

FALL 2024 - CAPSTONE SEMINAR

ENG 461-02, GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN MEDIEVAL LITERATURE

Dr. Meredith Clermont-Ferrand
Wednesdays, 4:00 - 6:45 pm

In this seminar, we'll explore how gender identity and sexuality have shaped Western culture, particularly during the medieval era (500-1500 C.E.). We'll use concepts from gender and queer theory, like sexuality, gender identity, oppression, and social construction, to analyze literary works such as *Beowulf*, *The Song of Roland*, *Berengier of the Long Ass*, and *The Canterbury Tales*.

We'll delve into how gender and sexuality influenced medieval literature and society, and how they interacted with other social factors like privilege and oppression. We'll also discuss the evolving definitions of gender and sexuality during this period, and how they often problematized and clashed with medieval societal expectations.

