This seminar will introduce you to important issues and approaches in medieval and early modern European history. We will proceed both chronologically and topically, focusing on dominant themes and significant historiographical questions, including the transformations of late antiquity, the vexed question of “feudalism,” varieties of medieval religious experience, the rise of urbanism and bureaucratic monarchies, overseas expansion and contact with non-European peoples, Renaissance and Reformation, Inquisition and repression, ideologies and practices of absolutism, and the Scientific Revolution. We will read select primary sources as well as a variety of scholarly perspectives, including both traditional and revisionist works of cultural, intellectual, political, and religious history.

**Prerequisite:** Enrollment in History Graduate Program or permission of instructor for graduate students outside of History.