Medieval Studies

Eric Mentzel, Program Director
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Medieval studies, an interdisciplinary undergraduate program, integrates various approaches to the Middle Ages by medievalists in several departments. Medieval studies provides an excellent general education or a solid base for graduate work in a more specialized area. Study abroad is strongly encouraged.

Medieval studies concentrates on the period from 300 to 1500, combining courses in art and architecture, history, language, literature, music, philosophy, and religion. A typical course of study includes diverse topics such as the Bible, the early Church, Byzantium, Islam, the Vikings, the Crusades, women in the Middle Ages, mysticism, romance, the Gothic cathedral, Chaucer, Dante, and medieval China and Japan. The program aims to provide a comprehensive introduction to the medieval worldview in Europe and beyond, and the origins of the modern world.

Participating Faculty

Barbara K. Altmann, Romance languages

Judith R. Baskin, Judaic studies

Martha J. Bayless, English

Louise M. Bishop, honors college

Nicola Camerlenghi, history of art and architecture

Stephanie Clark, English

Frederick Colby, religious studies

James W. Earl, English

Warren Ginsberg, English

Andrew E. Goble, history

D. Gantt Gurley, German and Scandinavian

David Hollenberg, religious studies

Mary Jaeger, classics

Lori Kruckenberg, music

C. Anne Laskaya, English

Eric Mentzel, music

F. Regina Psaki, Romance languages

Stephen J. Shoemaker, religious studies

Richard A. Sundt, history of art and architecture

Cynthia M. Vakareliyska, linguistics

David Wacks, Romance languages

Lisa Wolverton, history

- **Bachelor of Arts**
- **Minor**

Undergraduate Studies

Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements

Medieval studies majors must complete twelve medieval courses in at least three departments with a grade of mid-C or better. At least 24 credits must be in upper-division work. Two years of Latin are recommended for those who want to do graduate work in medieval studies. See the program website for more information.

Honors in Medieval Studies

A degree with honors in medieval studies allows a student to focus on an area of concentration in a written thesis. Requirements are as follows:

1. Satisfaction of the requirements for the major
2. A grade point average of 3.50 or better in courses taken to meet the upper-division requirements of the major. A minimum cumulative UO grade point average of 3.00
3. A prospectus for the thesis approved by both the thesis director and the program director. The prospectus must be submitted no later than week seven of the term before the student plans to complete the honors project. When the prospectus has been approved, the student and thesis director will agree on a schedule of submission of work
4. A senior thesis of substantial quality, representing new or substantially new work beyond any project or paper submitted within other university courses, approved by the thesis director and at least one other member of the medieval studies participating faculty. The thesis must be complete and ready for public presentation no later than week seven of the fall, winter, or spring term
5. **A presentation of the project.** The student presents the honors project to students and faculty members and participates in an open discussion of the project with the audience. Presentations typically occur in weeks seven through ten of fall, winter, or spring terms and are arranged in consultation with both the director of the Medieval Studies Program and the student's thesis advisor
6. Honors in medieval studies are not given for substantially the same project or paper submitted for honors to any other unit in the university. Departmental honors theses shall be written exclusively for honors in medieval studies
7. Students normally enroll in at least one but no more than two terms of Thesis (MDVL 403). Enrollment in Thesis is not required but is recommended. Thesis credits cannot serve to fulfill the minimum major requirements

Minor Requirements

Students who want a minor in medieval studies must complete seven medieval courses in at least two departments.

Suggested Courses

Students should plan their programs as early as possible with the aid of a medieval studies faculty advisor. With the advisor's consent, courses numbered 199, 399, 405, 407, 408, or 410 may be substituted for suggested courses. At least five of the courses must be taken at the University of Oregon. More information is available from the medieval studies office or from the Medieval Studies Program director.

Arabic		
ARB 331	Reading Classical Arabic	4
Chinese		
CHN 424	Issues in Medieval Chinese Literature	4
Classics		
CLAS 110	Classical Mythology	4
CLAS 314	Gender and Sexuality in Antiquity	4
Additional Latin and Greek course offerings, depending on topic		
English		
ENG 220	Introduction to the English Major	4
ENG 225	Age of King Arthur	4
ENG 421	The Bible and Literature	4
ENG 423	The Age of Beowulf	4
ENG 425	Medieval Romance	4
ENG 427	Chaucer	4
ENG 428–430	Old English I-III	12
History		
HIST 101	Western Civilization	4
HIST 120	Foundations of Islamic Civilization	4
HIST 190	Foundations of East Asian Civilizations	4
HIST 319	Early Middle Ages in Europe	4
HIST 320	High Middle Ages in Europe	4
HIST 321	Late Middle Ages in Europe	4
HIST 322	The Crusades	4
HIST 345	Early Russia	4
HIST 387	Early China	4
HIST 396	Samurai in Film	4
HIST 414	Ancient Rome: [Topic] (depends on topic)	4
HIST 437	Medieval Spain	4
HIST 490	Japan: [Topic] (The Classical Age)	4
HIST 498	Early Japanese Culture and Society: [Topic] (Buddhism and Society in Medieval Japan; Samurai and War; Medieval Japan)	4
History of Art and Architecture		
ARH 205	History of Western Art II	4
ARH 331	Cultures of the Medieval West	4
ARH 438	Gothic Architecture I	4
Humanities		
HUM 102	Introduction to the Humanities II	4
HUM 300	Themes in the Humanities [1]	4
Italian		
ITAL 317	Italian Survey: Medieval and Renaissance	4
ITAL 441	Medieval Italian Culture: [Topic]	4-6
ITAL 444	Medieval and Renaissance Literature: [Topic] (depends on topic)	4-6
Japanese		
JPN 305	Introduction to Japanese Literature	4
Judaic Studies		
JDST 212	Medieval and Early Modern Judaism	4
HBRW 313	Postbiblical Literature	4
Additional courses in Judaic Studies and Hebrew, depending on topic		
Music		
MUS 267	Survey of Music History	4
MUS 391	Collegium Musicum	1-3
Philosophy		
PHIL 310	History of Philosophy: Ancient and Medieval	4
Religious Studies		
REL 222–223	Introduction to the Bible I-II	8
REL 233	Introduction to Islam	4
REL 321–322	History of Christianity	8
REL 324	History of Eastern Christianity	4
REL 335	Introduction to the Qur'an	4
REL 355	Mysticism	4
REL 414	Biblical Book: [Topic]	4
REL 418	Martyrdom	4
REL 424	Early and Medieval Christian Heresy	4
REL 426	Sex and Gender in Early Christianity	4
REL 432	Islamic Mysticism: [Topic]	4
REL 435	Advanced Study of the Qur'an: [Topic]	4
REL 444	Medieval Japanese Buddhism	4
Scandinavian		
SCAN 259	Vikings through the Icelandic Sagas	4
SCAN 340	Emergence of Nordic Cultures and Society	4
SCAN 343	Norse Mythology	4
SCAN 344	Medieval Hero and Monster	4

[1] Depending on the topic; may only be taken once for medieval studies major or minor credit.

Courses

MDVL 199. Special Studies: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable.

MDVL 399. Special Studies: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable.

MDVL 403. Thesis. 1-8 Credits.
Repeatable.

MDVL 405. Reading and Conference: [Topic]. 1-4 Credits.
Repeatable.

MDVL 406. Field Studies: [Topic]. 1-4 Credits.
Repeatable.

MDVL 408. Workshop: [Topic]. 1-4 Credits.
Repeatable.

MDVL 410. Experimental Course: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable.

MDVL 503. Thesis. 1-8 Credits.
Repeatable.

MDVL 508. Workshop: [Topic]. 1-4 Credits.
Repeatable.

MDVL 510. Experimental Course: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable.