Description: This course offers an introduction to Old French literature in Modern French translation. Our primary focus will be on themes of love and desire in short verse narratives emanating from the aristocratic and royal courts of Northern France and England. We will also be interested in the relationship between narrative forms and casuistry, a mode of case-based moral reasoning that was prevalent throughout the medieval period. The course has two principal goals: (1) to provide a broad understanding of medieval vernacular literature in its cultural, social, and political contexts; and (2) to improve analytical skills and expository writing. There will be two papers and a final exam. Students will choose their own paper topics but should request assistance if they need it. The final exam will consist of text identification questions and explications de texte.

Prerequisite: French 100.

GE Credits (Old): Arts & Humanities.
GE Credits (New): Arts & Humanities, World Cultures, and Writing Experience.