

Medieval Studies

The School of Humanities

Director and Adviser

Honey Meconi

Professors

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Lecturer and Playwright in

Residence

E. Douglas Mitchell

Degree Offered: B.A.

This interdisciplinary major enables students to compare medieval cultures, noting both their differences and their common traditions, in the period between 500 and 1500 A.D. The program combines a broad background in various aspects of medieval culture with more specialized study in a selected field. These fields of emphasis include art history, history, medieval literature (English, French, or Latin), music, philosophy, or religion.

Degree Requirements for B.A. in Medieval Studies

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (pages 18–20). Students majoring in medieval studies must complete at least 30 semester hours (10 courses); the minimum for double majors is 24 hours. All majors must complete 5 of these medieval studies courses at the 300 or 400 level.

Required and recommended courses include the following:

A minimum of 30 semester hours (10 semester courses), of which at least 5 courses must be at the 300/400 level. Double majors must complete a minimum of 24 semester hours.

1 course in medieval literature OR medieval art OR medieval music

Recommended courses:

Literature:

- MDST 217 *Arthurian Literature*
- MDST 316 *Chaucer*
- MDST 368 *Mythologies*
- MDST 414 *Literature and Culture of the Middle Ages: Saints and Sinners*
- MDST 415/425 *Courtly Love in Medieval France*

Art:

- MDST 330 *Early Medieval Art: 5th Century–Romanesque Period*
- MDST 331 *Gothic Art and Architecture in Northern Europe: 1140–1300*
- MDST 332 *Late Gothic Art and Architecture in Northern Europe: 1300–1500*

Music:

- MDST 222 *Medieval and Renaissance Music*
- MDST 429 *Music in the Middle Ages*

1 of the following courses:

- MDST 201 *History of Philosophy I*
- MDST 257/357 *Jews and Christians in Medieval Europe*
- MDST 382 *Classical Islamic Culture*

Two semesters of foreign language study, determined in consultation with the medieval studies adviser.

Three courses (at least two at the 300 or 400 level) in the student's chosen field of emphasis—one of these may be a directed reading course.

Recommended courses:

- MDST 202 *Introduction to Medieval Civilization: The Early Middle Ages*
- MDST 203 *Introduction to Medieval Civilization: The High Middle Ages*
- MDST 315 *Introduction to Medieval Culture: 1000–1492*

For single majors, 3 additional courses in the medieval period, 1 of which may be a senior thesis (1 semester) on a topic in the student's field of emphasis. For double majors, 1 additional course in the medieval period.

Students work out their programs of study in consultation with the program director. Those contemplating graduate work in medieval studies should study at least 1 foreign language in some depth (as most graduate schools require a reading knowledge of French and German for the Ph.D.).

Students may select from among the following to fulfill the course requirements for the major in medieval studies.

Please note that not all courses listed below will be offered during the academic year. For a current list of courses that will be offered in fall 2002 and spring 2003, please visit the Medieval Studies website at <http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~medieval>.

Classics

MDST 101 *Elementary Latin I*
MDST 102 *Elementary Latin II*
MDST 211 *Intermediate Latin I*
MDST 212 *Intermediate Latin II*

English

MDST 300 *Medieval Literature: Medieval Women Writers*
MDST 300 *Medieval Literature: Dante (In Translation)*
MDST 311 *Old English*

MDST 312 *Survey of Old English Literature: Gender and Power in Old English*

MDST 313 *Beowulf*

MDST 314 *Survey of Middle English Literature*

MDST 315 *Introduction to Medieval Culture: 1000–1492*

MDST 316 *Chaucer*

MDST 317 *Arthurian Literature*

MDST 318 *J. R. R. Tolkien*

MDST 368 *Mythologies*

MDST 395 *History of the English Language*
 MDST 406 *Christine de Pizan in 15th-Century England*
 MDST 412 *Medieval Studies*
 MDST 416 *Chaucer and the Subversive Other: Women, Gender, Nation, Class*
 MDST 417 *Medieval Women Writers*
 MDST 445 *Christine de Pizan in 15th-Century England* (enriched version)
 MDST 461 *Directed Reading*
 MDST 462 *Directed Reading*
 MDST 472 *Old English and Contemporary Theory*
 MDST 478 *Medieval Studies Special Topics*

French

MDST 410 *The Literary and Historical Image of the Medieval Woman*
 MDST 411 *The Literary and Historical Image of the Medieval Woman* (enriched version)
 MDST 414 *Literature and Culture of the Middle Ages: Saints and Sinners*
 MDST 415 *Courtly Love in Medieval France*
 MDST 425 *Courtly Love in Medieval France* (enriched version)
 MDST 436 *Literature and Culture of the Middle Ages: King Arthur*

History of Art

MDST 108 *Art in Context: Late Medieval and Renaissance Culture*
 MDST 111 *Introduction to the History of Western Art I: Prehistoric–Gothic*
 MDST 327 *Late Antique/Early Christian Art and Architecture*
 MDST 330 *Early Medieval Art: 5th Century–Romanesque Period*
 MDST 331 *Gothic Art and Architecture in Northern Europe: 1140–1300: The Age of Cathedrals*
 MDST 332 *Late Gothic Art and Architecture in Northern Europe: 1300–1500*
 MDST 336 *Art and Architecture in the Middle East: Late Medieval Period–the Modern Period*

MDST 338 *Special Topics in Medieval Art*
 MDST 339 *Independent Study in Medieval Art*
 MDST 355 *Art and Architecture in the Middle East in the Medieval Period: 632–1250*
 MDST 427 *Issues in Islamic Architecture*
 MDST 430 *The Gothic Portal*
 MDST 439 *Hieronymus Bosch: Problems of Interpretation*
 MDST 440 *Jan van Eyck: Problems of Interpretation*

History

MDST 202 *Introduction to Medieval Civilization: The Early Middle Ages*
 MDST 203 *Introduction to Medieval Civilization: The High Middle Ages*
 MDST 257 *Jews and Christians in Medieval Europe*
 MDST 259 *The Medieval Cultures of Judaism and Christianity*
 MDST 273 *Ancient and Medieval Jewish History: 70–1492*
 MDST 281 *The Middle East from the Prophet Muhammad to Muhammad Ali*
 MDST 303 *Undergraduate Independent Reading*
 MDST 304 *Undergraduate Independent Reading*
 MDST 308 *The World of Late Antiquity*
 MDST 320 *Science in Antiquity and the Middle Ages*
 MDST 321 *Directed Readings in Medieval History*
 MDST 322 *Directed Readings in Medieval History*
 MDST 325 *Introduction to Medieval Civilization: The Early Middle Ages* (enriched version)
 MDST 326 *Introduction to Medieval Civilization: The High Middle Ages* (enriched version)
 MDST 345 *Early Modern Europe: Humanism and Expansion*
 MDST 357 *Jews and Christians in Medieval Europe* (enriched version)
 MDST 359 *The Medieval Cultures of Judaism and Christianity*

MDST 373 *Ancient and Medieval Jewish History: 70–1492* (enriched version)
 MDST 382 *Classical Islamic Culture*
 MDST 384 *The Crusades: Holy War in Medieval Christendom and Islam*
 MDST 385 *Christians and Jews in the Medieval Islamic World*
 MDST 387 *Life on the Nile: Egyptian Politics, Culture, and Society: Medieval–Modern Times*
 MDST 438 *Women and Gender in Islamic Societies*
 MDST 444 *Memory and Commemoration in the Middle Ages*
 MDST 446 *Jewish Communities in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Times*
 MDST 455 *Guide to the Sources of Medieval History*
 MDST 460 *Advanced Seminar in Ancient History: The Age of Justinian*
 MDST 465 *Jews and Christians: Perceptions of the Other*
 MDST 488 *Topics in Medieval History*

Linguistics

MDST 311 *Old English*
 MDST 395 *History of the English Language*

Music

MDST 222 *Medieval and Renaissance Music*
 MDST 429 *Music of the Middle Ages*
 MDST 456 *Collegium*
 MDST 441 *Hildegard of Bingen*
 MDST 486 *Illuminated Music Manuscripts*

Spanish

MDST 319 *Survey of Spanish Literature*
 MDST 391 *Hispanic Women Writers*
 MDST 418 *Studies in Medieval Spanish Literature*
 MDST 424 *Studies in Hispanic Linguistics*
 MDST 426 *Women and Gender in Medieval Iberia*
 MDST 428 *Studies in Medieval Spanish Literature* (enriched version)

Philosophy

MDST 201 *History of Philosophy I*
 MDST 301 *Ancient and Medieval Philosophy*
 MDST 481 *Seminar in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy*

Political Science

MDST 340 *Ancient and Medieval Political Theory*

See MDST in the Courses of Instruction section.