

MEDIEVAL & EARLY MODERN STUDIES, BACHELOR OF ARTS

College of Letters & Science

The Major Program

The Major in Medieval & Early Modern Studies serves as the nucleus from which to examine diverse cultures, intellectual movements, religions, politics, and literary traditions from a world-historical time frame that stretches from the fifth century to the eighteenth-century CE and into contemporary medievalisms. A transdisciplinary and interdepartmental program, the major includes studies across the humanities in art, drama, history, literature, music, national languages, philosophy, politics and political theory, religion, and rhetoric.

These premodern worlds were rarely static and the major encourages dynamic work across traditional boundaries of faiths, languages, economies, and peoples. The lower division series of Medieval Studies (MST) (<https://ucdavis-curr.courseleaf.com/courses-subject-code/mst/>) courses in the program provides the foundation for the major and prepares students for advanced work within individual disciplines. At the upper division level, students may choose humanities course work across geographic areas such as the Middle East, Europe, East Asia, South Asia, Africa, and America. There is also the option for students to choose to complete a senior thesis on a selected aspect of Medieval and/or early modern culture.

Career Alternatives

The major in Medieval & Early Modern Studies is a liberal arts degree providing excellent preparation for the rigors of professional schools as well as careers in law, museology, journalism, and teaching.

Major Advisor

See Program office (<http://mems.ucdavis.edu/>).

The major requirements below are in addition to meeting University Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/university-degree-requirements/>) & College Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/college-degree-requirements/>); unless otherwise noted. The minimum number of units required for the Medieval & Early Modern Studies Bachelor of Arts is 66.

Code	Title	Units
Preparatory Subject Matter		
MST 020A	Intro to Late Antique & Early Medieval Worlds (Intro to Late Antique & Early Medieval Worlds)	4
MST 020B	Intro to Late Medieval & Early Modern Worlds (Intro to Late Medieval & Early Modern Worlds)	4
Choose 12 units:		12
AHI 001B	Medieval & Renaissance Art	
AHI 001C	Baroque to Modern Art	
AHI 001E	Islamic Art & Architecture	
COM 002	Major Works of the Medieval & Early Modern World	

COM 010A	Master Authors in World Literature: Gilgamesh, Ramayana, Beowulf, Nibelungenlied	
COM 010B	Master Authors in World Literature: Metamorphoses, Decameron, Arabian Nights, Canterbury Tales	
COM 010C	Master Authors in World Literature: Chanson de Roland, El Cid, Igor's Campaign, Morte D'Arthur	
COM 010D	Master Authors in World Literature: Sakuntala, Tristan & Isolde, Aucassin & Nicolette, Gawain	
COM 010E	Master Authors in World Literature: Swift, Rabelais, La Celestina, Simplicissimus	
ENL 010A	Literatures in English I: To 1700	
GER 048	Myth & Saga in the Germanic Cultures	
HIS 004A	History of Western Civilization	
HIS 004B	History of Western Civilization	
HUM 001	Humanities Forum (Prior approval by Undergraduate Advisor necessary.)	
HUM 009	Don Quixote & the Modern World	
PHI 021	Philosophical Classics of the Ancient Era	
PHI 022	Philosophical Classics of the Modern Era	
MST 098/MST 099; total any combination:		2
MST 098	Directed Group Study	
MST 099	Special Study for Undergraduates	
Language proficiency is a desideratum. Courses in Latin and other European languages are strongly recommended, particularly for students planning to pursue graduate studies in the medieval or early modern field.		
Preparatory Subject Matter Subtotal		22
Depth Subject Matter		
In consultation with the undergraduate advisor, students choose a total of eleven courses; with at least three courses from the Medieval Period (denoted as M) and at least three courses from the Early Modern Period (denoted as EM):		44
AHI 155	The Islamic City	
AHI 156	Arts of the Islamic Book ^{EM}	
AHI 178B	Early Italian Renaissance Art & Architecture ^{EM}	
AHI 178C	High & Late Italian Renaissance Art & Architecture ^{EM}	
AHI 179B	Baroque Art ^{EM}	
AHI 190B	Undergraduate Seminar in Art History: Medieval ^M	
AHI 190C	Undergraduate Seminar in Art History: Renaissance ^{EM}	
CLA 110	Origins of Rhetoric ^M	
COM 139	Shakespeare & the Classical World ^{EM}	
COM 164A	The European Middle Ages ^M	
COM 164B	The Renaissance ^{EM}	
COM 164C	Baroque & Neoclassicism ^{EM}	
COM 166A	The Epic	
COM 180	Selected Topics in Comparative Literature ¹	
ENL 113A	Chaucer: Troilus & the "Minor" Poems ^M	

ENL 113B	Chaucer: The Canterbury Tales ^M	HIS 190C	Middle Eastern History III: The Ottomans, 1401-1730 ^{EM}
ENL 115	Topics in 16th- & 17th-Century Literature ^{EM}	ITA 105	Introduction to Italian Literature
ENL 117	Shakespeare ^{EM}	ITA 112	Medieval & Renaissance Poetry: St. Francis to Petrarch
ENL 122	Milton ^{EM}	ITA 113	Dante Alighieri, Divina Commedia (Inferno, Purgatorio, Paradiso) (Discontinued for summer 2026) ^{M,**}
ENL 150A	British Drama to 1800 ^{EM}	ITA 114	Boccaccio, Decameron, & the Renaissance Novella
ENL 153	Topics in Drama ¹	ITA 115A	Studies in the Cinquecento ^{EM}
ENL 165	Topics in Poetry ¹	ITA 115B	Italian Literature of the Renaissance & the Baroque: From Cellini to Marino (Discontinued for summer 2026) ^{EM,**}
ENL 185A	Literature by Women Before 1800 ¹	ITA 115C	Italian Drama from Machiavelli to the Enlightenment ^{EM}
ENL 188A	Topics in Literary & Critical Theory ¹	ITA 115D	Early Modern Italian Lyric ^{EM}
ENL 189	Seminar in Literary Studies ¹	ITA 118	Italian Language & Society ^{EM}
FRE 115	Medieval French Literature & Society ^M	ITA 139B	Italian Literature in English: Boccaccio, Petrarch & the Renaissance ^{EM}
FRE 116	The French Renaissance ^{EM}	ITA 140	Italian Literature in English Translation: Dante, Divine Comedy (Discontinued for summer 2026) ^{M,**}
FRE 117A	Baroque & Preclassicism ^{EM}	ITA 141/COM 138	Gender & Interpretation in the Renaissance ^{EM}
FRE 118B	Private Lives & Public Secrets: The Early French Novel	LAT 100	Readings in Latin Prose ^M
FRE 141	Selected Topics in French Literature ¹	LAT 101	Livy ^M
GER 101A	Survey of German Literature, 800-1800	LAT 102	Roman Comedy ^M
GER 112	Topics in German Literature ¹	LAT 103	Vergil: Aeneid ^M
GER 120	Survey of German Culture ^{EM}	LAT 104	Sallust ^M
GER 121	The Medieval Period in German Literature ^M	LAT 105	Catullus ^M
GER 122	Reformation & Baroque ^{EM}	LAT 106	Horace: Odes & Epodes ^M
GER 124	Major Movements in German Literature ¹	LAT 108	Horace: Satires & Epistles ^M
GER 131	German Lyric Poetry	LAT 109	Roman Elegy
GER 134	Topics in German Intellectual History ¹	LAT 110	Ovid ^M
GER 160	(Discontinued for fall 2024) ^{M,**}	LAT 112	Cicero ^M
HIS 102B	Undergraduate Proseminar in History: Medieval ^M	LAT 115	Lucretius ^M
HIS 102D	Undergraduate Proseminar in History: Modern Europe to 1815	LAT 116	Vergil: Eclogues & Georgics ^M
HIS 121A	Medieval History ^M	LAT 118	Roman Historians ^M
HIS 121B	Medieval History ^M	LAT 119	Readings in Republican Latin Literature ^M
HIS 121C	Medieval History ^M	LAT 120	Readings in Imperial Latin Literature ^M
HIS 122	Selected Themes in Medieval History ^M	LAT 121	Latin Prose Composition ^M
HIS 125	Topics in Early Modern European History ^{EM}	LAT 125	Medieval Latin ^M
HIS 130A	Christianity & Culture in Europe: 50-1450 ^M	LAT 130	Readings in Late Latin ^M
HIS 130B	Christianity & Culture in Europe: 1450-1600 ^{EM}	MST 130A	Special Themes in Medieval Cultures ^M
HIS 131A	Early Modern European History ^{EM}	MST 130B	Special Themes in Renaissance Culture ^{EM}
HIS 131B	European History During the Renaissance & Reformation ^{EM}	MST 131	Cross-Cultural Relations in the Medieval and/or Early Modern World
HIS 131C	The Old Regime: Absolution, Enlightenment & Revolution in Europe ^M	MST 189	Seminar in Medieval & Early Modern Culture
HIS 132	Crime & Punishment in Early Modern Europe ^{EM}	MST 190	Senior Thesis
HIS 135A	History of Science to the 18th Century ^{EM}	MUS 121	Topics in Music Scholarship ¹
HIS/STS 136	Scientific Revolution ^{EM}	PHI 105	Philosophy of Religion
HIS 139A	Medieval & Renaissance Medicine		
HIS 144A	History of Germany, 1450 to 1789 ^{EM}		
HIS 148A	Women & Society in Europe: 1500-1789 ^{EM}		
HIS 151A	England: The Middle Ages ^M		
HIS 151B	England: The Early Modern Centuries ^{EM}		
HIS 190B	Middle Eastern History II: The Age of the Crusades, 1001-1400 ^M		

PHI 145	Christian, Islamic, & Jewish Philosophers of the Middle Ages ^M	
PHI 168	Descartes ^{EM}	
PHI 170	Spinoza & Leibniz ^{EM}	
PHI 172	Locke & Berkeley ^{EM}	
POL 115	Medieval Political Thought ^M	
POL 116	Foundations of Political Thought	
POL 118A	History of Political Theory: Ancient ^M	
RST 102	Christian Origins ^M	
RST 115	Mysticism	
RST 130	Topics in Religious Studies ¹	
SPA 130	Survey of Spanish Literature to 1700	
SPA 133N	Golden Age Literature of Spain ^{EM}	
SPA 134A	Don Quijote I ^{EM}	
SPA 134B	Don Quijote II (Discontinued for summer 2026) ^{EM,**}	
SPA 142	Special Topics in Spanish Cultural & Literary Studies ¹	
Depth Subject Matter Subtotal		44
Total Units		66

EM

Early Modern Period

M

Medieval Period

¹

Consult with an undergraduate advisor regarding all “topics” related courses.

Course(s) discontinued; see your advisor for course options.