

**Medieval Studies Institute
Spring 2012**

MEST M390

Studies in Medieval Culture:

**War and Peace in Medieval
European Literature**

MW 2:30-3:45

Prof. R. McGerr

Satisfies COLL Cultural Studies List A & AHLA requirements.



This course introduces students to depictions of war and peace in texts written in Europe between the sixth and fifteenth centuries, in order to help students learn more about medieval European cultures and allow students to compare early literary traditions in Europe with literatures from other times and other areas of the world. Another course goal is to help students enhance their general ability to read and write about texts analytically. We will study representative medieval works from a variety of genres and modes (including epic, romance, lyric, drama, allegorical narrative, and satire). We will explore such issues as the emergence of vernacular literature in the Middle Ages, the relationship of oral and written presentation of medieval texts, the influence of classical and Christian traditions on medieval texts, the relationship of medieval literature to music and the visual arts, and the social forces that shaped European literature during this time.

READINGS: Our texts will include a selection of lyric poems from the Latin and vernacular traditions, the *Song of Roland*, the *Song of the Cid*, Chrétien de Troyes's *Yvain*, Wolfram von Eschenbach's *Parzival*, Guillaume de Lorris and Jean de Meun's *Romance of the Rose*, Dante's *Divine Comedy*, and *The Second Shepherd's Play*.

REQUIREMENTS: Students in C 321 will take an hour test and final exam, answer study questions, and write one analytical essay of six to eight pages.