

MA IN MEDIEVAL WRITING AND CULTURE

Autumn 2007

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LITEM019: Writing and Culture in Medieval East Anglia

This module addresses the vibrant religious and secular culture of late medieval East Anglia. It begins with an introduction to medievalism and the medieval text, and goes on to study a range of East Anglian writings. Authors studied will include the post-Chaucerian poets Lydgate, Metham and Bokenham; the women mystics Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe; the Paston Letters. We will also examine some less literary documents arising out of religious and political controversies, particularly the 1381 revolt and Lollardy. Questions that will be addressed include: what is the relation of heresy and orthodoxy? Of religious and secular culture? Of texts and the visual arts? In what ways is writing gendered? How do the writers of the fifteenth century assume authority, and how do they construct their role? Is it possible to identify a distinctly East Anglian culture?

Preliminary Reading List

Primary texts to buy (these are the preferred editions, but if you already own another one, you can use that instead)

Julian of Norwich, *Revelations of Divine Love*, trans. Spearing. Penguin.

The Book of Margery Kempe: Annotated Edition, ed. Windeatt. Brewer.

Paston Letters: A Selection in Modern Spelling, ed. Davis. Oxford UP

Selections from English Wycliffite Writings, ed. Hudson. Medieval Academy

The Travels of Sir John Mandeville, trans. Moseley. Penguin

Very useful critical/historical texts: consider buying

Eamon Duffy, *The Stripping of the Altars: Traditional Religion in England 1400-1580*. Yale UP, 1992

Gail McMurray Gibson, *Theater of Devotion: East Anglian Drama and Society in the Late*

Middle Ages. U Chicago P, 1989

James Simpson, *The Oxford English Literary History Vol. 2: 1350-1547: Reform and Cultural Revolution*. Oxford UP, 2002

David Wallace, ed., *Cambridge History of Medieval English Literature*. Cambridge UP, 1999

Further reading:

David Aers and Lynn Staley, *The Powers of the Holy: Religion, Politics and Gender in Late Medieval English Culture*. Pennsylvania State UP, 1996

- John H. Arnold and Katherine J. Lewis, eds, *A Companion to The Book of Margery Kempe*. Brewer, 2004
- Margaret Aston, *Lollards and Reformers: Images and Literacy in Late Medieval Religion*. Hambledon Press, 1984
- Sarah Beckwith, *Christ's Body: Identity, Culture and Society in Late Medieval Writings*. Routledge, 1993
- Helen Castor, *Blood and Roses: The Paston Family in the Fifteenth Century*. Faber & Faber, 2004
- Helen Cooper and Sally Mapstone eds, *The Long Fifteenth Century: Essays for Douglas Gray*. Clarendon, 1997
- Sheila Delany, *Impolitic Bodies: Poetry, Saints and Society in Fifteenth-Century England*. Oxford UP, 1997
- Lois Ebin, *Illuminator, Makar, Vates: Visions of Poetry in the Fifteenth Century*. U Nebraska, 1988
- K. Farnhill, *Guilds and the Parish Community in Late Medieval East Anglia*. York Medieval Press, 2001
- Anthony Goodman, *Margery Kempe and her World*. Longman, 2002
- C. P. Graves, 'Social Space in the English Medieval Parish Church', *Economy and Society* 18 (1989) 297-322
- _____, *The Form and Fabric of Belief*. 2000
- Richard Firth Green, *Poets and Princepleasers: Literature and the English Court in the Late Middle Ages*. U Toronto, 1980
- Barbara A. Hanawalt, 'Of Good and Ill Repute': *Gender and Social Control in Medieval England*. Oxford UP, 1998
- Barbara Hanawalt and David Wallace, eds, *Bodies and Disciplines: Intersections of Literature and History in Fifteenth-Century England*. U Minnesota P, 1996
- Christopher Harper-Bill, Carole Rawcliffe and Richard Wilson, eds, *East Anglia's History*. Boydell and Brewer, 2002
- Christopher Harper-Bill, ed., *Medieval East Anglia*. Boydell and Brewer, 2005
- Anne Hudson, *The Premature Reformation: Wycliffite Texts and Lollard History*. Clarendon, 1988
- Stephen Justice, *Writing and Rebellion: England in 1381*. U California P, 1994
- Phillipa C. Maddern, *Violence and Social Order: East Anglia, 1422-1442*. Oxford UP, 1992
- Ben R. McRee, 'Religious Guilds and Civic Order: The Case of Norwich in the Late Middle Ages', *Speculum* 67 (1992): 69-97
- Carole Meale, ed., *Women and Literature in Britain 1150-1500*. Cambridge UP, 1996
- Samuel Moore, "Patrons of Letters in Norfolk and Suffolk c.1450," *PMLA* 27 1912 188-207 and *PMLA* 28 1913 79-105
- Lee Patterson, *Negotiating the Past: the Historical Understanding of Medieval Literature*. U Wisconsin, 1987
- Daniel J. Pinti, ed., *Writing After Chaucer: Essential Readings in Chaucer and the Fifteenth Century*. Garland, 1998
- Raluca Radulescu and Alison Truelove, eds, *Gentry Culture in Late Medieval England*. Manchester UP, 2006
- Felicity Riddy, ed., *Regionalism in Late Medieval Manuscripts and Texts*. Brewer, 1991
- Miri Rubin, *Corpus Christi: The Eucharist in Late Medieval Culture*. Cambridge UP, 1991

Paul Strohm, *England's Empty Throne: Usurpation and the Language of Legitimation, 1399-1422*. Yale UP, 1998

Roger Virgoe, *East Anglian Society and the Political Community of Late Medieval England*. CEAS, 1997

Jocelyn Wogan-Browne, et al., ed., *The Idea of the Vernacular: An Anthology of Middle English Literary Theory, 1280-1520*. Pennsylvania State UP, 1999