**H761/SP761  Women in the Early and Medieval Church**

**Overall goals**
This course aims: 1) to introduce you to the lives of several female pioneers of the early and medieval church, how they creatively overcame the challenges they faced, and a variety of their influential spiritual practices and disciplines - from ascetic withdrawal to pilgrimage, persecution to patronage, and lay piety to mysticism, 2) to encourage you to critically analyze the primary sources and historical context surrounding them, 3) and to inspire your faith and spirituality as you examine this period of breaking gender ideals and share in the memory of these remarkable women.

**Reading Requirements**
Students should expect to read at most 800-850 pages from the required texts below and from additional sources still being selected.

**Writing Requirements**
Students should expect to write at most 22-26 double-spaced pages. This will be comprised of the following:
- Two 10-12 page papers, double-spaced (80% total, 40% each paper)
- One single page presentation handout (part of class presentation, see below)

**Other**
In addition to reading, writing and class participation, students also should expect to produce or participate in these graded activities: Class presentation (10%); Oral participation (10%)

**Required Texts**