This seminar will be centered around a reading of Boccaccio’s *Decameron* as a text that asks scholars to delve deeply into the medieval Mediterranean for insight into its social fabric, source materials, and its embodiment of a world in flux in the wake of a plague. We’ll situate ourselves in contemporary scholarship on Boccaccio, medieval narrative and travel, 14th-century history, and Mediterranean studies, allowing for the formation of a community of scholars who look to engage with Boccaccio from a multitude of disciplinary formations. Attention will also be given to grounding the *Decameron* in the wide global medieval perspective of frame-tale narratives, from the *Panchatantra'*s medieval reception (such as *Kalila wa Dimna*) to the *Arabian Nights* to the *Canterbury Tales*. All readings available in English, though students with additional language proficiency will be encouraged to work in their languages to produce field-specific research.