

Graduate Course descriptions

Medieval Poetry

In this course we will consider various forms of poetic expression in the vernacular languages of medieval Iberia. Through this examination, we will explore questions of orality, literacy, audience, authorship, text and performance. Special attention will be given to the *Libro de buen amor* as a palimpsest of medieval poetry.

Women in Medieval Literature

This course will focus on literature about and by women in Middle Ages. We will examine the representations of women from the divine to sinners and saints (Virgin Mary, Santa Oria, Mary Magdalene, Mary the Egyptian), as objects of desire (*Libro de buen amor*), and through the 15th-century debate on women (*Corbacho*, *Jardín de nobles donzellas*, *Cárcel de amor*, *Celestina*). We will also consider self-portrayals by women (Teresa de Cartagena's *Arboleda de los enfermos*, Leonor López de Córdoba's *Memorias*).

Critical Approaches to the Middle Ages

We will consider the validity of the application of various critical theories to medieval literature. Students will test the limits of reading *Poema del Cid*, *Milagros de Nuestra Señora*, *Libro de buen amor* and *Celestina* through the prism of critical theory from the last 50 years.