

French 8201: **Rewriting the Crusade:** **Imagining *Outremer***

Prof. Sarah-Grace Heller

M 9:10-11:50

#4817

Spring
Semester
2013

In this seminar,
we explore why
the *Song of Antioch*,
the key work of the
Crusade Cycle, has
remained among

the most obscure works in medieval French, yet was quite popular in its day. Look at this exciting and disturbing work in its intertextual context, comparing it with *Chansons de geste* which also helped nurture dreams of reliving the First Crusade, both caricaturing and admiring the Muslims, depicting both tragic and humorous interactions between the opposing groups, and continuing to rewrite the crusades again and again in varying settings.

Villehardouin's chronicle of the Fourth Crusade and the *Life of Saint Louis* suggest how such texts fed heroic fantasies that led the French to undertake new crusades. These chronicles depict the realities of the "holy" war and French colonization of the Holy Land, rationalize the disappointments, and inform about the medieval incarnation of "Francophonie" in the Mediterranean. All texts in Old French-Modern French parallel translation.

