one or two sentences.

- **a footnote trail (1-2 pages, 15 points)**

due in class on the Friday of week 7 (October 15) and based on one of the assigned readings for the day

Select a footnote in the assigned reading (text #1). Quote the sentence in the assigned reading to which the footnote is attached, the citation in the footnote, and the corresponding sentence in the cited source (text #2). Find the source of information cited in text #2 and provide that sentence and citation as well. Repeat as many times as you can, until you reach a primary source, a scholarly work without a source, or a source you cannot access or read. (Detailed instructions will be provided separately.)

- **an essay reflecting on 2 of your discussion prompts (2 pages, 10 points)**

due before midnight on the Friday of week 11 (November 12)

Discuss the 2 prompts separately. Each section should address the following questions: What responses to your prompt did you anticipate or hope for? What did your classmates end up talking about? If the class discussion deviated from your expectations, how? Was your prompt conducive to a good class discussion? If yes, why? If no, why not?

- **a pitch for a romance novel set in medieval Europe (2-3 pages, 15 points)**

due by midnight on the Wednesday of week 13 (December 1)

Include an introductory paragraph that describes the main characters and the major themes, conflicts, and sources of tension in the novel; a plot summary; and a concluding paragraph listing several historical examples and/or pieces of academic writing that inspired you. (Detailed instructions will be provided separately.)

- **a 'deconstructed' research paper (~2-5 pages, 20 points)**

due by midnight on the day of our scheduled final exam (TBA)

Generate a thesis statement in response to a research question and provide 15 passages (between 30 and 120 words in length) substantiating that statement. At least 5 of them must be taken from primary sources, and at least 8 of the 15 must be from texts that are not on the syllabus. You may use 3 passages from the same text once, and 2 passages from the same text 4 times. Each passage must be cited in accordance with the citation guidelines of the Chicago Manual of Style, and they must appear in a logical order. (Detailed instructions will be provided separately.)

Late assignments will lose 5 points if submitted within a week of the deadline, and 10 points if submitted any later.

Course policies

COVID-19 guidance

You must comply with the university's public health guidance during the COVID-19 pandemic. As of the beginning of term, university policy requires indoor masking and no eating or drinking in the classroom. Failure to follow these rules will result in non-attendance for the day. Habitual disregard for university policy will result in being reported for non-compliance to the university. I will notify you if the university's official guidance changes.

Attendance

You may miss up to three non-consecutive class meetings for any reason and without notice, unless you miss a day when you are responsible for circulating discussion prompts. (In such cases, I ask that you give me at least four hours' notice so I may arrange for your absence.) If you need to be absent from class for an extended period of time (two consecutive class meetings or more), you must notify me as soon as possible so we can make alternative arrangements; otherwise, your participation grade will go down.

Distressing and triggering material

In the course of completing your reading assignments, you will encounter potentially upsetting material. I will provide specific content warnings for the week ahead every Friday, but be aware that sexual violence will feature regularly in our readings. Moreover, medieval European attitudes toward consent and culpability were not necessarily the same as those of modern Americans, meaning that the tone of our readings, or the historical documents they quote, may sometimes be unsettling or unpleasant. If you have a hard time completing the readings or discussing them with other people, feel free to use your right to absent yourself from class. If you find you need to miss multiple class meetings for mental health reasons, or cannot complete your homework, talk to me. I don't want this class to be a burden to anyone, so I would be open to modifying the syllabus or providing personal accommodations.

Academic honesty

The following actions and behaviors will result in a penalty to be determined at my discretion, like being asked to resubmit an assignment, receiving a failing grade for an assignment, or—if the problem recurs or is grave enough, or you have an official record of academic misconduct—in being reported to the Ethics Board:

- plagiarizing published scholarship or the work of another student
- collaborating with others without permission
- presenting someone else's work as your own
- submitting the same work in multiple courses
- disregarding proper citation guidelines or not providing citations
- falsifying or altering grades or graded assignments
- sabotaging the work of other students or trying to obtain an unfair advantage over them
- facilitating any of the above, e.g. doing someone else's work in exchange for payment
- anything else that a reasonable person (me) would consider dishonest; if you are unsure about something, ask me before you do it

I encourage you to read more about Johns Hopkins's reporting and appeal procedures here:

<https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/policies-guidelines/undergrad-ethics/>

Disability accommodation

If you have a disability or think you may require a disability accommodation, [make sure you are registered with Student Disability Services](#). SDS can be reached at studentdisabilityservices@jhu.edu, (+1) 410-516-4720, or in person in Suite 101, Shaffer Hall.

Once you are registered with SDS, they will convey your accommodation needs to me, so you do not need to inform me directly.

That said, if you have any additional requests, complaints, or ideas about how I could make the class more inclusive of people with disabilities, please let me know.

Course readings

	Wednesday, September 1	Friday, September 3
Week 1: Introduction to the Course		<p>“Geoffrey Chaucer, <i>The Wife of Bath’s Prologue</i>,” and “Geoffrey Chaucer, ‘Envoy a Bukton.’” Documents 71 and 72 in <i>Love, Sex and Marriage in the Middle Ages: A Sourcebook</i>. Edited by Conor McCarthy. Oxford: Routledge, 2003. 220–41, 241–42.</p> <p>Eastmond, Anthony. “A New World of Encounters: The Life of Tamta Mqargrdzeli.” Chapter 1 in <i>Tamta’s World: The Life and Encounters of a Medieval Noblewoman from the Middle East to Mongolia</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017. 1–20.</p>
	Wednesday, September 8	Friday, September 10
Week 2: Marriage as a Christian Institution	<p>“Theological Foundations: Augustine, <i>On the Good of Marriage</i>” and “Theological Foundations: Augustine on Marriage as a Social Institution.” Documents 3 and 4 in <i>Love, Marriage, and Family in the Middle Ages: A Reader</i>. Edited by Jacqueline Murray. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. 2001. 15–24.</p> <p>Karras, Ruth. “The Church and the Regulation of Unions Between Women and Men.” Chapter 1 in <i>Unmarriages: Women, Men, and Sexual Unions in the Middle Ages</i>.</p>	<p>“<i>The Book of Margery Kempe</i>.” Document 39 in <i>Love, Sex and Marriage in the Middle Ages: A Sourcebook</i>. Edited by Conor McCarthy. Oxford: Routledge, 2003. 139–145.</p> <p>Elliott, Dyan. “Tertullian, the Angelic Life, and the Bride of Christ.” In <i>Gender and Christianity in Medieval Europe: New Perspectives</i>. Edited by Lisa M. Bitel and Felice Lifshitz. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008. 16–33.</p>

	Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012. 25–67.	Resnick, Irven. “Marriage in Medieval Culture: Consent Theory and the Case of Joseph and Mary.” <i>Church History</i> 69, no. 2 (June 2000): 350–371.
	Wednesday, September 15	Friday, September 17
Week 3: The Socioeconomics of Marriage	<p>“The Del Bene Marriage Negotiations in Florence, 1381.” Document 74 in <i>Medieval Towns: A Reader</i>. Edited by Maryanne Kowaleski. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2006. 182–185.</p> <p>“The Paston Letters.” Document 41 in <i>Love, Sex and Marriage in the Middle Ages: A Sourcebook</i>. Edited by Conor McCarthy. Oxford: Routledge, 2003. 149–151.</p> <p>Dean, Trevor. “Fathers and Daughters: Marriage Laws and Marriage Disputes in Bologna and Italy, 1200–1500.” In <i>Marriage in Italy, 1300–1650</i>. Edited by Trevor Dean and K. J. P. Lowe. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998. 85–107.</p> <p>Von Houts, Elisabeth. “Making of Marriage.” In <i>Married Life in the Middle Ages, 900–1300</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019. 29–62.</p>	Howell, Martha. “The Properties of Marriage in Late Medieval Europe: Commercial Wealth and the Creation of Modern Marriage.” In <i>Love, Marriage, and Family Ties in the Later Middle Ages</i> . Edited by Isabel Davis, Miriam Müller, and Sarah Rees Jones. Turnhout: Brepols, 2003. 17–61.
	Wednesday, September 22	Friday, September 24

Week 4: Courtly Love	Capellanus, Andreas. Book I in <i>The Art of Courtly Love</i> . Translated by John Jay Parry. New York: Columbia, 1990. 28–150.	Capellanus, Andreas. Books II and III in <i>The Art of Courtly Love</i> . Translated by John Jay Parry. New York: Columbia, 1990. 151–212.
	Wednesday, September 29	Friday, October 1
Week 5: Courtly Love II	<p>Von Strassburg, Gottfried. <i>Tristan: With the Surviving Fragments of the 'Tristan' of Thomas</i>. Edited and translated by Arthur Thomas Hatto. London: Penguin Books, 1960. [TBD]</p> <p>Keen, Maurice. "Chivalry and Courtly Love." In <i>Nobles, Knights, and Men-at-Arms in the Middle Ages</i>. London: The Hambleton Press, 1996. 21–42.</p> <p>Schultz, James A. "Bodies That Don't Matter: Heterosexuality before Heterosexuality in Gottfried's <i>Tristan</i>." In <i>Constructing Medieval Sexuality</i>. Edited by Karma Lochrie, Peggy McCracken, and James A. Schultz. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1997. 91–110.</p>	<p>Daniel, Arnaut. "Lo ferm voler qu'el cor m'intra," "Pus Raimons et Truc Malecx," and the linked responses by Raimon de Durfort and Truc Malec. Translated by Leonardo Malcovati. Online.</p> <p>Jernigan, Charles. "The Song of Nail and Uncle: Arnaut Daniel's Sestina 'Lo ferm voler q'el cor m'intra.'" <i>Studies in Philology</i> 71, no. 2 (April 1974): 127–151.</p> <p>[TBD]</p>
	Wednesday, October 6	Friday, October 8
Week 6: Eroticizing Christian Piety	" <i>The Life of Christina of Markyate</i> " and " <i>Jacques de Vitry, The Life of Mary of Oignies</i> ." Documents 36 and 37 in <i>Love, Sex and Marriage in the Middle Ages: A Sourcebook</i> . Edited by Conor McCarthy. Oxford: Routledge, 2003. 134–138.	Payer, Pierre J. "Sex and Confession in the Thirteenth Century." In <i>Sex in the Middle Ages: A Book of Essays</i> . Edited by Joyce E. Salisbury. New York: Garland Publishing, 1991. 126–142.

	<p>Mills, Robert. "Holding It Straight: Virginity as a Sexual Orientation." In <i>Seeing Sodomy in the Middle Ages</i>. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015. 248–53.</p> <p>Karras, Ruth. "The Sexuality of Chastity." In <i>Sexuality in Medieval Europe: Doing unto Others</i>. Third edition. Oxford: Routledge, 2017. 36–78.</p>	<p>Mills, Robert. "The Sex Lives of Monks." In <i>Seeing Sodomy in the Middle Ages</i>. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015. 190–242.</p>
	Wednesday, October 13	Friday, October 15
Week 7: Clerical Sexuality and Competing Models of Masculinity	<p>Armstrong-Partida, Michelle. "Introduction: Understanding Priestly Masculinity" and "Proof of Manhood: Priests as Husbands and Fathers." In <i>Defiant Priests: Domestic Unions, Violence, and Clerical Masculinity in Thirteenth-Century Catalunya</i>. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2017. 1–28, 82–125.</p>	<p>Harvey, Katherine. "Episcopal Virginity in Medieval England." <i>Journal of the History of Sexuality</i> 26, no. 2 (May 2017): 273–92.</p> <p>Murray, Jacqueline. "The Battle for Chastity: Miraculous Castration and the Quelling of Desire in the Middle Ages." <i>Journal of the History of Sexuality</i> 28, no. 1 (January 2019): 96–116.</p> <p>Karras, Ruth. "Knighthood, Compulsory Heterosexuality, and Sodomy." In <i>The Boswell Thesis: Essays on Christianity, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality</i>. Edited by Mathew Kuefler. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006. 273–286.</p>
	Wednesday, October 20	Friday, October 22
Week 8: Sexual Violence	<p>[TBD]. In <i>The Medieval Pastourelle</i>. Edited and translated by William D. Paden. 2 vols. New York: Garland Publishing, 1987.</p>	<p>Dunn, Caroline. "The Language of Ravishment in Medieval England." <i>Speculum</i> 86, no. 1 (2011): 79–116.</p>

	[TBD] Harris, Carissa M. "Rape Narratives, Courtly Critique, and the Pedagogy of Sexual Negotiation in Middle English Pastourelle." <i>Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies</i> 46, no. 2 (May 2016): 263–287.	Ruggiero, Guido. "Violence and Sexuality: Rape." In <i>The Boundaries of Eros: Sex, Crime and Sexuality in Renaissance Venice</i> . Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988. 89–108.
	Wednesday, October 27	Friday, October 29
Week 9: Deviance, Adultery, Sex Work	<p>"The Case of John/Eleanor Rykener." Document 35 in <i>Love, Sex and Marriage in the Middle Ages: A Sourcebook</i>. Edited by Conor McCarthy. London: Routledge, 2003. 126–128.</p> <p>"Female Servants and Prostitution" and "The Road to Ruin in Dijon, 1492." Documents 92 and 136 in <i>Medieval Towns: A Reader</i>. Edited by Maryanne Kowaleski. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2006. 231–33, 346–47.</p> <p>Karras, Ruth. "Prostitution and the Question of Sexual Identity in Medieval Europe." <i>Journal of Women's History</i> 11, no. 2 (Summer 1999): 159–177.</p> <p>Van der Meer, Theo. "Medieval Prostitution and the Case of a (Mistaken?) Sexual Identity." <i>Journal of Women's History</i> 11, no. 2 (Summer 1999): 178–185.</p>	<p>"Giraldus Cambrensis, <i>The History and Topography of Ireland</i>." Document 43 in <i>Love, Sex and Marriage in the Middle Ages: A Sourcebook</i>. Edited by Conor McCarthy. London: Routledge, 2003. 153–155.</p> <p>Salisbury, Joyce E. "Bestiality in the Middle Ages." In <i>Sex in the Middle Ages: A Book of Essays</i>. Edited by Joyce E. Salisbury. New York: Garland Publishing, 1991. 173–186.</p> <p>McDougall, Sara. "The Opposite of the Double Standard: Gender, Marriage, and Adultery Prosecution in Late Medieval France." <i>Journal of the History of Sexuality</i> 23, no. 2 (May 2014): 206–25.</p> <p>Ruggiero, Guido. "Perspectives on Normal Sexuality: An Essay." In <i>The Boundaries of Eros: Sex, Crime and Sexuality in Renaissance</i></p>

	<p>Freccero, Carla. "Acts, Identities, and Sexuality's (Pre)Modern Regimes." <i>Journal of Women's History</i> 11, no. 2 (Summer 1999): 186–192.</p> <p>Karras, Ruth. "Response: Identity, Sexuality, and History." <i>Journal of Women's History</i> 11, no. 2 (Summer 1999): 193–198.</p>	<p>Venice. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988. 146–168.</p>
	Wednesday, November 3	Friday, November 5
Week 10: Who Women Were	<p>Bardsley, Sandy. "Who Was a Scold?" In <i>Venomous Tongues: Speech and Gender in Late Medieval England</i>. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006. 121–140.</p> <p>Bynum, Caroline Walker. <i>Holy Feast and Holy Fast: The Religious Significance of Food to Medieval Women</i>. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987. 189–194, [TBD].</p>	<p>[TBD]</p> <p>Mills, Robert. "Gender, Sodomy, Friendship, and the Medieval Anchorhold." <i>Journal of Medieval Religious Cultures</i> 36 (2010), no. 1: 1–27.</p> <p>Hanawalt, Barbara A. "Widows." In <i>The Cambridge Companion to Medieval Women's Writing</i>. Edited by Carolyn Dinshaw and David Wallace. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003. 58–69.</p>
	Wednesday, November 10	Friday, November 12
Week 11: Medieval Perspectives on Sex, Gender, and the Body	<p>Lastique, Esther, and Helen Rodnite Lemay. "A Medieval Physician's Guide to Virginity." In <i>Sex in the Middle Ages: A Book of Essays</i>. Edited by Joyce E. Salisbury. New York: Garland Publishing. 1991. 110–125.</p>	<p>Betancourt, Roland. "Transgender Lives." In <i>Byzantine Intersectionality: Sexuality, Gender, and Race in the Middle Ages</i>. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2020. 89–120.</p>

	<p>“<i>Trotula</i>” and “Pseudo-Albertus Magnus, <i>De Secretis Mulierum</i>.” Documents 77 and 78 in <i>Love, Sex and Marriage in the Middle Ages: A Sourcebook</i>. Edited by Conor McCarthy. London: Routledge, 2003. 259–65.</p> <p>Mistry, Zubin. “The Sexual Shame of the Chaste: ‘Abortion Miracles’ in Early Medieval Saints’ Lives.” <i>Gender & History</i> 25, no. 3: 607–20.</p> <p>Rousseau, Constance M. “Neither Bewitched nor Beguiled: Philip Augustus’s Alleged Impotence and Innocent III’s Response.” <i>Speculum</i> 89, no. 2 (April 2014): 410–36.</p>	<p>Flannery, Mary C. “Show and Tell: Shame and the Subject of Female Bodies.” In <i>Practising Shame: Female Honour in Later Medieval England</i>. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2019.</p>
	Wednesday, November 17	Friday, November 19
Week 12: Marriage across Difference	<p>Paris, Matthew. <i>Matthew Paris’s English History</i>. Vol. 1. 1235–1273. Translated by John Allen Giles. London: 1852. 17–23.</p> <p>Nirenberg, David. “Conversion, Sex, and Segregation: Jews and Christians in Medieval Spain.” <i>The American Historical Review</i> 107, no. 4 (October 2002): 1065–93.</p> <p>Johnsrud Zorgati, Ragnhild. “Mixed Marriages in Islamic and Christian Laws.” In <i>Pluralism in the Middle Ages: Hybrid Identities, Conversion, and Mixed Marriages</i></p>	<p>Berkhofer, Robert F. “Marriage, Lordship and the ‘Greater Unfree’ in Twelfth-Century France.” <i>Past & Present</i> 173 (November 2001): 3–27.</p> <p>[TBD]</p>

	<i>in Medieval Iberia</i> . Oxford: Routledge, 2011. 92–128.	
	Wednesday, December 1	Friday, December 3
Week 13: Queer Histories	<p>[TBD]</p> <p>Burgwinkle, Bill. "Queer Theory and the Middle Ages." <i>French Studies</i> 60, no. 1 (January 2006): 79–88.</p> <p>Kuefler, Mathew. "Male Friendship and the Suspicion of Sodomy in Twelfth-Century France." In <i>Gender and Difference in the Middle Ages</i>. Edited by Sharon Farmer and Carol Braun Pasternack. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2002. 145–181.</p>	[TBD]

