Medieval Studies

The major and minor in medieval studies are administered by the Medieval Studies Committee: Professors Davis (art history), Romero-Díaz (Spanish); Associate Professor Yu (English); Five College Early Music Program Director Eisenstein.

Overview

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, Muslim, and pagan 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.

Contact Info

Kristin McMillan, senior administrative assistant
Wesley Yu, chair

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.

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.

Course Offerings

MEDST-217 Special Topics in Medieval Studies

MEDST-295 Independent Study

MEDST-300 Seminar in Medieval Studies

MEDST-300MC Seminar in Medieval Studies: 'Early Muslim/Christian Encounters"

Not Scheduled for This Year

This course explores a set of recently discovered documents that substantially changes our understanding of Christian/Muslim relations. We will read texts such as a Christian/Muslim debate, a bishop’s letter on how to bribe Muslim rulers, and an exorcism account concerning demon-possessed monks. Students will be among the first in a thousand years to read these works providing them with a strong knowledge of the history of Christianity, of Islam, and of their first interactions with each other.

Crosslisted as: Religion 337MC

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities

M. Penn

Prereq: 4 credits in Religion.

Credits: 4

MEDST-395 Independent Study

Fall and Spring

The department

Instructor permission required.

Credits: 1-8

Course can be repeated for credit.

Related Courses

Art History

222 Age of Cathedrals: Art in Europe 1100-1500
271 Arts of Islam: Book, Mosque, and Palace
320 Seminar in Medieval Art
332 Seminar in Baroque Art

English

213 The Literature of the Later Middle Ages
214LR Topics in Medieval Studies: Love and Reason in Medieval Romance
214CM Topics in Medieval Studies: The Curious Middle Ages
215 Early Chaucer
311CT Chaucer: The Canterbury Tales

History

115 The Medieval World
129 The Middle Ages: 300-1300
254 Doubt, Dissent, and Heresy in the Age of the Inquisition
301MA Martyrdom as Social Protest: Resistance and Honor from Antiquity to Early Modern Europe

Music

281 History of Western Music I

Politics

211 Ancient and Medieval Political Thought