MEDIEVAL STUDIES

THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

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Degree Offered: BA

This interdisciplinary major enables students to compare medieval cultures, noting both their differences and their common traditions, in the period between 500 and 1500 AD. 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 medieval art history, history, literature (Arabic, Chinese, German, Italian, English, French, or Latin), music, philosophy, or religion.

Degree Requirements for BA in Medieval Studies

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements in this publication. 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 5 courses must be at the 300/400 level. Double majors must complete a minimum of 24 semester hours.

1 course in medieval literature; 1 course in medieval art or music: 1 course in medieval history or philosophy

Frequently taught courses (i.e., at least every 2 years):

Literature

- MDST 310 Dante
- MDST 316 Chaucer
- MDST 317 Arthurian Literature
- MDST 335 Mapping German Culture: Courtship, Love, and Marriage in the Age of Chivalry
- MDST 368 Mythologies
- MDST 370 Introduction to Traditional Chinese Poetry
- MDST 375 Introduction to Classical Chinese Literature
• MDST 379 Women in Chinese Literature
• MDST 404 Beginnings in the Language and Literature of France
• MDST 425 Courtly Love in Medieval France

Art
• MDST 330 Early Medieval Art
• 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 Eras
• MDST 429 Music in the Middle Ages

History
• HIST 359/RELI 358 Humor and Entertainment in Islamic Societies
• MDST 257/357 Jews and Christians in Medieval Europe
• MDST 281/381 Pre–Modern Middle East History
• MDST 382 Classical Islamic Cultures

Philosophy
• MDST 201 History of Philosophy

It is recommended, but not required that students take 2 semesters at the college level in an appropriate language (or language, in particular, Latin). Three courses (at least 2 at the 300 or 400 level) in the student’s chosen field of emphasis—one of these may be a directed reading course.

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 one foreign language in some depth (as most graduate schools require a reading knowledge of French and German for the PhD).

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, please visit the Medieval Studies website at 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 313 Beowulf
MDST 315 Medieval Culture through Film
MDST 316 Chaucer
MDST 317 Arthurian Literature through Film
MDST 318 J. R. R. Tolkien

MDST 320 Directed Readings in Medieval Studies
MDST 368 Mythologies

French Studies
MDST 404 Beginnings of Language and Literature

MDST 410 The Literary and Historical Image of the Medieval Woman
MDST 425 Courtly Love in Medieval France
MDST 436 Literature and Culture of the Middle Ages

German Studies
MDST 126 Freshman Seminar: The Legend of King Arthur in the Middle Ages
MDST 330 Mapping German Culture: Courtship, Love and Marriage in the Age of Chivalry
MDST 402 Middle High German

History of Art
MDST 10A Case Studies in Ancient and Medieval Architecture
MDST 108 Art in Context: Late Medieval and Renaissance Culture
MDST 111 Introduction to the History of Western Art I: Prehistoric to Gothic
MDST 230 Medieval Art and Literature
MDST 330 Early Medieval Art
MDST 331 Gothic Art and Architecture in Northern Europe, 1140–1300
MDST 332 Late Gothic Art & Architecture in Northern Europe, 1300-1500
MDST 431 Architecture of the Gothic Cathedral from the Middle Ages to the 20th Century
MDST 434 From Beowulf to the Bayeux Tapestry
MDST 440 Jan van Eyck: Problems of Interpretation
MDST 451 Bosch and Bruegel

History
MDST 202 Introduction to Medieval Civilization I: The Early Middle Ages
MDST 203 Introduction to Medieval Civilization II: The High Middle Ages
MDST 225 Medieval Empires
MDST 257 Jews and Christians in Medieval Europe
MDST 281 Pre-Modern Middle East History: The Middle East from the Prophet Muhammad to Sulayman the Magnificent
MDST 308 The World of Late Antiquity
MDST 321 Directed Readings in Medieval History

MDST 323 Medieval Empires (enriched version)
MDST 345 Renaissance Europe
MDST 357 Jews and Christians in Medieval Europe (enriched version)
MDST 358 European Intellectual History from Augustine to Descartes
MDST 382 Classical Islamic Cultures
MDST 385 Christians and Jews in the Medieval Islamic World
MDST 438 Women and Gender in Medieval Islamic Societies
MDST 444 Memory and Commemoration in the Middle Ages
MDST 446 Medieval Women
MDST 447 The Age of the Crusades
MDST 488 Topics in Medieval History

Asian Studies
MDST 370 Introduction to Traditional Chinese Poetry
MDST 375 Introduction to Chinese Literature
MDST 379 Women in Chinese Literature

Music
MDST 222 Medieval and Renaissance Eras
MDST 427 Topics in Early Music
MDST 429 Music of the Middle Ages
MDST 456 Collegium
MDST 486 Illuminated Music Manuscripts

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

See MDST in the Courses of Instruction section.