

Medieval Cultures

The program in Medieval Studies offers a concentration in Medieval Cultures with two tracks with distinct foci: one in Medieval Cultures and the other in Late Antique Cultures. Medieval Cultures focuses on the 6th-15th centuries, combining interdisciplinary perspectives with in-depth study of one or two related disciplines.

Late Antique Cultures deals with the 3rd-9th centuries, when ancient cultural forms were still in place but medieval cultures were beginning to take shape simultaneously. The first undergraduate degree of its kind in this country, Late Antique Cultures studies the changing relation of cultural practices, social patterns, political and economics forms, and artistic and literary traditions in this important transition period.

A traditional area of study in Medieval Cultures is Western Europe in the High Middle Ages, but students are encouraged to work comparatively in Byzantine, Islamic, Judaic and/or Slavic cultures in the middle ages.

Medieval Cultures Track

It is recommended that prospective concentrators take the introductory course, Medieval Perspectives, during their freshman or sophomore year.

Requirements

Ten courses approved by the Program in Medieval Studies, including two courses in medieval history and one 1000- or 2000-level course that uses primary texts in a medieval language other than Middle English. Interested students are invited to discuss their plans with an appropriate faculty member of the Program. A concentration proposal should be prepared in consultation with the faculty advisor and submitted to the Program Chair for approval.

JUDS 0050M	Difficult Relations? Judaism and Christianity from the Middle Ages until the Present
RELS 0015	Sacred Stories
ENGL 0100D	Matters of Romance
RELS 0110	Christians
RELS 0150	Islam Unveiled
HIST 0150B	The Philosophers' Stone: Alchemy From Antiquity to Harry Potter
ENGL 0150C	The Medieval King Arthur
RELS 0290D	Islamic Sexualities
ENGL 0300F	Beowulf to Aphra Behn: The Earliest British Literatures
ENGL 0310F	Prose Sagas of the Medieval North
HIAA 0321	Toward a Global Late Antiquity: 200-800 CE
MDVL 0360	The Body: Medieval Perspectives
RELS 0410	Ancient Christianity: Jesus to Muhammad
RELS 0420	Sacred Bodies
HIAA 0460	Muslims, Jews and Christians in Medieval Iberia
COLT 0510K	The 1001 Nights
HIST 0521A	Christianity in Conflict in the Medieval Mediterranean
HIST 0521M	The Holy Grail and the Historian's Quest for the Truth
CLAS 0600	The Literary Worlds of Late Antiquity
MDVL 0620	Muslims, Jews, and Christians in Medieval Iberia
RELS 0640	Dying To Be With God: Jihad, Past and Present
HIST 0621B	The Search for King Arthur
CLAS 0660	The World of Byzantium
JUDS 0681	Great Jewish Books

HISP 0750E	Topics in Hispanic Culture and Civilization
MUSC 0910	From Darkness to Light: Medieval and Renaissance Music
ITAL 0100	Elementary Italian
LATN 1110F	Fortunatus
LATN 1110H	Literature at the Court of Charlemagne
LATN 1110L	Medieval Latin Lyric
GREK 1110Q	Greek Erotic Literature: From Plato to the Medieval Romances
GREK 1110T	Rhetors and Philosophers: Intellectual Thought and Sophistic Style in the Ancient World
LATN 1120C	Survey of Late and Medieval Latin
LATN 1120D	Alcuin
CLAS 1120G	The Idea of Self
CLAS 1120V	The Age of Constantine: The Roman Empire in Transition
HIST 1205	The Long Fall of the Roman Empire
HIST 1210A	The Viking Age
HIST 1211	Becoming Medieval: Self, Other, and the World
HIST 1260D	Living Together: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Medieval Iberia
HIST 1280	Death from Medieval Relics to Forensic Science
COLT 1310E	A Classical Islamic Education: Readings in Arabic Literature
ENGL 1310T	Chaucer
ENGL 1310V	Chaucer: The Canterbury Tales
ENGL 1311E	History of the English Language
ENGL 1311H	Sagas Without Borders: Multilingual Literatures of Early England
ENGL 1311L	From Mead-Hall to Mordor: The Celtic and Germanic Roots of Tolkien's Fiction
RELS 1325C	The Virgin Mary in Christian Tradition
HISP 1330T	El amor en español
ENGL 1360F	Quest, Vision, Diaspora: Medieval Journey Narratives
ENGL 1360H	Introduction to the Old English Language
ENGL 1360J	Middle English Literature
ENGL 1360U	Europe in the Vernacular
ENGL 1361D	Women's Voices in Medieval Literature
ENGL 1361K	Seminar in the Old English Language II
HIST 1440	The Ottomans: Faith, Law, Empire
HIAA 1440B	The Architecture of Solitude: The Medieval Monastery
RELS 1520	Pilgrimage and Sacred Travel in the Lands of Islam
RELS 1530A	Methods and Problems in Islamic Studies
RELS 1530D	Medieval Islamic Sectarianism
HIAA 1560A	Italy and the Mediterranean
ASYR 1600	Astronomy Before the Telescope
JUDS 1630	The Talmud
CLAS 1750L	Erotic Desire in the Premodern Mediterranean
COLT 1813P	Captive Imaginations: Writing Prison in the Middle Ages
HIST 1835A	Unearthing the Body: History, Archaeology, and Biology at the End of Antiquity

ENGL 1900Y	Medieval Manuscript Studies: Paleography, Codicology, and Interpretation
HIST 1963L	Barbarians, Byzantines, and Berbers: Early Medieval North Africa, AD 300-1050
HIST 1963M	Charlemagne: Conquest, Empire, and the Making of the Middle Ages
HIST 1963Q	Sex, Power, and God: A Medieval Perspective
MDVL 1970	Independent Study
HIST 1979H	Prostitutes, Mothers, + Midwives: Women in Pre-modern Europe and North America
MDVL 1990	Honors Thesis
HISP 2030D	Fifteenth-Century Sentimental Romances and Celestina
GREK 2110F	Greek Palaeography and Premodern Book Cultures
ENGL 2360Q	Manuscript, Image, and the Middle English Text

Honors

This is awarded to students who present a meritorious honors thesis in addition to completing the required courses of the concentration. The thesis permits the student to synthesize various disciplines or interests, or to pursue a new interest in greater depth. To be eligible for Honors, candidates must complete a minimum of six approved courses in Medieval Studies by the end of their third year with more grades of A than B. Students should apply for admission to Honors and should meet with their faculty advisor(s) no later than spring of the junior year to plan the thesis project. Accepted candidates write the thesis in a two-semester course sequence under the supervision of a director and second reader drawn from the Medieval Studies faculty.

Interested students should contact the concentration advisor for further details or consultation (863-1994).

Late Antique Cultures Track

One course in Roman history:	1
CLAS 1310 Roman History I: The Rise and Fall of an Imperial Republic	
CLAS 1320 Roman History II: The Roman Empire and Its Impact (recommended)	
One class in medieval history	1
One course at the advanced level (numbered at least 1000) in one approved language	1
Six other courses drawn from appropriate offerings and with the approval of the concentration advisor. These courses should support a concentrational area of special interest.	6
Total Credits	9

¹ The language in most cases will be Latin, but students will present different competencies and interests; other languages, such as Greek, Hebrew, or one of the medieval vernaculars can be substituted for Latin, with the approval of the concentration advisor and in conjunction with a clearly articulated program of study.

Under the supervision of the director of the program, students may choose courses from the following:

CLAS 0660	The World of Byzantium
CLAS 1120G	The Idea of Self
CLAS 1120V	The Age of Constantine: The Roman Empire in Transition
CLAS 1750L	Erotic Desire in the Premodern Mediterranean
COLT 0510K	The 1001 Nights

COLT 1813P	Captive Imaginations: Writing Prison in the Middle Ages
ENGL 0100D	Matters of Romance
ENGL 0150C	The Medieval King Arthur
ENGL 0300F	Beowulf to Aphra Behn: The Earliest British Literatures
ENGL 0310F	Prose Sagas of the Medieval North
ENGL 1310T	Chaucer
ENGL 1310V	Chaucer: The Canterbury Tales
ENGL 1311H	Sagas Without Borders: Multilingual Literatures of Early England
ENGL 1311L	From Mead-Hall to Mordor: The Celtic and Germanic Roots of Tolkien's Fiction
ENGL 1360F	Quest, Vision, Diaspora: Medieval Journey Narratives
ENGL 1360H	Introduction to the Old English Language
ENGL 1360J	Middle English Literature
ENGL 1360U	Europe in the Vernacular
ENGL 1361D	Women's Voices in Medieval Literature
ENGL 1900Y	Medieval Manuscript Studies: Paleography, Codicology, and Interpretation
ENGL 2360Q	Manuscript, Image, and the Middle English Text
GREK 1110Q	Greek Erotic Literature: From Plato to the Medieval Romances
GREK 1110T	Rhetors and Philosophers: Intellectual Thought and Sophistic Style in the Ancient World
GREK 2110F	Greek Palaeography and Premodern Book Cultures
HIAA 0321	Toward a Global Late Antiquity: 200-800 CE
HIAA 0460	Muslims, Jews and Christians in Medieval Iberia
HIAA 1440B	The Architecture of Solitude: The Medieval Monastery
HISP 2030D	Fifteenth-Century Sentimental Romances and Celestina
HIST 0150B	The Philosophers' Stone: Alchemy From Antiquity to Harry Potter
HIST 0521A	Christianity in Conflict in the Medieval Mediterranean
HIST 0521M	The Holy Grail and the Historian's Quest for the Truth
HIST 0621B	The Search for King Arthur
HIST 1205	The Long Fall of the Roman Empire
HIST 1210A	The Viking Age
HIST 1260D	Living Together: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Medieval Iberia
HIST 1211	Becoming Medieval: Self, Other, and the World
HIST 1963L	Barbarians, Byzantines, and Berbers: Early Medieval North Africa, AD 300-1050
HIST 1963Q	Sex, Power, and God: A Medieval Perspective
HIST 1963M	Charlemagne: Conquest, Empire, and the Making of the Middle Ages
HIST 1974M	Early Modern Globalization
HIST 2970A	New Perspectives on Medieval History
JUDS 0050M	Difficult Relations? Judaism and Christianity from the Middle Ages until the Present

JUDS 0681	Great Jewish Books
JUDS 1630	The Talmud
LATN 1110F	Fortunatus
LATN 1110H	Literature at the Court of Charlemagne
LATN 1120C	Survey of Late and Medieval Latin
LATN 1120D	Alcuin
MDVL 0360	The Body: Medieval Perspectives
MDVL 0620	Muslims, Jews, and Christians in Medieval Iberia
MDVL 1970	Independent Study
MDVL 1990	Honors Thesis
RELS 0025	Wealth: Religious Approaches
RELS 0110	Christians
RELS 0150	Islam Unveiled
RELS 0290D	Islamic Sexualities
RELS 0410	Ancient Christianity: Jesus to Muhammad
RELS 0640	Dying To Be With God: Jihad, Past and Present
RELS 1300	Ancient Christianity and the Sensing Body
RELS 1520	Pilgrimage and Sacred Travel in the Lands of Islam
RELS 1530A	Methods and Problems in Islamic Studies
RELS 1530D	Medieval Islamic Sectarianism