Morris Campus

Medieval Studies B.A.

Division of Humanities - Adm

Division of Humanities

- Program Type: Baccalaureate
- Requirements for this program are current for Spring 2018
- Required credits to graduate with this degree: 120
- Required credits within the major: 36 to 40
- Degree: Bachelor of Arts

Medieval studies is an interdisciplinary major and minor in the humanities division, administered by the medieval studies faculty and the chair of the humanities division.

The field of medieval studies includes primarily European literature and culture from roughly 500 to 1500 and provides an opportunity at the undergraduate level for students to think synthetically across disciplines. To contextualize the medieval period in the "West," the medieval studies curriculum encompasses topics in English, art history, history, French, math, philosophy, theatre, music, anthropology, German, and areas such as gender and religion with historical roots in ancient and classical periods and Byzantine cultures.

Coursework in medieval studies enhances students' understanding of artistic and material relics of the Middle Ages such as manuscripts, cookery books, Gothic cathedrals, Crusader castles, and picturesque towns cramped within ancient walls. The period also saw many of the foundational choices that have, for good and ill, made the world what it is today. Many current challenges in the fields of Western law, human rights, attitudes toward power, authority, gender relations, and sexual mores derive from the ways in which these were viewed a millennium ago.

Program Student Learning Outcomes
Students explore implications and intersections of products of the medieval world across disciplinary, chronological, and geographical barriers. The medieval studies major prepares students for graduate study in many academic fields as well as internship and career opportunities from museum curating to education, law, and data analysis.

In the core courses for the medieval studies major, students develop:
Familiarity with diverse methodologies and critical paradigms to analyze, interpret, and synthesize various types of evidence for the medieval period
Reading, writing skills, and critical thinking skills
Skills for reading medieval primary texts in their original language
Analytical skills in art history, history, and literature while studying how the past, including language, is not a fixed entity
Familiarity with range of medieval culture, language, and thought to allow meaningful exploration of the human experience in the Middle Ages
Insight into the construction of belief, culture, and knowledge in the Middle Ages as reflective of personal and social contexts

Study Abroad
In light of today's increasingly interdependent world, the UMM medieval studies faculty fully endorses study abroad in combination with a medieval studies major or minor, as the most effective means by which to:
Improve language abilities
Gain firsthand access to medieval artifacts
Broaden academic horizons
Globalize one's world view of the medieval pasts role in the present
Expand career opportunities
Advance cross-cultural and problem-solving skills
Gain confidence in oneself personally and professionally
Students interested in a foreign study experience may complete English 3163 in York, England, in May term. Other study abroad programs may be considered toward this degree program in consultation with the Medieval Studies faculty.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Admission Requirements

For information about University of Minnesota admission requirements, visit the Office of Admissions website.

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Information current as of March 29, 2024

General Requirements

All students are required to complete general University and college requirements. For more information, see the general education requirements.

Program Requirements

Students are required to take 2 semester(s) of Latin.

Students must complete a significant amount of coursework in medieval studies at UMM, but are also strongly encouraged to study abroad or on other campuses. In order to count study abroad toward the major, all students must procure formal approval of coursework from the medieval studies steering committee prior to departure. (Typically, no more than 9 credits for one semester abroad or 16 credits for a year abroad may count toward the major.)

Medieval Studies is by nature interdisciplinary. Students are responsible for developing a coherent program from the elective choices available. Work with a Medieval Studies faculty member to see how a careful selection of your General Education courses can enhance your knowledge of the field. The medieval studies steering committee strongly recommends at least one year of study in another world language in addition to Latin.

No grades below C- may count toward the Medieval Studies major. Only 4 credits may be taken S-N unless other courses are offered S-N only.

A minimum GPA of 2.00 is required in the major to graduate. The GPA includes all, and only, University of Minnesota coursework. Grades of "F" are included in GPA calculation until they are replaced.

Required Courses

Lat 1002 requires Lat 1001 as a prerequisite. One or both courses may be satisfied through a proctored proficiency exam or transfer credit. Students who begin their Morris careers beyond Latin 1002 earn a four-credit exemption from the major.

LAT 1002 - Beginning Latin II [WL] (4.0 cr)

Take exactly 3 course(s) from the following:

- ARTH 1111 - Ancient to Medieval Art [FA] (4.0 cr)
- ENGL 3021 - Grammar and Language [HUM] (4.0 cr)
- FREN 3002 - MEMS: Civilization and Composition: Tools for Studying the Medieval and Early Modern Periods [HIST] (2.0 cr)
- GER 3101 - Introduction to German Literature and Culture [HUM] (4.0 cr)
- HIST 2103 - Medieval Europe [HIST] (4.0 cr)
- POL 3351 - Ancient and Medieval Political Thought [HUM] (4.0 cr)

Advanced Seminar (4000-level capstone on a Medieval Topic (2-4 cr)

Consult with one of the Medieval Studies faculty to choose this course; it may be in any discipline as long as it is in accordance with the approval from the Medieval Studies faculty.

Elective Courses

Courses used to meet the elective requirement are exclusive of any used to complete the required courses. No more than four credits of an x993 course (directed study) will be accepted toward the major.

Instructors of courses requiring prerequisites within a discipline may admit students who have taken a similar level course in a comparable discipline.

Take 20 or more credit(s) from the following:

Take at most 8 credit(s) from the following:

- ARTH 1111 - Ancient to Medieval Art [FA] (4.0 cr)
- ARTH 2104 - Irish Art and Archaeology [FA] (2.0 - 4.0 cr)
- ENGL 2016 *{Inactive}*[HUM] (4.0 cr)
- ENGL 2033 - The Bible and Literature [HUM] (4.0 cr)
- ENGL 1205 - Survey of British Literature to the 18th Century [HUM] (4.0 cr)
- ENGL 3021 - Grammar and Language [HUM] (4.0 cr)
- FREN 3002 - MEMS: Civilization and Composition: Tools for Studying the Medieval and Early Modern Periods [HIST] (2.0 cr)
- HIST 1501 - Introduction to East Asian History: China, Japan, and Korea before 1800. [HIST] (4.0 cr)
- HIST 2103 - Medieval Europe [HIST] (4.0 cr)
- HIST 2704 *{Inactive}*[SS] (4.0 cr)
- HUM 1002 - Norse Saga [HUM] (4.0 cr)
- MATH 2211 - History of Mathematics (4.0 cr)
- MUS 3101 - Core Studies III: Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque Music [HIST] (4.0 cr)
- TH 3101 - World Theatre: History and Literature I [FA] (4.0 cr)

- Take 12 or more credit(s) from the following:

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- ARTH 3112 - Faith, Image, and Power: Art and the Byzantine Empire [FA] (4.0 cr)
- ARTH 3113 - Early Islamic Art and Culture [FA] (4.0 cr)
- ARTH 3132 - Castles and Cathedrals [FA] (4.0 cr)
- CMR 3101 *{Inactive}*[IP] (4.0 cr)
- ENGL 3043 - Medieval Makings of Tolkien's Worlds (4.0 cr)
- ENGL 3161 *{Inactive}*(4.0 cr)
- ENGL 3163 - Life in a Medieval City: Literature and Culture in York, 700-1500 [HUM] (4.0 cr)
- ENGL 4004 - Research Seminar: Old English Literature and Language (4.0 cr)
- FREN 3402 - Medieval and Early Modern Studies: Pre-Enlightenment Culture in France (2.0 - 4.0 cr)
- FREN 3406 - Medieval and Early Modern Studies: Emotional Extremes in Medieval and Early Modern Literature (4.0 cr)
- FREN 3407 - Medieval and Early Modern Studies: The "East" and its Marvels (2.0 - 4.0 cr)
- FREN 3408 - Medieval and Early Modern Studies: Quests, Quails, and Custards--Food in Life and Literature (2.0 - 4.0 cr)
- FREN 3410 - Medieval and Early Modern Studies: Troubadours and Old Occitan: Creative Writing in the Middle Ages [HUM] (4.0 cr)
- GER 3601 - Studies in German Literature [HUM] (4.0 cr)
- GER 3702 *{Inactive}*[HUM] (4.0 cr)
- GER 4001 - Culture and Society [HIST] (4.0 cr)
- GER 4101 *{Inactive}*[HIST] (4.0 cr)
- HIST 3008 *{Inactive}*[HDIV] (4.0 cr)
- HIST 3207 - The Crusades [IP] (2.0 - 4.0 cr)
- IS 3215H - Honors: Sagas before the Fall: Culture, Climate, and Collapse in Medieval Iceland [ENVT] (2.0 cr)
- IS 3242H - Honors: Two Cosmological Poets: Dante and Lucretius [IP] (2.0 cr)
- IS 3248H - Honors: Art and History of the Crusades [FA] (2.0 cr)
- LAT 2001 - Intermediate Latin Prose [IP] (4.0 cr)
- PHIL 3151 - History of Ancient Philosophy [HIST] (4.0 cr)
- POL 3351 - Ancient and Medieval Political Thought [HUM] (4.0 cr)

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