

# RELI 088: Religion and Society in Historical Novels



“Books are not made to be believed, but to be subjected to inquiry” (Umberto Eco, *The Name of the Rose*): In this “First Year Seminar” we will read several books together: Donna Woolfolk Cross, *Pope Joan: A Novel* ; A. B. Yehoshua, *A Journey to the end of the Millennium* ; Umberto Eco, *The Name of the Rose* ; Glueckel of Hameln, *My Life*. Three of these books (but not the fourth) can be described as “Historical Novels.” Having these books as a starting point, we will explore various aspects of religion and society in Europe and in the Middle East in the medieval and early modern periods. By using both literature and scholarship, we will reflect on religious concepts, social tensions, technological inventions, health issues, economic transformations, gender, political conflicts, and more, as hinted in these works.

Professor Evyatar  
Marienberg  
*evyatarm@unc.edu*

Tuesday/Thursday  
2:00-3:15PM

**General Education  
Requirements: Fulfills  
LA, WB**

