

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
Department of Languages and Cultures
CL 9690B Writing the Medieval Body
Winter 2021

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WRITING THE MEDIEVAL BODY

The course will focus on sexuality and illness in the medical, religious, and literary discourses from the twelfth to the sixteenth centuries. Of particular interest will be the development of medieval technical literature (*Fachliteratur*) as it moved from the monastery to the university and with its preference for prose distanced itself from the "less truthful" texts (romances, poetry, fabliaux, etc.) which were written in verse. Works studied in the course will be examples in which two or more of the discourses converge or collide, starting with Hildegard von Bingen's medical text *Cause et Cure* from the twelfth century. Literary works from the classical Middle High German period will be studied in combination with their foreign, in particular French, forerunners or parodies (*Cligès*). They will include Gottfried von Strassburg's *Tristan*, in which women healers, a love potion, and trial by ordeal figure prominently, Hartmann von Aue's *Iwein* whose protagonist suffers from madness, *Der Arme Heinrich* with a protagonist afflicted by leprosy, and *Gregorius* which features double incest. In the medical works of medieval and Renaissance school medicine the emphasis will be on sexuality and procreation, two areas from which the religious discourse is never completely absent as Maino de Maineri's *Regimen sanitatis*, and Jakob Rueff's gynecological work *Hebammenbuch* illustrate. The course will conclude with a look at the representations of the body in the fabliaux and Shrovetide plays of Hans Sachs.

Required Texts:

Cadden, Joan. *Meanings of Sex Difference in the Middle Ages: Medicine, Science and Culture*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993.

Hildegard of Bingen. *On Natural Philosophy and Medicine: Selections from 'Cause et Cure'*. Translated from Latin with introduction, notes and interpretive essay by Margret Berger. Cambridge; Rochester, NY: D.S. Brewer, 1999.

Chretien de Troyes. *Arthurian Romances: Erec and Enide, Cliges, Lancelot, Yvain, Perceval*. Translated by William Kibler and Carleton Carroll. London: Penguin 1991.

Gottfried von Strassburg. *Tristan. With the 'Tristan' of Thomas*. London: Penguin, 1967.

Hartmann von Aue. *Arthurian Romances, Tales, and Lyric Poetry. The Complete Works of Hartmann von Aue*. Translated by Frank J. Tobin, Kim Vivian, Richard Lawson (Philadelphia: Pennsylvania State University, 2001).

Course Requirements:

Critical Report (1500 words)* 25%

Seminar (up to 1 hour) 25%

Term Paper (ca. 20 pages) 40%

Class Contribution 10%

*Choose one of the books from the list whose author is underlined, report to be presented in class first, and handed in later.

Course Outline (subject to minor modifications):

Week 1 Introduction, (course requirements, outline), *The Name of the Rose*

Week 2 MEDICINE AND THE BODY: Transmission of knowledge from Antiquity to the Middle Ages, Humoral Theory, Non-Naturals (overview)

Week 3 MEDICINE AND THE BODY: sex and gender (Laqueur), sexuality (Jaquart/Thomasset), pain (Morris) [critical reports]

Week 4 CHRISTIANITY AND THE BODY: sexuality and procreation (Hildegard of Bingen's *Cause et Cure*), sexual renunciation (Brown), pleasure (Foucault) [critical reports]

Week 5 CHRISTIANITY AND THE BODY: food and fasting (Bell) (Bynum: *Holy Feast and Holy Fast*) [critical reports]

Week 6 CHRISTIANITY AND THE BODY: construction of gender (Bynum: *Jesus as Mother*) (Newman) [critical reports]

LITERATURE AND THE BODY: Hartmann von Aue (introduction)

Week 7 LITERATURE AND THE BODY: *Der Arme Heinrich*

Week 8 LITERATURE AND THE BODY: *Der Arme Heinrich* [presentation], *Gregorius*

Week 9 LITERATURE AND THE BODY: *Gregorius* [presentation], Chretien de Troyes, *Yvain*, Hartmann von Aue, *Iwein*

Week 10 LITERATURE AND THE BODY: *Yvain/Iwein* [presentation], introduction to *Tristan* (the myth of Tristan and Isolt, literary sources)

Week 11 LITERATURE AND THE BODY: *Tristan* (sexuality, suffering, healing), Chretien de Troyes, *Cliges* [presentation/s]

Week 12 THE BODY IN PRINT (or: EMBARRASSMENT AND SHAME): late-medieval and early-modern representations of the body in the medical literature, the fabliaux and Shrovetide plays of Hans Sachs

Week 13 THE BODY IN PRINT: Hans Sachs; course review

Bibliography:

- Baldwin, John W. *Language of Sex*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, HB 1994, PB 1996.
- Bell, Rudolph M. *Holy Anorexia*. Chicago/London: The University of Chicago Press, HB 1985, PB 1987. UWO BX 4656. B45 1985
- Boitani, Piero and Anna Torti, eds. *The Body and the Soul in Medieval Literature: The J. A. W. Bennett Memorial Lectures*. 10th series Perugia 1998. UWO PN 682. B63B63 1999
- Bouchard, Constance B. *Strong of Body, Brave and Noble: Chivalry and Society in Medieval France*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998. UWO DC 33.2. B59 1998
- Brown, Peter. *The Body in Society: Men, Women, and Sexual Renunciation in Early Christianity*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1988. UWO BT 708. B77 1988
- Bynum, Carolyn Walker. *Jesus as Mother: Studies in the Spirituality of the High Middle Ages*. Berkeley/Los Angeles/London: University of California Press, HB 1982, PB 1984. UWO BV 4490. B96
- Bynum, Carolyn Walker, Steven Harrel, and Paula Richman, eds. *On the Complexity of Symbols*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1986. UWO BL 65. S4 G46 1986
- Bynum, Carolyn Walker. *Holy Feast and Holy Fast: The Religious Significance of Food to Medieval Women*. Berkeley/Los Angeles/London: University of California Press, 1987. UWO BR 253. B96. 1987
- Bynum, Carolyn Walker. *Fragmentation and Redemption: Essays on Gender and the Human Body in Medieval Religion*. New York: Zone Books/Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1991. UWO BT 741.2. B95 1991
- Bynum, Carolyn Walker. *Resurrection of the Body in Western Christianity 200-1336*. (ACLS Lectures on the History of Religions). New York: Columbia University Press, 1995.
- Bynum, Carolyn Walker, Paul Freedman, Clifford R. Backman, Laura Ackerman Smeller, eds. *Last Things: Death and the Apocalypse in the Middle Ages*. (The Middle Ages Series). Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2000.
- Cadden, Joan. *Meanings of Sex Difference in the Middle Ages: Medicine, Science, and Culture*. Cambridge/New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 1993. UWO R141. C33 1993
- Carlsson, Cindy L. and Angela Jane Weisl, eds. *Constructions of Widowhood and Virginity in the Middle Ages*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1999.
- Clark, Susan L. *Hartmann von Aue: Landscapes of the Mind*. Houston, Tex.: Rice University Press, 1989. UWO 1535. C57 1989

Duckworth, David. *The Leper and the Maiden in Hartmann's Der Arme Heinrich*. Göppingen" Kümmerle, 1996.

Feher, Michael, Ramona Naddaff, and Nadia Tazi, eds. *Fragments for a History of the Human Body*. 3 vols. New York: Urzone, 1989. UWO N7625.5. F73 1989

Foucault, Michel. "The Care of the Self." In: *The History of Sexuality*. Vol. 3 New York: Pantheon Books, 1978- UWO HQ 12. F6813 1978

Foucault, Michel. "The Use of Pleasure." In: *The History of Sexuality*. Vol. 2 New York: Pantheon, 1985.
UWO HQ 12. F6813 1988

Frese, Dolores Warwick and Katherine O'Brien O'Keeffe. *The Book and the Body*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1997. UWO PR 275. T 45 B66 1997

Hanawalt, Barbara A. and David Wallace, eds. *Bodies and Disciplines: Intersections of Literature and History in Fifteenth-Century England*. Minneapolis: University Of Minnesota Press, 1996. UWO DA245. R47 1996

Hartmann von Aue. *Iwein*. Translated, with an introduction by J. W. Thomas. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1979. UWO PT 1534. I 3 1979

Jacquart, Danielle and Claude Thomasset. *Sexuality and Medicine in the Middle Ages*. Trans. Matthew Adamson. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1988.
UWO R141. J3313 1988

Kay, Sarah and Miri Rubin. *Framing Medieval Bodies*. Manchester/NY: Manchester University Press, St. Martin's Press, 1994. UWO GT 495. F73 1994

Laqueur, Thomas. *Making Sex: Body and Gender from the Greeks to Freud*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1990. UWO HQ 1075. L37 1990

Lassahn, Elke. "Bodies at Court: Experiencing the Body in the Context of Minne and Chivalry in Wolfram von Eschenbach's *Parzival*." Diss. University of Pennsylvania, 1998.

McFarland, Timothy, and Silvia Ranawake, eds. *Hartmann von Aue, changing perspectives: London Hartmann Symposium 1985*. Göppingen: Kümmerle, 1988
UWO PT 1535. L66 1985

Morris, David B. *The Culture of Pain*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1991.
UWO RB 127. M67 1991

Newman, Barbara. *Sister of Wisdom: St. Hildegard's Theology of the Feminine*. Berkeley/Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1989(PB).

Newman, Barbara. *From Virile Woman to Woman Christ: Studies in Medieval Religion and Literature*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1995.

Paster, Gail Kern. *The Body Embarrassed: Drama and the Disciplines of Shame in Early-Modern England*. Ithaca/NY: Cornell University Press, 1993. UWO PR 658. B 63 937

Payer, Pierre. *Sex and the Penitentials*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1984. UWO BX 1939. P45 P39 1984

Pincikowski, Scott E. "Reexamining the Nature of Pain and Suffering in the Works of Hartmann von Aue: Bodies of Pain." Diss. University of Pennsylvania, 2000.

Sperling, Jutta Gisela. *Convents and the Body Politic in Renaissance Venice*. (Women in Culture and Society). Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.

Sterling-Hellenbrand, Alexandra. "The Topography of Gender in Middle High German Arthurian Romance." Diss. University of Pennsylvania Press, 1995.

Stroler, Ann L. *Race and the Education of Desire: Foucault's History of Sexuality and the Colonial Order of Things*. Durham, NC.: Duke University Press, 1995.

Sweetman, Caroline. *Gender, Religion and Spirituality*. Zeb Books, 1999.

Essay Topics:

You can choose your own topic. If you are not sure what areas to explore, here are some suggestions:

Virginity and/or widowhood in one or more works of Hartmann, or *Tristan*

Adventures and the Body (*Tristan* and/or Hartmann)

Nature vs. Culture, or The Civilising of the Body (in *Tristan*, *Gregorius*, or *Iwein*)

The Function of Physical Suffering in *Tristan*

Heroes in Pain

Healing in Gottfried and Hartmann

Love and the Body

Beauty and Ugliness in Gottfried and/or Hartmann

Conception and Birth in Gottfried and/or Hartmann