

An interdepartmental program

Courses of Study:
Minor

Medieval and Renaissance Studies

Objectives

The medieval and Renaissance studies program provides students with a broad introduction to the development of Western civilization from the end of antiquity to the seventeenth century. It is founded on the principle that an interdisciplinary perspective is the most profitable way to gain an understanding of the formation of early modern Europe. In order to develop a multifaceted picture of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, all students select one of two core courses in history, and they are encouraged to explore a variety of disciplinary perspectives provided by various national literatures, fine arts, and philosophies. The exact balance of these approaches depends on a student's interest. The program offers a useful complement to many majors, and it is a good foundation to graduate study in a variety of fields.

How to Become a Minor

The most important requirement for taking part in the program is an interest in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Students may enter the program at any time in their undergraduate careers, but an early start maximizes a student's range of choice because a number of courses are offered at different intervals. Students should consult with their advisor and the chair of the program to map out their particular plan of study.

Faculty

Jonathan Unglaub, Chair
(Fine Arts)

Bernadette Brooten
(Near Eastern and Judaic Studies)

Mary Campbell
(English and American Literature)

Jonathan Decter
(Near Eastern and Judaic Studies)

William Flesch
(English and American Literature)

Dian Fox
(Romance Studies)

William Kapelle
(History)

Richard Lansing
(Romance Studies)

Avigdor Levy
(Near Eastern and Judaic Studies)

Charles McClendon
(Fine Arts)

Michael McGrade
(Music)

Sarah Mead
(Music)

Michael Randall
(Romance Studies)

Benjamin Ravid
(Near Eastern and Judaic Studies)

Govind Sreenivasan
(History)

Cheryl Walker
(Classical Studies)

Requirements for the Minor

A. Core Course: HIST 110b (The Civilization of the High and Late Middle Ages) or HIST 123a (The Renaissance).

B. Students in the program must complete the university language requirement in one of the following: French, Italian, Spanish, German, Latin, Greek, Russian, Arabic, or Hebrew.

C. Four other courses from the program listing. In order to promote an interdisciplinary approach to the study of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, two of these courses should be in two different fields other than history.

D. Capstone. In addition to the core history course and electives, students choose one of these three options for fulfilling the capstone of the minor.

1. The completion of an independent study on a medieval or Renaissance topic (MERL 98a or b) with one or more members of the program faculty.

2. A senior thesis in the student's major, with an emphasis on some aspect of medieval or renaissance studies, read by at least two faculty members in the program.

3. MERL colloquium. These are medieval and Renaissance program electives that are either (a) seminar classes with a research paper, or (b) taught in a foreign language and/or use predominantly original foreign language texts.

Special Notes

Please note that MUS 10a and 10b yield half-course credit each, therefore two semesters of MUS 10 are required to equal one full-semester course, i.e., one elective course.

Courses of Instruction

(1–99) Primarily for Undergraduate Students

MEVL 98a Independent Study

Usually offered every year.
Staff

MEVL 98b Independent Study

Usually offered every year.
Staff

Elective Courses

The following courses are approved for the minor. Not all are given in any one year. Please refer to the *Schedule of Classes* each semester.

CLAS 115b

Topics in Greek and Roman History

CLAS 166a

Medieval Literature: A Millennium of God, Sex, and Death

COML 102a

Love in the Middle Ages

COML 103b

Madness and Folly in Renaissance Literature

ENG 33a

Shakespeare

ENG 43a

Major English Authors, Chaucer to Milton

ENG 63a

Renaissance Poetry

ENG 133a

Advanced Shakespeare

ENG 143a

Elizabethan and Jacobean Drama

ENG 152b

Arthurian Literature

ENG 173a

Spenser and Milton

FA 39b

Islamic Art and Architecture

FA 40b

The Formation of Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Art

FA 41a

Art and the Origins of Europe

FA 42b

The Age of Cathedrals

FA 43a

The Art of Medieval England

FA 45a

St. Peter's and the Vatican

FA 51a

Art of the Early Renaissance in Italy

FA 54b

Renaissance Art in Northern Europe

FA 58b

High and Late Renaissance in Italy

FA 60a

Baroque in Italy and Spain

FA 63a

The Age of Rubens and Rembrandt

HIST 110a

The Civilization of the Early Middle Ages

HIST 110b

The Civilization of the High and Late Middle Ages

HIST 112b

The Crusades and the Expansion of Medieval Europe

HIST 113a

English Medieval History

HIST 120a

Britain in the Later Middle Ages

HIST 123a

The Renaissance

HIST 123b

Reformation Europe (1400–1600)

HIST 126a

Early Modern Europe (1500–1700)

HIST 127b

Household and Family in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe (1300–1800)

IMES 104a

Islam: Civilization and Institutions

MUS 10a

Early Music Ensemble

MUS 10b

Early Music Ensemble

MUS 110b

The Authenticity Question: Applying Historical Performance Practices

NEJS 140a

History of the Jews from the Maccabees to 1497

NEJS 140b

The Jews in Europe to 1791

NEJS 151b

Ghettos, Gondolas, and Gelato: The Italian Jewish Experience

NEJS 152a

From Inquisition to Holocaust

NEJS 152b

Anti-Judaism, Anti-Semitism, and Anti-Zionism

NEJS 188a

The Rise and Decline of the Ottoman Empire, 1300–1800

SPAN 110a

Introduction to Peninsular Spanish Literature

Elective Courses Counting as Colloquium Course

The following course may count as medieval and Renaissance studies colloquia for capstone option as outlined in the requirement section; otherwise they count as an elective.

ECS 100b

European Cultural Studies Proseminar: Making of European Modernity

ENG 132b

Chaucer I

FA 191b

Studies in Renaissance and Baroque Art: Caravaggio

FREN 120a

The French Middle Ages: Before France Was France

FREN 122b

The Renaissance: When France Became France

HIST 221b

Colloquium in Early Modern European History

IECS 140a

Dante's *Divine Comedy*

LAT 125a

Medieval Latin

NEJS 179a

Jewish Literature of the Middle Ages and Renaissance

NEJS 180a

Love and Passion in Medieval Jewish Literature and Thought

SECS 150a

Golden Age Drama and Society

SPAN 120b

Don Quijote

SPAN 125b

Literary Women in Early Modern Spain