Britain's later Middle Ages were distinguished by a remarkable upheaval on social, cultural, and religious fronts. Fashion emerged as a means to identify social standing and moral virtue. Whereas poets celebrated clothing, churchmen highlighted the sinfulness of dress; English parliament in turn restricted clothing based on income and rank. Come read the works that stage various kinds of sartorial celebrations of—and resistances to—sexualities evoked in the works of Beowulf, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, a transvestite romance known as Silence, and a selection of the Canterbury Tales.

Distinguished Teaching Professor Nicole Smith
ENGL 4431  |  Summer I  |  Mon-Thurs 10:00-11:50am