

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 24 hours. All majors must complete five 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; one course in medieval art or medieval music; one course in medieval history or philosophy

Frequently taught courses (i.e., at least every two 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*

2 DEPARTMENTS / Medieval Studies

- 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

- MDST 281/381 *Pre–Modern Middle East History*
- MDST 382 *Classical Islamic Cultures*

Philosophy

- MDST 201 *History of Philosophy*

Religious Studies

- MDST 105 *Medieval Christian Thought*

It is *recommended*, but not *required*, that students take two semesters at the college level in an appropriate language (or languages), in particular, Latin. 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.

For single majors, three additional courses in the medieval period, one of which may be a senior thesis (one semester) on a topic in the student's field of emphasis; for double majors, one 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*

MDST 318 *J. R. R. Tolkien and Medieval Literature*

- MDST 320 *Directed Readings in Medieval Studies*
- MDST 368 *Mythologies*

French Studies

- MDST 404 *Beginnings of Language and Literature of France*
- 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 104 *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 373 *Chinese Art and Visual Culture*
 MDST 431 *Architecture of the Gothic Cathedral from the Middle Ages to the 20th Century*
 MDST 434 *From Beowulf to the Bayeux Tapestry*

History

- MDST 202 *Introduction to Medieval Civilization I: The Early Middle Ages*
 MDST 203 *Introduction to Medieval Civilization II: The High Middle Ages*
 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 345 *Renaissance Europe*
 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 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*

Philosophy

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

Religious Studies

- MDST 105 *Medieval Christian Thought*
 MDST 106 *Medieval Devotion*
 MDST 386 *Magic and Magicians*

See MDST in the Courses of Instruction section.