FREN 521: Introduction to French Literature (Medieval to 18th C)
TU 9:30-10:45 AM Hybrid.

This course offers an introduction to the literary production in French from the medieval period through the 18th century. We will read texts from a range of genres in order to explore writing practices and how they are inscribed within the sociocultural context within which they are written. In doing so, we will also explore what “literature” is, how it has been defined over time in the French-language context, and we’ll examine links between topics explored in these texts and evaluate how we view these themes today. During the course, in addition to studying the texts and their contexts, we will work to develop our French language skills—we will learn to analyze texts, expand our reading skills, and develop our ability to: express an opinion, advance and sustain an argument, and debate a topic effectively, both in writing and orally. We will focus on our ability to become savvy readers, able to discern the way in which writers use figures, make allusions and referrals to one another and their context, and structure their texts for various purposes, be they political, social, or aesthetic.