Medieval Heroes and the Societies that Love Them (Including Ours)
B204 Section 28346
Taught by Leah Shopkow and Erin Gorman

Week 1
Prologue: Why should we use narrative sources to explore medieval history? How can we interpret them?

Weeks 2-3
Part 1
Learning to make the source speak

Weeks 4-6
Part 2
Finding the society in the source

Weeks 10-12
Part 4
Understanding the sophisticated tastes of a complex society

Weeks 7-9
Part 3
Seeing different societal needs in the same hero

Weeks 13-15
Part 5
Seeing the changing audience ideas of heroes (and realities and ideals)

Reading Eustace the Monk and Robin Hood and exploring the taste for bad guys

Reading about William of Orange: How did noble society see itself and its world?

Early Christian female saints: What does a female hero look like?

Reading two lives of Charlemagne and mapping changes in Carolingian Society

Beowulf, Yvain and Erec, The Black Prince