Dyan Elliott  
History 101-6-21  
FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR—MEDIEVAL WOMEN  
Day/Time: TTH 3:30-4:50  
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: What did medieval women think about? What were their hopes and dreams? How close did they come to realizing their dreams and what forces stood in their way? This course will attempt to answer these questions by examining the work of female authors hailing from different classes, in different centuries writing in different genres, and placing each in her historical context. Learn how the martyr Perpetua defied family and society to embrace Christianity; how the nun-playwright, Hrosvith, bent the Roman classics to make virgins into heroes; how the writer Marie de France created the forbear of Harlequin romance; how the aristocratic Christine de Pizan defended women from male slander; and how Margery Kempe, a mystic wanna-be, found God and eluded her husband!

TEACHING METHOD: Discussion

EVALUATION METHOD: A series of short papers on each of the authors; a synthetic paper at the end; oral presentations.

GRADING BASIS: ANC only

NUMBER OF WRITING ASSIGNMENTS AND THEIR LENGTHS: There will be a series of short papers on each of the authors (5 X 3) and a synthetic paper at the end (ca. 10 pp).

TENTATIVE READING LIST:  
Kempe, Margery. The Book of Margery Kempe, Norton, 2000, 9780393976397.  

INSTRUCTOR PROFILE: Dyan Elliott has been fascinated by questions of women and gender in the middle ages for years, and has written widely on the subject. In her spare time she chases her two dogs around her house, trying to get them to learn the relationship between words and objects. To date, they have nobly resited.