JOAN OF ARC (1412–1431)
The Six Hundredth Anniversary Course Syllabus Spring 2012
Professor Bonnie Wheeler, Visiting Professor Katie Keene
Office Hours: 2:30–4 T & by appointment in 259 Dallas Hall
Medieval Studies Weekly Tea: 4–5:30 at 3425 University Blvd

Spring 2012: Joan of Arc Meetings for All Students, Attendance Required
Tuesday, Thursday, 12:30–1:50 p.m., McCord Auditorium, Dallas Hall

Note: This syllabus maybe changed by the instructors at any time. Please check the website http://faculty.smu.edu/bwheeler/joan_of_arc/olr.html and ask in class for any updates.

I. Joan of Arc as Symbol, History as Mediation
Jeanne (Jehanne) d'Arc, Johanna d'Arc, Giovanna d'Arco, Zhanna d'Ark, The Maid of France/Orléans, la Pucelle, die Jüngfrau von Orleans

Jan 17 “The writer’s function is to prevent myths turning into allegories.”
(Michel Tournier)

Jan 19 Joan as Myth and Symbol
Reading:
B. Wheeler, Charles T. Wood in Fresh Verdicts (pp. ix–xvi).
Bernard, Welt, “Mythomania” Art Issues in OLR.
Winston S. Churchill, “Joan of Arc” in OLR.
Pierre Nora, “From Lieux de mémoire to Realms of Memory…” in OLR.
Lawrence D. Kritzman, “Foreword” to Realms of Memory… in OLR.

Jan 24 A Nationalist Joan for Post-WWII
See movie in days preceding class, available through CMIT
Film: Victor Fleming’s Joan of Arc (1948; 100 min; I. Bergman & J. Ferrer).
Readings:
Harty, 237-64, in Fresh Verdicts

Debates

II. Joan in Her Time
How did a peasant girl from the fringes of France become the “youngest person of either sex to lead her nation’s army before the age of nineteen,” as Mark Twain tells us? How do we explain the trajectory of desires, ideas, and events that culminated in her military victory in Orleans and the crowning of her Dauphin as King Charles VII at Reims? Was Joan captured by her enemies alone or with the complicity of her own comrades? Was her trial truly an inquisition? Why was she brought to trial for religious rather than military crimes? Why did the trial take so long and why was she executed so precipitously? Did she die a virgin? In this longest section of the course we consider Joan’s youth and family, Joan’s silence and speech, and Joan’s inquisition trial and its judges.

Jan 26 Family Matters, Murders, Maps, and Mayhem: France, Burgundy, and Late Medieval
Ceremony and Chivalry

Reading:
J. duQ. Adams, “Modern Views of Medieval Chivalry,” in OLR.
Sidney Painter, French Chivalry, in OLR.
Taylor, Joan of Arc: La Pucelle, xiii-xix.

Debates.

Jan 31 England, France, and the Hundred Year’s War: To The Battle of Agincourt
Reading:
Joan of Arc, Herstory, Preface and Prelude (xv–6).
Film: See movie in days preceding class, available through CMIT

Debates.

Feb 2 Joan’s Early Life and Public Career: From Home to Chinon
Readings:
Taylor, Joan of Arc: La Pucelle, pp. 68–74.
Hobbins, Trial, Appendix: The “Poitiers Conclusion”2

Debates.

Feb 7 Triumph at Orléans
Readings:
Taylor, Joan of Arc: La Pucelle, pp. 74-92.
Joan of Arc, Herstory, pp. 33-51.
Kelly DeVries, “A Woman as Leader of Men,” in Fresh Verdicts.

Debates.

Feb 9 Reims
Readings:
Joan of Arc, Herstory, ch. 4.
Taylor, Joan of Arc: La Pucelle, 92–122.

Debates.

Feb 14 Le Grand Querelle des Femmes
Readings:
Kennedy & Varty, trans. Christine de Pizan, the Ditié of Jehanne d’Arc” in OLR
McWebb (133-44) and Lutkus/Walker, (145–60) in Fresh Verdicts

Debates.

Feb 15 7 P.M. Required Lecture, “Joan of Arc: One of the Boys” by Kelly Devries

Feb 16 Class discussion with Prof. DeVries on Joan as Military Leader
Feb 21  Friends, Foes, and Perverts
Readings:
  *Debates.*

Feb 23  Frustration, Captivity, and the Preparatory Trial
Readings:
  *Joan of Arc, Herstory*, ch. 5.
  *Debates.*

Feb 28  The Ordinary Trial (Condemnation)
Readings:
  *Joan of Arc, Herstory*, ch. 6.
  Hobbins, *Trial*, 118–95
  *Debates.*

March 1  Joan as Threat?
Readings:
  Susan Crane, “Clothing and Gender Definition: Joan of Arc,” in *OLR*.
  Schibanoff (31–60), Sullivan (85–112), Weiskopf (113–32), in *Fresh Verdicts*.
  *Debates.*

March 6  Rouen: Relapse and Death by Burning
Readings:
  *Joan of Arc, Herstory*, ch. 7
  Hobbins, *Trial*, 196–213
  Film: In class
  Thomas Edison’s *Joan of Arc*.
  *Debates.*

March 8  Mid-Term Examination

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Spring Break March 12–16, 2012

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**III. Receptions of Joan by her Contemporaries**

In the Nullification Trial and the conversations that led up to it, we see the pressure on her contemporaries to forge images of Joan and images of France. The nullification trial documents themselves are important sources for late medieval social and intellectual history.

March 20  The Nullification Trial: Joan’s rehabilitation in the 1450s
Readings:
  *Joan of Arc, Herstory*, ch. 8
D. Elliott, *Proving Women*, in *OLR.*

Debates.

March 22  
Inquisitorial procedures and the fairness of Joan’s trial
Readings:
Dossat, “Inquisition” in *OLR.*
H.A. Kelly, “The Right to Remain Silent…” in *OLR.*

Debates.

**IV: Later Receptions of Joan**
Poets, artists, dramatists, and historians never lost sight of Joan of Arc. In this section of the course, we consider her afterlife as an image of female heroism and hysteria, of cunning and madness from the early modern period through the end of the nineteenth century.

March 27  
Renaissancing Joan
Readings:
Raphael Holinshed, *Chronicles* in *OLR.*
William Shakespeare, *1 Henry VI.*

Debates.

March 29  
Enlightenment Joan
Readings:
Voltaire, *La Pucelle d'Orléans* in *OLR*;
Kathleen Wellman, Agnès Sorel in *OLR*;

Debates.

April 3  
One Nineteenth-Century Joan
Readings
Jules Michelet, *Joan of Arc.*

Debates.

April 5  
Michelet and the Forces of Nationalism
Readings
Jules Michelet, *Joan of Arc.*
Margolis, 265–88, in *Fresh Verdicts.*

Debates.

April 10  
Twentieth-Century Joan
Readings:
H.A. Kelly, “Joan of Arc’s Last Trial,” (205–36) in *Fresh Verdicts.*
“Official Pronouncement of Canonization” in *OLR.*

Debates.

April 12  
Joan: A Saint as Conformist or Protestant?
Readings:
George Bernard Shaw, *Saint Joan* (1923) in *OLR.*

*Debates.*

April 17

Shaw’s Joan

Readings:

George Bernard Shaw, *Saint Joan* (1923) in *OLR.*

Johan Huizinga, “Bernard Shaw’s Saint” in *OLR.*

*Debates.*

April 19

Playing Joan


V: Was Joan Inspired or Crazy?

Joan claimed that she shaped her life, mission, and goals at the direction of her “heavenly voices” named as the archangel St. Michael, Saint Margaret, and Saint Catherine. Joan in her own day (and in ours?) embodied and symbolized profound religious faith. How has her faith been represented, admitted, and denied? Here we interrogate the figure of Joan and the “embarrassment” of belief.

April 24

Evidence of Things Unseen

See movie in days preceding class, available through CMIT

Film:

*Dreyer’s Passion of Joan of Arc* (1928; 110 min.; 1994, R. Einhorn)

April 28

Faith and the Physics of Spiritual Communication

Readings:

Taylor, *Joan of Arc: La Pucelle,* pp. 1–68

*Joan of Arc, Herstory,* ch. 8

John and Isobel-Ann Butterfield, “Joan of Arc: A Medical View” in *OLR.*

Film:

Martha Graham’s *Seraphic Dialogues*

*Debates.*

May 7

Monday, May 7, 8–11 A.M. Final Examination