ENGLISH 378: SPECIAL STUDIES

S. Delany

WOMEN AND THE WORD IN MEDIEVAL SOCIETY

We will read several works composed by women between the 10th and 15th centuries. All texts will be in English translation from Latin, Old French and Provencal originals; the authors are French, German, Italian and English. The primary texts will be supplemented with scholarly readings on literacy, law, social life and critical theory as these relate to the production of texts and illuminate the authors' backgrounds.

In addition to the required texts listed below, there will be xerox copies of material by women heretics and by Italian women humanists of the quattrocento.

Work of the course will include an oral presentation, a term paper, regular participation in seminar discussion, and possibly a final examination.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

The Plays of Roswitha, transl. C. St. John (Ayer)
Letters of Heloise and Abelard, transl. C. Scott-Moucrieff (Cooper Square)
The Women Troubadours, Meg Borgan (Norton)
Lais of Marie de France, R. Hanning, transl. Joan Fenaute (Labyrinth)
The Book of the City of Ladies, Christine di Pizan (Persea)
The Book of Margery Kempe, ed. W. Buter-Bowden (Norwood)

NOTE: WOMEN'S STUDIES CREDIT IS AVAILABLE FOR THIS COURSE.

SEMINARS WILL BE HELD DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES.