

Medieval Studies

The major and minor in medieval studies are administered by the Medieval Studies Committee: Professors Collette (English, *chair fall 2009*), Davis (art history), Garrett-Goodyear (history, *chair spring 2010*), McGinness (history), Straw (history); Assistant Professor Yu (English); Visiting Assistant Professor Andrews (art history); Five College Early Music Program Director Eisenstein.

Contact Persons

Cynthia Meehan, *senior administrative assistant*
Carolyn Collette, *chair, fall 2009*
R. Harold Garrett-Goodyear, *chair, spring 2010*

Medieval studies focuses on a seminal period in Western and Mediterranean civilizations. Through the study of art, history, languages, literature, music, and religion, the program leads students to explore the character and creative contributions of the period, to investigate the dynamic interactions of its diverse Christian, Jewish, and Muslim cultures, and to assess the impact of the Middle Ages on the formation of the New World and the shaping of modern societies.

The Medieval Studies Program offers an unusually strong and innovative variety of courses at all levels of the curriculum. Prospective majors and minors should try to take as many of the 100- and 200-level courses offered by the program as possible.

Requirements for the Major

Credits

- A minimum of 40 credits

Courses

- Three courses in different disciplines at the 100 or 200 level, including Medieval Studies 101.
- Five courses (20 credits) must be at the 300 level in at least two disciplines, with 8 credits at the 300 level in at least one discipline. Majors are encouraged strongly

to take Medieval Studies 300 as one of the courses at the 300 level.

Other

- Majors should study medieval language or literature in English, French, Italian, Latin, or Spanish in a program worked out with the program chair or academic advisor. Students are advised to acquire proficiency in a modern foreign language sufficient to use foreign language sources in advanced courses.

Medieval studies is an interdisciplinary major. Students who pursue an interdisciplinary major automatically fulfill the College's "outside the major" requirement (see p. 8).

Requirements for the Minor

Credits

- A minimum of 16 credits (four courses)

Courses

- Medieval Studies 101 is strongly recommended as a foundation for study.
- Courses must be selected from at least two disciplines beyond the 100 level.
- At least one course must be at the 300 level.

Other

- A student choosing a minor in medieval studies should notify the program chair and consult with the chair or other members of the program about her course of study in the field.

Course Offerings

101s Medieval Culture and Society: Seminar in Reading, Writing, and Reasoning: Crossing Medieval Boundaries: European, Mediterranean, and Atlantic Encounters, 1200-1700

This seminar's topics offer a foundation for inquiry into medieval culture. Using readings in literature, art, music, history, politics, phi-

losophy, and sciences to interpret the Middle Ages, a student sharpens her awareness of language and imagery as means of communicating experience, and improves her skills of attentive reading and persuasive writing. (First-year seminar; speaking- and writing-intensive course; Same as History 101) This seminar focuses on medieval boundaries: those separating Christians, Jews, and Muslims in Europe, as well as those between men and women from the thirteenth through sixteenth centuries. The course also examines new boundaries separating—and constructing—Europeans, Americans, and Africans in the transition from “medieval” to “modern.” Engaging closely and critically with sources from Atlantic societies of these centuries, students will investigate and debate the making and remaking of “Western culture” in an era of state formation, imperial expansion, agrarian capitalism, and chattel slavery. Readings range from Christian-Jewish disputations to indigenous writings from the Americas.

Meets Humanities I-B requirement
H. Garrett-Goodyear
 4 credits

***200f Special Topics in Medieval Studies: Medieval England**

This course is designed to address themes and historical periods in an interdisciplinary framework. Topics will bring together the study of art, literature, and history to heighten awareness of the complex interaction of cultural and political forces in medieval society. Issues will be explored through the methods of different disciplines in order to develop the student’s analytical and critical skills.

(Same as History 232f-01) The British Isles from the ancient Celts to the fourteenth century. Topics include Celtic culture, Roman Britain, early Christianity, Sutton Hoo and the invasions of the Anglo-Saxons, the Vikings, the birth of the English monarchy, the Norman conquest of England, Wales, and Ireland, Norman achievement in government and art, Cistercian monasteries, Richard the Lion-Hearted and the Crusades, the towns and their Jewish communities, King John, the Magna Carta and the development of Parliament, English Gothic, the beginning of Hun-

dred Years’ War, the Black Death, and the Peasants’ Revolt of 1381.

Meets Humanities I-B requirement
F. McGinness
 4 credits

295fs Independent Study

Does not meet a distribution requirement
The department
 1-4 credits

300fs Seminar in Medieval Studies

Fall 2009

300f(01) The Matter of Britain: Arthur and the Grail

(Speaking-intensive course; Same as English 316f) This course focuses on the various forms the story of the grail takes in legends of King Arthur from the twelfth to the twentieth centuries in the literature of England, France, and Europe. While centered in medieval English versions of the Arthurian myth, the course considers the political and cultural forces that helped shape the grail legend after the fall of Jerusalem in 1187, over the course of the later Middle Ages, and into the nineteenth century. Reading from Malory, Tennyson, and contemporary fiction as well as chronicles and romances. We will conclude with current interest in the Holy Grail in popular culture.

Meets Humanities I-A requirement

Related Courses in Other Departments

Art History

302f (01) Great Cities: Paris-Paradise: The Medieval City and Its Transformation

222s (01) Age of the Cathedrals

320s (01) Seminar in Medieval Art: Illuminated Manuscripts of the Later Middle Ages

English

210s (01) The Development of Literature in English: Medieval through Commonwealth

213s (01) The Literature of the Later Middle Ages

311s (02) Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales

French

311f (01) Period Courses: *Topic: L'Héroïsme
au Féminin: 1150-1750 (pre-1800)*
(Taught in French)

History

128f(01) Ancient Rome

232f (01) Special Topics in Medieval History
Tudor England: The World of
Henry VIII and Elizabeth I

305s(01) Sport and Spectacle in the Ancient
World

Latin

222s-01 Intermediate Latin II: Latin by and
about Women

Music

147fs Early Music Ensemble

Politics

211f (01) Ancient and Medieval Political
Thought

Religion

306f (01) Sex and the Early Church

337s (01) Topics in the Study of Christianity:
Early Muslim/Christian
Encounters