Like the aliens of today’s fantasy and horror stories, the monster is a central figure in much medieval literature, from England to Africa, India, and China. The monsters and fantastic beings that populate the pages of medieval texts provide the roots of issues with which we still struggle today, locally and globally, from racism to sexism. But what constitutes a monster? What are the consequences of their presence? What purposes did they serve? We will examine the role of the monstrous in medieval imaginations and discuss what monstrosity reveals about cultures of the global Middle Ages and about ourselves today.