Class Schedule - Fall 2019

Comparative and World Literature

CWL 253  Medieval Literature and Culture  credit: 3 hours.
Same as ENGL 202 and MDVL 201. See ENGL 202.

This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for a:
Humanities – Lit & Arts
Cultural Studies - Western

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<th>CRN</th>
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<th>Time</th>
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<td>33891</td>
<td>Lecture-Discussion</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>11:00 AM - 11:50 AM</td>
<td>MWF</td>
<td>131 - English Building</td>
<td>Barrett, R</td>
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Credit Hours: 3 hours
Medieval Journeys
Humanities - Lit & Arts, and Cultural Studies - Western course.

This course introduces students to the cultural diversity of the global Middle Ages by focusing on narratives of travel and mobility. Some of these journeys cross historical landscapes: a Viking explorer makes first contact with the indigenous peoples of North America, a Moroccan scholar follows the caravan routes to African Mali, a Japanese concubine takes up the itinerant life of a Buddhist nun upon leaving the imperial court, and an English housewife goes on pilgrimage just about everywhere. Others traverse imaginary terrain: an Irish abbot and his monks set sail for the Isle of the Blessed, a flock of Persian birds cross seven mystical valleys to find their king, Chinese men and women run afoul of ghosts and transformed animals crossing over from the spirit world, and knights errant wander the forests of Arthurian legend on never-ending quests. All of these travel narratives share an interest in encountering the alien (barbarians, foreigners, monsters, prodigies, heretics, etc.) as well as a realization of travel's potential for self-discovery … or self-alienation. Texts will be read in Modern English translations; assignments will include short reading responses, longer interpretative essays, and a pair of exams.