**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT**

**NEW COURSE REQUEST**

Complete this form entirely. *Add separate page(s) if space provided is not sufficient for your response.*

***This new course is not effective until this request has been reviewed by the Provost.***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Effective Fall Term (insert year): 2011</th>
<th>School/College: CAS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Subject Code:</td>
<td>Department: English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Number: ENG/WGS 301</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Full Course Title:** Medieval Women and Literature

**Course Title Abbreviation:** Med Women and Lit

*(30 characters maximum including spaces):*

**Credit Hours:** Total 3 or Variable ______ to ______

**Contact Hours (if different):** Lec _____ Lab _____

**Repeat Status:** (if applicable, enter "X" for one and total credits if any)

- [x] Course may not be repeated for additional credit.
- [ ] Repeatable up to a maximum of _____ credit hours.
- [ ] Repeatable for an unlimited number of credit hours.

**Grading Mode:** (circle one)

- [x] Standard ABCDE (includes +/-)
- ABCDD-N
- ABCDN
- ABCC-N
- ABCN
- Pass/Fail

Can be reported as a Y grade?:  Yes / No

**Course Level:** (enter "X" for all that apply)

- [x] Undergraduate (UG)
- [ ] Graduate (GR)

**Is this same course (crosslisted and/or meeting together) also offered at the Graduate (Undergraduate) level?**

If yes, please list Subj/Course Number: ________________________

**NOTE:** if this course will be offered for both graduate and undergraduate credit, a separate page explaining distinctions in instruction and/or differing requirements for the two levels is required.

**Is this course Crosslisted? YES**

If yes, please list crosslist Subj/Course Number(s):

WGS 301

**Corequisites:** (must be taken concurrently):

Subject/Discipline Course Number

**Prerequisites:** Please list all prerequisites using UM-F Subject and course numbers and specific equivalents when necessary. Make certain that the language is clear when using "and/or" combinations and prerequisites that can be taken concurrently. *(Note: CAS 300 level and above courses must have a prerequisite)*

A sophomore course in literature or consent of instructor

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**UM-FLINT RECEIVED**

NOV. 29 2010

College of Arts & Sciences
Dean's Office
### Registration Restrictions (Mark all that apply)

**Class:**  Open only to (circle all that apply):
- Freshman (FR)
- Junior (JR)
- Sophomore (SO)
- Senior (SR)
- Graduate (GR)

**Majors:**  Open only to (list majors):

**Level:**  Open only to: (circle one if applicable)
- Undergraduate (UG)
- Graduate (GR)

**College:**  Open only to (circle all that apply):
- All Students
- CAS students
- SEHS students
- SOM Students
- SHPS students

### Course Description (as it should appear in the Catalog): (attach additional page if necessary)

*Introduces literature written by, for, or about women during the Middle Ages, with attention to the role of writing and reading in constructing and defining medieval gender and the uses of the female body.*

### Frequency this course will be offered (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer, etc)

| Every other winter |

**Will this course be offered as an evening course?**  no  

**Expected Enrollment**  30

### Purpose or objective of this course

*To examine literatures written by women, for women, or about women in order to investigate medieval definitions of femininity and the role literature played in the construction of medieval gender.*

### Necessity for this course in the total curriculum or major

*Within the general English major this course offers students a non-canonical and gender-based option with which to complete their required coursework in early period literatures.*

### Summary of material to be covered in this course (attached syllabus optional)

*syllabus attached*

### What other courses offered by the University bear close relation to the content of this course?

*English 303: Medieval Literature and 310: Chaucer and the Fourteenth Century*

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### Requested By:

[Signature]

Department Chair  
Date  11/6/2010

Department Chair  
Date  11/5/10

Dean  
Date  12/5/10

Dean of Crosalist(s) or Prerequisite(s)  
Date

GECAC  
Date

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### Reviewed By:

Catalog Editor  
Date

Dean of Graduate Programs (Graduate courses)  
Date

Provost (Undergraduate courses only)  
Date

Catalog Coordinator (Registrar’s Office)  
Date
REQUEST FOR GENERAL EDUCATION DISTRIBUTION DESIGNATION

Directions: Please indicate which learning outcomes will be addressed in this course (place the corresponding number and outcome where indicated). A minimum of five learning outcomes must be addressed for a course to be eligible for general education distribution designation. Please provide a brief narrative as to how the course objectives/key concepts address each learning outcome selected, and indicate what tools for assessment will be used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title: Medieval Women and Literature</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department: English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Prefix: ENG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Number: 301</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. 1</td>
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<td>No. 3</td>
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<td>No. 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. 8</td>
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</table>

Narrative: This course requires students to consider the relevance of premodern notions of gender and sexuality in a postmodern world, and to negotiate with definitions of the gendered body that differ markedly from our own. This course allows for a prolonged consideration of the constructedness of sex and gender, the functions of desire, and the function of literature in relation to both. Thus, it is a course that requires reflection upon the work that literature does upon its readers and upon the culture in which it circulates.

Assessment tools: In-class discussion, creative writing, analytical essays, exams, one-on-one conferences

Narrative: Like all literature courses, this course focuses on teaching students how to critically read, discuss and write about literature. Emphasis will be placed on reading medieval texts in historical and cultural context and as agents in both sociocultural and personal ideologies. Students will be expected to examine the formal elements of these texts and also to consider the complex relationships between medieval literature, history, culture, and politics. Student work will demonstrate the ability to formulate interpretative conclusions about literary texts and their contexts, to construct arguments, and to find and analyze evidence to support their interpretive conclusions.

Assessment tools: In-class discussion, creative writing, analytical essays, group activities, exams

Narrative: Students will read and write about literary texts. Emphasis will be placed on constructing, developing and writing effective arguments about literature, with particular attention paid to developing effective theses, structuring paragraphs, and introducing and analyzing textual evidence for claims. This course will also include creative and reflective writing projects, and the incorporation of secondary sources.

Assessment tools: creative writing, analytical essays

Narrative: Literature courses emphasize discussion and interaction with others. Discussion of course material will occur regularly in large class and small group activities. Students will demonstrate their ability to engage respectfully with the ideas of their classmates and to offer original feedback and responses to those ideas. Online discussion may also be another venue for discussion.

Assessment tools: In-class discussion, group activities.

Narrative: This course brings students into contact with an array of medieval English and continental genres, Middle English, challenging literary styles, and a cultural context quite different from our own. Students interpret, translate, and recite Middle English with attention to vocabulary, phonetics, and tone, but they also gain a broad understanding of the complex relationships between gender, sex, desire, and religion in the Middle Ages such that their notion of all of these categories in their own time is underpinned by a rich historical and literary awareness.

Assessment tools: In-class discussion, creative projects (including performances), analytical essays, group activities, and exams
The newly proposed ENG/WGS 301 was piloted under this existing course number.
Winter 2010
Location and Time: Monday and Wednesday 9:30-10:45, 301 French Hall
Instructor: Vickie Larsen  (vlarsen@uml.edu)
   Office: 330N French Hall
   Mailbox Location: 326 French Hall
   Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 2:00 - 3:30 and gladly by appointment

**Syllabus**

**Course Description**
This course introduces students to the literature written by, for, or about women during the Middle Ages. We will read romances, private correspondence, mystical and visionary texts, virgin martyr biographies, Breton lais, and treatises on women and their many "secrets." As we read, we will consider the role of writing and reading in constructing medieval understandings of gender and in organizing the female body. Nearly all course readings will be in modern English translation and no experience with medieval literature is required. Course requirements will include two essays, two oral presentations, academic research, a final exam, and enthusiastic participation in class discussion.

**Course Requirements Will Include** one formal research essay, one shorter essay, recitation of Middle English, a researched presentation, participation in class discussion, and a final exam.

**Objectives**
Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:
- Discuss medieval texts by, for and about women and the political and social environment in which they were written and read
- Define the genres of medieval literature
- Engage with secondary literary criticism and literary theory as they read, interpret and write about medieval literature
- Read and pronounce Middle English
- Use the Middle English Dictionary
- Locate, read, and respond to medievalist scholarship

**Required Texts** (available at the Pavilion Bookstore, but feel free to acquire them elsewhere)

**Course Website**
This syllabus, handouts, assignments, announcements, and grades will be posted online via Blackboard. To access Blackboard go to [http://bb.umflint.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp](http://bb.umflint.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp)

**Communication**
I will place class announcements and grades on Blackboard and students are responsible to check in with Blackboard regularly. Class time is for content, and that includes the minutes before and after class. All administrative requests (deadline extensions, scheduled appointments, planned absences, topic approvals, etc.) must be made by e-mail or in-person during office hours. I will respond to e-mails within 24 hours.

**Revision Guidelines**
I encourage students to revise written assignments in order to improve their writing and analytical skills. I am happy to meet with you to assist. All revisions must be submitted within one week of the assignment’s in-class return (regardless of whether or not you were in class that day). Grades will be the average of the original grade and the revision(s). The following may not be revised:
- assignments turned in after the deadline (even if an extension was granted)
- plagiarized assignments

**Research Protocols**
Plagiarism occurs when you use the ideas or words of another as your own in either writing or speaking. This definition includes the purchasing, copying, paraphrasing or summarizing of material from published and unpublished sources without acknowledging the source. Students who commit plagiarism will receive a zero on the assignment and may fail the course. In addition, I will notify the student’s college or school. Please feel free to talk with me if you are concerned about the possibility of plagiarism in any work.

*All assignments should adhere to MLA formatting guidelines for both style and documentation. Please refer to the MLA Guide for Writers of Research Papers or [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/)
MLA page-formatting will be part of the evaluation of every assignment*

**Assignments and Grading**
Grades will be based upon the quality of your reading, writing and speaking performances. All assignments will be collected at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Semester grades will be weighted in the following manner:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Written Work:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Theory Application Essay (3 pgs)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Researched Essay (4-6 pages)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Extensions are only given before the deadline. If you need ONE ask for ONE. You will not be granted more than one during the semester. Late essay grades will be reduced by 10% per day. Please e-mail me when you place a late
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Performance:</th>
<th>10%</th>
<th>essay in my mailbox. I DO NOT accept e-mailed papers. Assignments submitted more than two weeks after the deadline will not receive credit.</th>
<th>Students must present their work on the scheduled day to receive full credit for performances.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MLAB Research Annotation and Report Middle English Aloud Competency</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>The participation component of the semester grade will be based upon the quality and quantity of your contributions to class discussions and activities. You are required to have completed the assigned readings, and to come to class with the readings in hand prepared to discuss the material. Regular attendance is required; all absences lower your participation grade. Please contact me by e-mail if you must miss class, preferably beforehand. If you accumulate eight absences you will receive a zero for this portion of your grade.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cumulative Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Please make sure you are available for the scheduled final exam. To protect exam security, doors will be locked 30 minutes after the start-time and late students will not be permitted to take the exam.</td>
<td>(Note: English majors are required to collect five unmarked writing samples from their English and Linguistics coursework before graduation for their Individual Major Portfolios. Please keep copies of your work.)</td>
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**Writing Tutoring**

If you would like additional consultation regarding your writing, I encourage you to stop by the Marian E. Wright Writing Center (559 French Hall) or call (810) 766-6602 to make an appointment to work with a member of the center's trained staff. See the Writing Center's website for more details: http://www.umflint.edu/departments/writingcenter/  

**Harassment Policy**

Discrimination based upon race, class, gender, sexual preferences, age, religion, or ability subverts the mission of the University; poses a danger to the well-being of students, faculty and staff, and will not be tolerated. If you feel uncomfortable in this class because of the statements or behavior of a fellow student or myself, please alert me as soon as possible so that I can take action to create a welcoming and safe environment for all of us.

**Accessibility**

If I can make the classroom and the course more accessible for you, please let me know. The Office of Accessibility Services (264 UCEN) may also be an excellent resource for students that would benefit from seating modification, testing accommodations, or other changes to the course.

(Note: Students’ names will be removed from any work from this course that may be used as course samples or for department, college, or university program review and outcomes assessment.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 6</td>
<td>Course Goals and Requirements, Introductions</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 11</td>
<td><em>The Letters of Abelard and Heloise, Letter 1 Historia Calamatum</em> (p 3-43)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 13</td>
<td><em>The Letters of Abelard and Heloise, The Personal Letters</em> (p 47-89)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 18</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Jr. Diversity Day - No Classes</td>
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<td>Jan 20</td>
<td>Medieval Writings on Female Spirituality (MWFS), Christina of Markyate</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 25</td>
<td>Luce Irigaray, &quot;The Sex Which is Not One&quot;</td>
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<td>MWFS, Hildegard of Bingen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 27</td>
<td>Marie de France, Lais I, II, III, and IV</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>De France, Lais V, VI, VII, and VIII</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Helene Cixous, &quot;The Laugh of the Medusa&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 3</td>
<td>De France, Lais IX, X, XI, and XII</td>
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<td>Elaine Showalter, &quot;Feminist Criticism in the Wilderness&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 8</td>
<td>MWFS, Christina Mirabilis</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Caroline Walker Bynum, &quot;Fragmentation and Redemption&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 10</td>
<td><em>Chaste Passions: Medieval English Virgin Martyr Legends</em>, (p 9-85)</td>
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<td>Sigmund Freud, &quot;On the Universal Tendency to Debasement in the Sphere of Love&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 7</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 15</td>
<td><em>Chaste Passions: Medieval English Virgin Martyr Legends</em>, (p 86-169)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 17</td>
<td>MWFS, Hadewijch</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Theory Application Essay Due</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 8</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 22</td>
<td>MWFS, Mary of Oignes</td>
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<td>Feb 24</td>
<td>MWFS, Elizabeth of Spaalbeck</td>
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No Classes March 1-7

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 9</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 8</td>
<td>MWFS, Marguerite Porete</td>
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<td>March 10</td>
<td>MWFS, Bridget of Sweden</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>Albertus Magnus, <em>De Secretis Mullerum</em> (Women's Secret's), p 59 - 111</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 17</td>
<td>Albertus Magnus, <em>De Secretis Mullerum</em> (Women's Secret's), p 111 - 149</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Week 11
- March 22: MWFS, Julian of Norwich
- March 24: In class film: The Anchoress

### Week 12
- March 29: MWFS, Margery Kempe
- March 31: Christine de Pizan, from *The Book of the City of Ladies* (p. 116-155)

### Week 13
- April 5: Christine de Pizan, from *The Book of the Three Virtues* and from Christine’s Vision (155 - 201)
- April 7: Paston Letters

### Week 14
- April 12: Paston Letters
- April 14: In-class film: Stealing Heaven
  - Research Papers Due

### Week 15
- April 19: Review for Final Exam and Complete Course Evaluations

**Final Exam: Wednesday, April 28 7:45 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.**