

**FREN 5100/8510**

***Poetry in Motion:***

***Circulation and Reception of Late Medieval Texts***

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Class time: R, 3:30-6

Office hours: Tues, 2-4

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

What happens to literature if we release it from the bound book and recognize that it is in constant formation? Founded on the notion that art is neither produced in a vacuum nor received by passive participants, this course will consider the ways in which fellow writers, artists, patrons, and bookmakers transformed medieval literature through their engagement. We will also move with poetry over time and space to examine the impact of continuations and rewrites, textual networks (especially patronage and literary coteries), material transmission across media, and the role of cultural memory in shaping the French medieval canon. Primary texts will include the *Roman de la Rose*, Christine de Pizan's intervention in the *Débat sur le Roman de la Rose*, excerpts from Guillaume de Machaut's collected works, Charles d'Orléans's collaborative poetic project, and late medieval chapbooks that record works of the *Cent ballades* authors, Machaut, Deschamps, Christine de Pizan, François Villon, and Grandson alongside new writers (Turin, Archivio di Stato, J.b.IX.10 and Stockholm Vu 22). These works will be examined as both literary texts and material artifacts that speak to the vitality of literature and the role of readers of all sorts, especially writers, artists, and bookmakers, in shaping meaning.