

HIST 349: Reading Guide – Devotion and Piety

1. What was the appeal of living a secular but regulated (according to a rule) life for medieval Christians? Was this type of living for everyone? How does Geert Grote's *Modern Devotion* (# 60) fit into your answer?
2. What kind of life did Franciscan tertiaries and the guild members of Perugia and St. Catherine (readings 54-56) live? What Christian virtues did these rules promote and what kinds of vices did they hope to regulate?
3. Why would craft guilds take such an active part in putting on the mystery plays?
4. What do these week's sources reveal about the intersection of social and religious life in the Middle Ages?
5. The *Pilgrimage of Human Life* is filled with complex allegories, yet seems to have been widely read. Do you think that the typical medieval reader would have understood these allegories? If not, why include them?
6. Among the sources there are two (# 59 and 61) that give guidelines on how certain people should behave—in this case, one gives directions to the daughters of a knight and the other to a gentlemen. What are the similarities and differences in what is expected of each of them?
7. How useful are the proverbs in our understanding of medieval popular beliefs? What do they reveal?
8. How did the Black Death affect medieval popular beliefs?