

Queens College Department of English

Graduate Courses for the

Summer Session I 2008 Semester

ALL SUMMER SESSION I CLASSES MEET MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED!

You can contact the Director of Graduate Studies in English, Professor Talia Schaffer at talia.schaffer@qc.cuny.edu or go to the office hours of any member of the graduate committee (list available in English department).

Students admitted in September 2004 and later must use the new requirements for the M.A. and the M.S. in Education/English. Students admitted earlier may use either the old or the new requirements. To make sure you are taking the right sequence of courses, be sure to consult the department website at <http://qcpages.qc.edu/ENGLISH/Graduate/degreerequirements.html>

636: History of Literary Criticism

1SHQA 0313 M,T,W,R 6:45-8:25 KY 421 Nysenholc

We will study representative texts in literary theory from Plato to the present. Contemporary critical trends, such as New Criticism, Structuralism, Reader Response, Deconstruction, New Historicism, Feminist Criticism, Psychoanalytic Criticism, Marxist Criticism, and Postcolonialism will be examined in relation to historical antecedents. Authors will include Mikhail Bakhtin, Cleanth Brooks, Ferdinand de Saussure, Wolfgang Iser, Roland Barthes, Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault, Hélène Cixous, Julia Kristeva, Sigmund Freud, Jacques Lacan, Louis Althusser, Fredric Jameson, Edward Said, Gayatri Spivak, and others.

662: History of the English Language

1SHQA 0316 M,T,W,R 6:45-8:25 KP 333 Kole

719: Studies in Medieval Lit.

1SHQC 0679 M,T,W,R 6:45-8:25 D 22 Sargent

In this course, we will read the first autobiography written in the English language, *The Book of Margery Kempe*. Margery was an early fifteenth-century woman of the wealthy merchant class of Bishops Lynn in East Anglia. She records that after the birth of her first child, she went out of her mind, thinking that she was about to be swept off to hell by demons. Her sanity only returned when she had a vision of Jesus, who asked her, "Margery, why have you left me when I never left you?" For the remainder of her life, she lived as a visionary mystic, a pilgrim, and a bride of Christ (although she had some difficulties with her husband over that). Dressed in white, and weeping and wailing noisily whenever she thought of the passion of Christ, she drew attention – not always friendly – wherever she went, and was interrogated several times by church and civic officials, who feared that she was a Lollard heretic (they were wrong).

Margery's book was known only in a set of pious extracts published in the early 1500s – until 1937, when the single surviving manuscript was identified by the independent American scholar Hope Emily Allen. In print today, she still continues to arouse controversy.

The text that we will use is Lynn Staley's edition of *The Book of Margery Kempe* (TEAMS Middle English Texts Series, 1999) – which is available free-of-charge online at the following URLs:

www.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/teams/kempint.htm (Staley's introduction)

www.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/teams/kemp1frm.htm (Book I, part I)

www.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/teams/kemp2frm.htm (Book I, part II)

www.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/teams/kemp3frm.htm (Book II)

– N.B.: because we will be reading this text in the original Middle English, this course satisfies the History/Grammar of the English Language requirement.

759: Advanced Writing Project

1SK1A	0320		TBA		Schaffer
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781: Special Seminars

1SHQB	0322	M,T,W,R	6:45-8:25	D 15	Gonzalez
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1SHQA	0319	M,T,W,R	6:45-8:25	KP 708	Weir
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791: Thesis Course

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795: Independent Study

1SK1A	0328		TBA		
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