



**COURSE SYLLABUS:  
WOMEN AS READERS AND WRITERS IN THE MIDDLE AGES**

Universität zu Köln  
Wintersemester 2009/2010

Class Hours: Monday 14-15:30  
Class Location: Phil 356a (Neuer Seminarraum)

**Prof. Dr. Alison I. Beach**

Office: USB 413 (University Archive)  
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**12 October**

Course Organization and Introduction

**19 October**

Women as Scribes in Early Christianity & Early Monasticism

Jerome, Letter to Laeta

**26 October**

Women's Education & Literacy on the Frontiers of Christian Europe

Rudolph of Fulda, Life of Leoba

**2 November**

Hrotsvit of Gandersheim as Playwright

Hrotsvit, *Dulcitius* and *Paphnutius*

**9 November**

The Lais of Marie de France

Marie de France, *Yonec*

**16 November**

Female Visionaries and Mystics

Hildegard of Bingen, *Scivias*

**23 November**

Women and Book Production in the Twelfth Century 'Renaissance'

Herrad of Hohenbourg's *Hortus Deliciarum* and the *Speculum Virginum* (images only, no reading for today)

**30 November**

Women as Letter-Writers: Heloise

Selected Letters of Abelard & Heloise

**7 December**

The Beguines

Hadewijch of Brabant, Selections from Visions and Letter to a Young Beguine

**14 December**

Women Writing about Women's Health

The Trotula

Hildegard, Writings on Women's Sexuality

**11 January**

Christine de Pisan

Christine de Pisan, *The Book of the City of Ladies*

**18 January**

Working Women

Margery Kempe, *The Book of Margery Kempe*

**25 January**

Books of Hours

Images only, no reading for today (possible excursion to Cologne Diocesan Archive)

**1 February**

Course Conclusion