The Middle Ages, Fact and Fiction

We’ve all heard of the Middle Ages – but how much do you REALLY know about this historical period? In this course, we will conduct research into the time period in order to determine which of our preconceived ideas are accurate and which are erroneous. Through a variety of activities designed to challenge preconceptions and through the reading of primary texts from the period, students will achieve greater understanding of this period. As a class, we will choose a few lines of inquiry to pursue. Possible questions could involve the condition of women in the time period, social mobility in a hierarchical society, and how closely literary devices mirror actual social practices. Individually and in groups, students will seek out sources using a variety of approaches to answer the questions. The students’ final project will require a substantial writing assignment upon which you will receive sustained feedback throughout the course.