I. REQUIRED BOOKS:
The following books are available in paperback.

Required:

In addition, selected readings are available on Blackboard and, where noted, from the electronic resources of the PCL.

II. Course Requirements and Grades
5 1-2 page reading response papers: 3% each = 15%
  - paper 1 due Jan 25
  - paper 2 due Feb 8
  - papers 3-5 due at a date of your choosing, in response to readings.
research project prospectus = 10%
  - due March 8
research paper (10-12 pages) draft = 15%
  - due April 14
peer responses = 10%
  - due April 21
final research paper = 25%
  - due May 5
class presentation = 10%
attendance and class participation = 15%

THIS CLASS WILL USE THE NEW PLUS/MINUS GRADING SYSTEM. FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE NUMERICAL CRITERIA USED FOR EACH GRADE, PLEASE SEE THE “GRADING CRITERIA” DOCUMENT ON BLACKBOARD.

Attendance policy: I take attendance and expect you to attend class. Excuses will be granted only for a documented medical problem, a religious holiday, or an absence due to official university business; expect a request for written documentation although this may be waived in the case of a flu outbreak.
Statement on academic integrity: Don’t cheat. I report all cases of scholastic dishonesty to the Dean of Students. My recommended penalty for cheating on tests or plagiarism on papers is an F for the course. If you are unsure about the exact definition of scholastic dishonesty or what constitutes plagiarism, you should consult the information about academic integrity produced by the Dean of Students Office: [http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php)

Students with Disabilities: Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities (471-6259) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations.

Religious Holidays: Students can make up work missed because of a religious holiday as long as they provide the instructor with documentation before the holiday occurs.

Blackboard: Course information, handouts, assignments, etc. will be posted on the class website on Blackboard. To find the Blackboard site, and go to: [http://courses.utexas.edu/](http://courses.utexas.edu/) and log in with your EID and password. Readings can be found under “Course Documents,” the syllabus under “Syllabus.”

Academic Assistance: Students may wish to utilize the academic services provided by the UT Learning Center (UTLC) and the Undergraduate Writing Center (UWC).

The UTLC is a student academic service that offers both group and individualized programs to help increase efficiency in college-level writing, reading, and learning strategies. All UTLC programs, except appointment tutoring, are free to all currently enrolled students. The UTLC is located in the Jester Center, Room A332A.

The Undergraduate Writing Center offers free assistance to UT undergraduates who wish to work on their writing; students work with trained consultants to define their goals and become more confident writers. The Center is located in the FAC 211, and is highly recommended.

III. COURSE GOALS

Mystics and visionaries claim to have a particular encounter with the divine that transcends ordinary human experience. In this course, we examine particular mystical and visionary experiences within the context of medieval European Christianity, and we will investigate the interpretative questions these writings raise for historians and scholars of religion. We will explore the tensions between individual experience and communal or institutional religion; the kinds of authority and challenges to authority that these experiences created; the relationship between experiences of the spirit and practices of the body; and the problem of expressing what is inexpressible. In the process, we will examine various theories which scholars have used to study these types of religious experiences.

This course carries a writing flag. Writing Flag courses are designed to give students experience with writing in an academic discipline. Thus you can expect to write frequently, substantially, and with constructive responses from both your instructor and your peers. Students will write 5 response papers to the weekly readings, and will work through the stages of writing a research paper, including the process of revising an initial draft. While the course readings will focus on medieval Christian mystics and visionaries, students are welcome to write research papers on figures from other religious traditions or to examine mystics or visions from the early modern or modern period.
IV. Class schedule and assignments

FRAMING THE QUESTIONS
Tues Jan 18 – Introduction.

Thurs Jan 20: Imagining mysticism
Begin *Mariette in Ecstasy* (parts 1-2); create list of questions

Tues Jan 25: Mysticism: medieval and modern
Finish *Mariette in Ecstasy*.
PAPER ONE DUE

DEFINITIONS AND MODELS
Thurs Jan 27: What is mysticism?
Fanning, 1-30.
John of the Cross, “Living Flame of Love,” [Blackboard]

Tues Feb 1: Mysticism and Visions
Fanning, pp. 75-80.

Thurs Feb 3: Mysticism and Religion
“Is this your brain on God?” [Blackboard]

Tues Feb 8: Other definitions:
Bruce Lincoln, *Holy Terrors: Thinking about Religion after September 11* Chapter One, pp. 1-25 [Blackboard]
PAPER TWO DUE

Thurs Feb 10: Religion and Heresy

EXAMPLES AND EXPLANATIONS:
Tues Feb 15: Visionaries: Christina of Markyate
Fanning, 80-85.
*Life of Christiana of Markyate* and Introduction i - 88. [Blackboard]
Thurs Feb 17 The St. Albans Psalter
   Miniatures; St. Alexis quire; Initials; Conclusion
   Images associated with these essays.

Tues Feb 22 Visionaries: Hildesd of Bingen
   Hildesd of Bingen, Selected Writings, pp. ix-xv;
   Letter to Bernard of Clairvaux, Selected Writings pp. 3-5
   Letter to Guibert of Gembloux, McGinn, pp. 331-334
   Images from the Scivias [Blackboard]
   Barbara Newman, Sister of Wisdom. St. Hildegard’s Theology of the Feminine, Chapter 1 [Blackboard]

Thurs Feb 24: Hildesd the Prophet
   Hildesd of Bingen, excerpts from letters
   Letters to prelates of Mainz, Werner of Kerckheim [Blackboard]
   Light p. 70-91 [Blackboard]

Tues March 1 Hildesd the Poet
   Hildesd of Bingen, Songs and Sequences
   Selected Writings, xxxvi-xl: 35-36, 39-40, 47-50, 53-62; 115-122
   Antiphons for the Virgin Mary [Blackboard]
   Bruce Holsinger, “The Flesh of the Voice; Embodiment and the Homoerotics of Devotion in
   the Music of Hildesd of Bingen (1098-1179) Signs (19), 1993: 92-125. [PCL: JSTOR]

Thurs March 3 Hildesd of Bingen and Elizabeth of Schönau
   Hildesd and Elizabeth, Letters [Blackboard]
   Elizabeth of Schönau, Visions (excerpts) [Blackboard]
   Anne L. Clark, “The Priesthood of the Virgin Mary: Gender Trouble in the Twelfth Century,”

Tues March 8: Mystical Marriage
   Bernard of Clairvaux, Sermons on the Song of Songs, McGinn, pp. 27-34, 222-224, 256-261,
   234-238, 525-528.
   Richard of St. Victor, Four Degrees of Violent Charity, McGinn, ppp. 155-161
   E. Ann Matter, "Mystical Marriage," Women and Faith: Catholic Religious Life in Italy from
   Late Antiquity to the Present, L. Scaraffia and G. Zarri, eds., pp. 31-41.
   PAPER PROSPECTUS DUE

Thurs March 10: Hadewijch of Brabant
   Hadewijch of Brabant, Visions and Poems [Blackboard]
   M. Suydam, "The Touch of Satisfaction: Visions and the Religious Experience According to
SPRING BREAK

Tues March 22: The Nuns of Helfta
Mechtild of Magdeburg and Gertrude the Great, Selections [Blackboard]
Caroline W. Bynum, "Women Mystics in the Thirteenth Century: The Case of the Nuns of Helfta," in Jesus as Mother [Blackboard]

Thurs March 24: Devotional Images
http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/exhibitions/golitlebook/rothschild.html

Tues March 29: Beatrice of Nazareth: Her life
Life of Beatrice of Nazareth [Blackboard]

Thurs March 31: Beatrice of Nazareth: Her words
Beatrice of Nazareth, “Seven Manners of Loving” [Blackboard]

Tues April 5 Margarete Porete
Fanning, pp. 101-119.
Margarete Porete, Mirror of Simple Souls [Blackboard]
Trial http://www.uncg.edu/~rebarton/margporete.htm

Thurs April 7 Na Prous Boneta
Na Prous Boneta and Alisseta Boneta
http://www.history.vt.edu/Burr/heresy/beguins/Heresy.html
Louisa Burham, “The Visionary Authority of Na Prous Bonete” [Blackboard]

Tues April 12 Meister Eckhart

Thurs April 14: The End of the Middle Ages
Fanning, 119-175.
FIRST DRAFT OF RESEARCH PAPER DUE

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS
Tues April 19 Student Presentations
Peer reading
Thurs April 21: Student Presentations
PEER READER RESPONSES DUE
Tues April 26: Student Presentations
Thurs April 28: Student Presentations
Tues May 3: Student Presentations
Thurs May 5: Conclusions
Fanning, 175-220.
FINAL DRAFT OF RESEARCH PAPER DUE