This course is an introduction to medieval French literature all the while focusing on French interactions with the Arab Islamicate world from the 11th to the 13th centuries. Because a discussion of interactions and hybridity requires first a solid grounding in each literary and cultural tradition, we will spend a great deal of time studying each tradition separately (with a much heavier emphasis on the French tradition because this is a French class after all). We will do two cross-cultural analyses at the end of the course so that you may gain an understanding of what it means to conduct cross-cultural research.