

FRW 5415--Fall 2005—

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SEMINAR IN MEDIEVAL  
LITERATURE—Christine de Pizan

FRW 5419

Dr. Lori Walters

## *Autobiography and Advice in the Works of Christine de Pizan*

*In this course we will examine how Christine de Pizan (ca. 1365-1430) established her authority as an advisor to royalty through her self-presentation as a woman remarkable for her wisdom, learning, and conduct. She uses her own personal “autobiography” to help communicate a message about the spiritual and moral health of the early fifteenth century French state. Since in the Middle Ages it was believed that a person who could not govern her own morals was not worthy of ruling the country or telling others how to do so, Christine’s defense of her reputation was part of her concerted political strategies. For example, like a candidate for a modern political office, she felt compelled to defend herself against rumors that she had taken a lover after the death of her husband. In a similar way, Christine’s credibility would be diminished if she were seen as belonging to a tainted gender. An important part of her strategies was thus to defend the entire female gender against antifeminism in literature and in life.*

*We will concentrate on four works written during the period 1403-1405:*

*The Path of Long Study (Le Chemin de long estude)*

*The City of Ladies (La Cité des dames)*  
*The Three Virtues (Les Trois Vertus)*  
*Christine's Vision (L'Advision Cristine)*  
 We will also consider Christine's last work, her *Tale of Joan of Arc*  
*(Le Ditié de Jeanne d'Arc)* of 1429

**PLEASE NOTE:** This course is open to graduate students and advanced undergraduates outside of French who have a reading knowledge of modern French and are capable of following the French used for class lecture and discussion. Works available only in English will be discussed in English, as will be critical articles written in English. If there are non-French speakers taking the class, the professor will establish a weekly supplementary session for discussion in English and/or a web chat group for those who prefer to discuss the works in English. Non-French specialists may choose to do their papers and presentations in English.

*Texts:*

*Required Texts:*

- \**Le Chemin de Longue Etude*, ed. A. Tarnowski 2-253-06671-0
- \**The Book of the City of Ladies*, tr. R. Brown-Grant 0-14-044689-3
- \**A Med. Woman's Mirror of Honor -The Treasury of the City of Ladies*, tr. CCWillard 0-89255-135-6(Three Virtues)
- \**The Selected Writings of Christine de Pizan*, 0-393-97010-8
- \**Les Tres riches heures du duc de Berry*, CDR

*Handouts (to be copied)*

- \**Christine's Vision*, tr. Anne Paupert
- \**L'Advision-Cristine*, M. Fr. ed. C. Reno and L. Dulac, Paris: Champion, 2001.

*For doing the research paper required in the course:*

- \**MLA guide to writers of research papers*
- Consult online information on FSU library website
- Consult online information on Yale university website
- <http://www.library.yale.edu/instruction/books.html>

*Recommended Texts:*

*For those taking French M.A. exams*

\**Dictionnaire des Lettres fr-especially for those taking French M.A. Exams*  
2-2530-5662-6

For those writing MA papers or Ph.D. dissertations on Christine de Pizan:

\**The Writings of Christine de Pizan*, ed. CC Willard 0-89255-188-7.

\**Epistre d'Othéa*, M. Fr. ed. G. Parussa, 2-600-00376-2

\**CC Willard, CP: Her Life and Work* 0-89255-152-5

\**La Città delle Dame*, ed. EJ Richards (MF); trans. P. Caraffi (Modern It)  
978-88-7984-048-7

Other books of interest:

\**The Political Theory of Christine de Pizan*, Kate Forhan 0-7546-0174-9

Read review by N. Margolis at

<http://www3.uakron.edu/hfrance/reviews/list.html>

\**Christine's Vision*, tr. Glenda McLeod

\**Le Livre des Faits et Bonnes Moeurs du roi Charles V le Sage*, tr.

Hicks/Moreau 2-234-02377-7

\*S. Hindman, CP's 'Epistre Othéa': Painting and Politics at the Court of Charles VI

\**La Cité des Dames*, tr. Moreau/Hicks, Stock/Moyen Age 2-234-01989-3

\**Christine de Pizan's Letter of Othea to Hector*, ed. Jane Chance  
0-941051-04-8

On reserve in Strozier:

\*E. Yenal. *Christine de Pisan: A Bibliography* PQ1575.Z5.Y45

\*A. Kennedy, *Christine de Pizan: A Bibliographical Guide* PQ1575.Z5.K46

\*A. Kennedy, *Christine de Pizan: A Bibliographical Guide. Supplement I*  
PQ1575.Z5.K46

Useful Web Addresses

[www2.uni-wuppertal.de/FB4/romanistik/CdeP/welcome.html](http://www2.uni-wuppertal.de/FB4/romanistik/CdeP/welcome.html)

see Sept. 1991 issue of Newsletter for dates of CP's works

[www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/sell/pizan/](http://www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/sell/pizan/)

For current activities of the Christine de Pizan Society

For Jane Chance's article "CP & Establishing Female Literary Authority"

Grading:

<i>Mid-Term Exam (Take home)</i>	25
<i>Final Exam (Take home)</i>	25
<i>Short Oral Presentations</i>	10
<i>Notebook of Grammar Corrections</i>	10
<i>Final Research Paper &amp; Presentation</i>	30 (20 + 10)