

RG ST 138 / RG ST 238

“Apophasis, Ecstasy, and Death in Christian Mysticism”

PROFESSOR: **AMY HOLLYWOOD**

The course will explore the interplay between saying (cataphasis) and unsaying (apophasis) in the Christian mystical tradition, asking whether these primarily linguistic categories might be stretched to include visionary and ecstatic experience. Is visionary experience a form of cataphasis, with the ecstatic transcendence of that experience apophatic? And if this is the case, how might the history of the Christian mystical tradition be recast, particularly around questions of sexual difference? Finally, what is the relationship between apophasis, ecstasy, and death within that tradition? We will read a variety of early Christian, medieval, and modern sources, among them the writings of Pseudo-Dionysius, Bernard of Clairvaux, Richard of St. Victor, Hadewijch, Marguerite Porete, and Meister Eckhart.

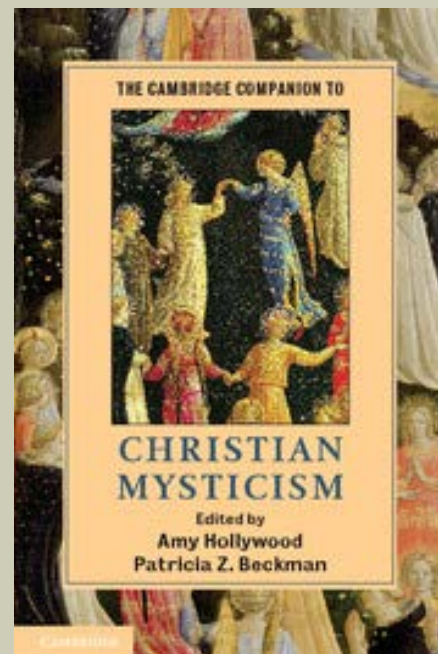
Amy Hollywood is the 2013 J.E. and Lillian Byrne Tipton Distinguished Visiting Professor in Catholic studies at UCSB. She comes to us from the Harvard Divinity School where she is the Elizabeth H. Monrad Professor of Christian Studies. She is the author of *The Soul as Virgin Wife: Mechthild of Magdeburg, Marguerite Porete, and Meister Eckhart* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1995), which received the Otto



PROFESSOR AMY HOLLYWOOD

Grundler Prize for the best book in medieval studies from the International Congress of Medieval Studies; *Sensible Ecstasy: Mysticism, Sexual Difference, and the Demands of History* (University of Chicago Press, 2002); and, forthcoming from Columbia University Press, *Acute Melancholia and Other Essays*. She is also the co-editor, with Patricia Beckman, of *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Mysticism* (2012). Professor Hollywood is currently exploring the place of the mystical, often redescribed as enthusiasm, within modern philosophy, theology, and poetry.

THIS SEMINAR SERIES WILL BE AVAILABLE ON GOLD FOR WINTER ENROLLMENT.



MEETS:

**JANUARY 6 - 30,
T/R, 6:00-8:50PM**

**AND FEBRUARY 1,
SAT, 10:00AM-4:00PM**

INTENDED FOR:

**GRADUATE STUDENTS &
UNDERGRADUATE JUNIOR/
SENIOR STUDENTS**

4 UNITS

