This course examines forms of cultural contact and global inter-connectivity in the premodern era (1000-1500 AD), focusing especially on links between Europe and the Islamicate world. Attending first to the multicultural societies of Spain, Sicily and the Crusader states in the Near East and then to Silk Road and African encounters, we will examine a wide range of artistic and literary forms, sampling love lyrics, romances, tales, travel writings, early cartography, and material culture production. No experience with the premodern period is needed.