

Medieval Studies

The major and minor in medieval studies are administered by the Medieval Studies Committee: Professors Emeriti Collette (English), Garrett-Goodyear (history); Professors Davis (art history), McGinness (history), Straw (history); Associate Professor Romero-Díaz (Spanish); Assistant Professors Payne (history), Yu (English); Visiting Professor Margolis (French); Visiting Assistant Professors Naitana (Italian); Five College Assistant Professor Shawcross (history); Five College Early Music Program Director Eisenstein.

Contact Persons

Cynthia Meehan, *senior administrative assistant*

Frederick McGinness, *chair*

Medieval studies focuses on a seminal period in Western, Mediterranean, and Middle Eastern 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

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

(First-year seminar; speaking- and writing-intensive course; Same as History 101f-01) 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 multicultural requirement; meets Humanities I-B requirement
H. Garrett-Goodyear
 4 credits

295fs Independent Study

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

300s Seminar in Medieval Studies: Chaucer: *Stories of Cupid's Martyrs*

(Same as English 311) This course begins with a close reading of Chaucer's great love story *Troilus and Criseyde* together with *The Legend of Good Women*, taking into consideration the multiple cultural contexts a late medieval audience would have brought to both poems and such topics as honor, love, *trouthe*, and betrayal. We will conclude by comparing Shakespeare's *Troilus and Cressida* with Chaucer's work as a way of understanding the continuities and changes between a late medieval and early modern understanding of men and women in love and war.

Meets Humanities I-A requirement
C. Collette
Prereq. soph, jr, sr, 8 credits in English or Medieval Studies; online application required;

meets English department pre-1700 requirement; 4 credits

395fs Independent Study

Does not meet a distribution requirement
The department
 1-8 credits

Related Courses in Other Departments

	<i>Art History</i>
222	Age of Cathedrals
271	Arts of Islam: Book, Mosque, and Palace
290	Renaissance North and South: Court, Monastery, City
301	Illuminated Manuscripts Art History
320	Chartres Cathedral
332	Seminar in Baroque Art
	<i>English</i>
101	Underworlds (and Otherworlds)
210	The Development of Literature in English: Medieval through Commonwealth
211	Shakespeare
213	The Literature of the Later Middle Ages
310	Old English
316	Alliteration and the Medieval Poem
312	Shakespeare, Adapted and Interpreted
	<i>French</i>
311	Love and Danger
311	Joan of Arc
311	Period Courses: Marvelous Places: Desire and Deceit
311	Period Courses: Eros, Intrigue, and Adventure
	<i>History</i>
115	The Medieval World
150	Europe and the Atlantic World, 1300-1700
216	Romans, Persians, and Their Barbarians
217	The Crusades
219	The Byzantine Empire

- 221 The Civilization of the Renaissance
in Italy
- 232 Special Topics in Medieval History:
Nomads, Merchants, and Monks:
Medieval Central Asia
- 254 Doubt, Dissent, and Heresy in the
Age of the Inquisition
- 273 The Iranian World from Antiquity
to the Middle Ages
- 301 Martyrdom as Social Protest:
Honor and Resistance from
Antiquity to Early Modern Europe
- 349 The Roman Empire in the Age of
Justinian and Theodora
- 351 The Middle Ages: Monasticism and
the Making of the Middle Ages
- Italian*
- 222 Dante's Journey
- 227 Florence and the Making of the
Renaissance
- Music*
- 281 History of Western Music I
- Politics*
- 211 Ancient and Medieval Political
Thought
- Religion*
- 236 Early Christianity in Iraq and Iran
- Spanish*
- 230 Identities and Intersections: An
Introduction: Black Spain
- 330 Women Writers: Early Feminisms