

The Medieval and Renaissance Studies minor provides students with a broad introduction to the emergence and formation of Western civilization, including development from and engagement with Islamic civilization in the Mediterranean, from the end of antiquity to the 17th century. The program is founded on the principle that an interdisciplinary perspective is the most profitable way to gain an understanding of the formation of Europe.

Knowledge

1. Students will gain broad knowledge of the history of Western civilization in the Medieval and/or Renaissance periods.
2. Students will develop a multifaceted picture of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance by exploring a variety of disciplinary perspectives including national and transnational literatures, fine arts, philosophy, religious studies, and specialized history courses.
3. Students will gain proficiency in at least one of the languages of the Medieval and Renaissance periods (including French, Italian, Spanish, German, Latin, Greek, Russian, Arabic or Hebrew).
3. Student training may include the interaction between the Christian and Islamic worlds as well as the significance of religious minorities in the Medieval and Renaissance periods.

Core Skills:

Students in Medieval and Renaissance Studies acquire core skills that can be used in graduate study in a number of disciplines or in a variety of professions. Critical thinking, writing, using library resources, and research methods are emphasized in almost every class. Students will be able to frame questions, investigate problems, and evaluate conclusions using one or more academic disciplines or approaches (e.g., literary and artistic criticism, historical analysis, philology, and religious studies). Students will implement interdisciplinary methods by completing one of several capstone courses or an independent research project such as a senior thesis.

After Graduation:

The program maintains that knowledge of the past as well as shifting representations of the past in the present are key components of a liberal arts education that allow one to reflect upon the contemporary world in a sophisticated manner. The knowledge and skills the minor provides will lay the foundation for a fuller, more productive, and engaged life after college. Exposure to the diversity of religious, ethnic and cultural aspects of the Medieval and Renaissance periods will contribute to greater understanding in the service of a more peaceful and just society.