Medieval Studies

The School of Humanities

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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 20–23). Students majoring in medieval studies must complete at least 30 semester hours (10 courses); the minimum for double majors is 30 hours. All majors must complete five (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 five courses must be at the 300/400 level. Double majors must complete a minimum of 24 semester hours.
- One course in medieval literature OR medieval art OR medieval music

Recommended Courses:
MDST 316 Chaucer
MDST 317 Arthurian Literature
MDST 368 Mythologies

MDST 414 Literature & Culture of the Middle Ages: Saints & Sinners
MDST 425 Courtly Love in Medieval France
MDST 330 Early Medieval Art from 5th Century to the Romanesque Period
MDST 331 Gothic Art & Architecture in Northern Europe, 1140–1300
MDST 332 Late Gothic Art & Architecture in Northern Europe, 1300–1500
MDST 222 Medieval & Renaissance Eras
MDST 429 Music in the Middle Ages

One of the following courses:
MDST 201 History of Philosophy I
MDST 257/357 Jews & Christians in Medieval Europe
MDST 382 Classical Islamic Culture

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

• 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 I: The Early Middle Ages
• MDST 203 Introduction to Medieval Civilization II: The High Middle Ages
• MDST 315 Introduction to Medieval Culture

For single majors, 3 additional courses in the medieval period, one 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 one 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.

For a current list of courses that will be offered in fall 2003 and spring 2004, please visit the Medieval Studies web site at http://medieval.rice.edu.

Classical Studies
MDST 101 Elementary Latin I
MDST 102 Elementary Latin II
MDST 211 Intermediate Latin I
MDST 212 Intermediate Latin II

English
MDST 300 Medieval Women Writers
MDST 310 Dante in Translation
MDST 311 Old English
MDST 312 Survey of Old English Literature: Gender & Power in Old English
MDST 314 Survey of Middle English Literature
MDST 315 Introduction to Medieval Culture
MDST 316 Chaucer
MDST 317 Arthurian Literature
MDST 318 J.R.R. Tolkien
MDST 368 Mythologies
MDST 406 Christine de Pizan in 15th-Century England

French Studies
FREN 416 Literature & Culture of the Middle Ages: King Arthur
MDST 410 The Literary & Historical Image of the Medieval Woman
MDST 414 Literature & Culture of the Middle Ages: Saints & Sinners
MDST 425 Courtly Love in Medieval France

German Studies
GERM 126 Freshman Seminar: The Legend of King Arthur in the Middle Ages
GERM 330 Mapping German Culture: Courtship, Love & Marriage in the Age of Chivalry

History of Art
MDST 108 Art in Context: Late Medieval & Renaissance Culture
MDST 111  Introduction to the History of Western Art I: Prehistoric to Gothic
MDST 238  Special Topics in Medieval Art
MDST 239  Independent Study in Medieval Art
MDST 330  Early Medieval Art from the 5th Century to the Romanesque Period
MDST 331  Gothic Art & Architecture in Northern Europe, 1140–1300: The Age of Cathedrals
MDST 332  Late Gothic Art & Architecture in Northern Europe, 1300–1500
MDST 430  The Gothic Portal
MDST 440  Jan van Eyck: Problems of Interpretation
MDST 458  Special Topics in Medieval Art
MDST 459  Independent Study in Medieval Art

History
MDST 202  Introduction to Medieval Civilization I: The Early Middle Ages
MDST 203  Introduction to Medieval Civilization II: The High Middle Ages
MDST 257  Jews & Christians in Medieval Europe
MDST 281  Pre-Modern Middle East History: 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 321  Directed Readings in Medieval History
MDST 322  Directed Readings in Medieval History
MDST 325  Introduction to Medieval Civilization I: The Early Middle Ages (enriched version)
MDST 326  Introduction to Medieval Civilization II: The High Middle Ages (enriched version)
MDST 345  Renaissance Europe: Humanism & Expansion
MDST 357  Jews & Christians in Medieval Europe (enriched version)
MDST 358  European Intellectual History from Augustine to Descartes
MDST 382  Classical Islamic Cultures
MDST 384  The Crusades: Holy War in Medieval Christendom & Islam
MDST 385  Christians & Jews in the Medieval Islamic World
MDST 387  Life on the Nile: Egyptian Politics, Culture, & Society, Medieval to Modern Times
MDST 438  Women & Gender in Medieval Islamic Societies
MDST 444  Memory & Commemoration in the Middle Ages
MDST 446  Jewish & Christian Communities in the Middle Ages
MDST 447  The Age of the Crusades
MDST 455  Guide to the Sources of Medieval History
MDST 465  Jews & Christians: Perceptions of the Other
MDST 488  Topics in Medieval History

Linguistics
MDST 311  Old English

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

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

Religious Studies
RELI 443  Maimonides’ Guide for the Perplexed

See MDST in the Courses of Instruction section.