A study of representative works of Spanish literature of the middle Ages through the Renaissance. Emphasis is placed on the literary analysis of the major genres of epic poetry, the fable, the ballads, the picaresque novel and pre-Lope de Vega’s theater. We will pay special attention to the historical and socio-cultural context of the production and oral reproduction of these and other texts of the period. We will also explore the way these different cultural products were experienced by their mainly illiterate audiences, through private performance (communal readings, moral exemplum, teaching lessons) and through public performance on the stage or on the street (theatrical production, puppet shows, songs and dances and the like). Texts are accompanied by a number of films/videos (made from the literary works and/or made about the historical period) which we will see in class. Prerequisite: Spanish 304.