

**FREN 8010. Topics in Culture and Language
Fall 2024 — (#59763).**

French Literature of the Middle Ages and Renaissance

Professor: Jan Pendergrass

Hours of instruction: Tuesday/Thursday 2:20pm-3:35pm in Gilbert Hall 309

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 3:45pm-4:45pm; Wednesday 1:30pm-2:30pm



This course proposes to explore foundational works of the French national identity, ones that, after many centuries, occupy a place of choice on the shelves of those who enjoy literature. The main authors to be studied in this course are Marie de France (*Lais*), Chrétien de Troyes (*Yvain ou le chevalier au lion*), François Rabelais (*Gargantua*), Hélienne de Crenne (*Les Angoisses douloureuses*), and Michel de Montaigne (*Essais*, excerpts), along with two anonymous works titled *Aucassin et Nicolette* and *Farce de Maître Pierre Pathelin*. In all, they represent a variety of genres and styles, including Breton legends sung to the music of a lyre, courtly romance, chantefable, bourgeois comedy, humanist satire, and in the case of Hélienne de Crenne, a prototype of the sentimental novel.

The language of instruction for this course is French. Primary readings are available, if not in modern French adaptation, then in English translation. Graduate students from language sections other than French, or from other departments, are welcome to enroll if they have an interest in reading great works of early French authors. Those students will need basic language skills in modern French for reading, listening, and participation in classroom discussions, but if they meet this minimum requirement, they will have the option to write their term paper in English rather than French. Or, in lieu of English (or French), students in Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, and German can opt to write their term paper in one of these languages provided a professor of said language agrees to serve as a co-reader. Students in French will write their term paper in French.

Fall 2024

FREN 4070/6200

**Littérature-monde en français /
World Literature in French**

Dr. Rachel Gabara

T Th 12:45-2 pm

115 Gilbert Hall



Beginning with the “Littérature-monde en français” manifesto, published by a group of global writers in *Le Monde* in 2007, we will read autobiographical texts, essays, short stories, and novels by authors (from Guadeloupe, Lebanon, Iran, China, Morocco, Russia, Greece, et. al.) who have opted to use French instead of or together with their mother tongue or native language. Exploring French as both language of colonization and language of liberation, we will analyze its role as medium for artistic expression and the exploration of identity.

All readings and class discussions will be in French – students from outside of Romance Languages are welcome to participate and do their written work in English.