

## Chaucer's Wife of Bath in M.E. & Bergvall's Alisoun Sings + Their Playlist Course Description

This is a literature-poetry-music course based on two texts: Chaucer's Wife of Bath's Tale in Middle English [available on-line] and French-Norwegian British-based Sound-Poet-Medieval Scholar Caroline Bergvall's Alisoun Sings, the third and final volume in a trilogy of works using medieval and contemporary sources and languages to explore contemporary events as well as the author's own geographical displacement and Queerness [the two other works are titled Middle English and Drift]. Many of Bergvall's installation events in Europe and US are available on YouTube. We will watch and listen and discuss some of her performances as well as listen to some of her playlist that accompanies Alisoun Sings [Bergvall also did a music album].

The basis for this Explore is Chaucer's Wife of Bath who stills blows her breath through the ages. The original feminist, she has "experience, though noon auctoritee" [experience though no written authority], outlasting multiple husbands, in iterations of learning how to be her own self, providing the basis perhaps for Shakespeare's Falstaff, and now, Bergvall's Alisoun.

This is a course that will entail some close reading and reciting/listening, discussion, music, and will go wherever the class wants to go, in ending at its end, which is completion of the book, Alisoun Sings.