

CANISIUS COLLEGE'S  
**INSTITUTE FOR CLASSICAL AND MEDIEVAL STUDIES**  
Lifelong Learners Center  
Spring 2020 Course Offering

## The Plague in Medieval Literature



**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This 6 week course explores representations of the Black Death in medieval literature. We will examine both the experience of the plague as reflected in the works and the various ways people responded to it. Writers such as Petrarch, Boccaccio, Chaucer and William Langland, as well as others will be at the center of our conversations about the impact of plague on society, culture, and life. We will attempt to understand this while also shining a light on our own experience with the current pandemic.



**Johanna Fisher** is an adjunct professor in the Department of English and Co-Director of the Women & Gender Studies Program at Canisius College. Professor Fisher has taught courses such as *Romancing the Grail*, *High Adventures and Chivalrous Knights* and *The Quest in Medieval Literature* for over 20 years. She has also taught German and German literature courses with an emphasis on contemporary German literature. She is originally from Bayern, Germany and lives there part-time when she is not teaching at Canisius College.

**Wednesdays, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., March 31, April 7, 14, 21, 28 and May 5**

### Session Topics

- ❖ **Overview of the Black Death and Influences on Literature of the Middle Ages/ Introduction to Petrarch and Boccaccio**
- ❖ **Petrarch/ Selected Poems**
- ❖ **Boccaccio/*The Decameron* (2 weeks)**
- ❖ **Chaucer/*Canterbury Tales* (2 weeks)**

**Enrollment is open to anyone interested in learning! No papers or tests, but much good discussion!** Courses are not part of any Canisius College degree program. **All classes meet via Zoom this semester. Cost for course: \$60.** Registration and payment (credit, debit, or check) through the [Canisius Marketplace](#).

For further course details, visit [ICMS \(http://blogs.canisius.edu/icms/\)](http://blogs.canisius.edu/icms/).

For questions, contact the Canisius Classics Department, 716.888.2713

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