

Medieval Studies

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Program of Study

The BA program in medieval studies aims to acquaint students with a broad range of medieval materials from a variety of perspectives (e.g., historical, literary, artistic, theological) as a preparation for writing a BA paper on some aspect of medieval civilization. Students investigate the Middle Ages through studies in historical, literary, and adjunct areas. Interested students are encouraged to attend the medieval studies workshops. For more information, visit cas.uchicago.edu/workshops/medieval.

Program Requirements

Students interested in majoring in medieval studies must consult the program coordinator by Autumn Quarter of their third year. Twelve courses are required, including at least three courses basically historical in nature, three courses of linguistic character, and two courses in other disciplines (e.g., art, music, philosophy, theology). Students should determine these courses in consultation with the program coordinator.

Students are also expected to demonstrate competence in reading one language in which a significant body of medieval source material exists. Such competence is demonstrated primarily through the language courses and through the use of source materials in the BA paper. Latin is strongly urged for those working in Western materials, but other options (particularly for students interested in Byzantine, Jewish, or Muslim cultures) are available. Students should consult the program coordinator regarding the three-course language requirement, which is to be used for acquiring language skills, if necessary, beyond the College language competency requirement and for reading medieval texts.

The program also requires all students to participate in a one-quarter reading and research course, usually in Autumn Quarter of their fourth year, with a member of the committee who has agreed to advise them in planning and writing the BA paper; students should register for a reading course in this committee member's department. Their completed paper will typically be read by at least two members of the committee representing different academic departments.

Summary of Requirements

3	courses in historical studies
3	courses in language or literary studies
2	courses in adjunct areas
3	electives
1	reading and research course
—	BA paper
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Grading. All courses must be taken for a quality grade.

Honors. Consideration for honors is individually arranged with the program coordinator. For candidacy, a student must have completed a BA paper of the highest quality, and have a GPA of at least 3.0 overall and at least 3.5 within the major.

Faculty

M. Allen, P. Berlekamp, R. Bird, A. Davidson, D. Delogu, F. Donner, C. Fasolt, R. Fulton, R. Giles, N. Golb, R. Hellie, R. Helmholz, W. Kaegi, R. Kendrick, A. Kumler, F. D. Lewis, B. Lincoln, J. Lyon, Y. Melamed, M. Miller, M. Murrin, D. Nirenberg, W. Otten, L. Pick, T. Qutbuddin, A. W. Robertson, J. Robinson, J. Schleusener, M. Sells, J. Steinberg, J. Stern, N. Swerdlow, C. von Nolcken, E. Weaver, D. Whitcomb, J. Woods

Courses (Autumn 2009 to Spring 2010)

Please also consult Departmental listings.

ARTH 16709. Islamic Art and Architecture, 1100 to 1500. (=NEAA 10630)
P. Berlekamp. Winter.

ARTH 23400/33400. Art, Architecture, and Identity in the Ottoman Empire.
P. Berlekamp. Autumn.

ARTH 42010. Art and Neoplatonism, East and West. *P. Berlekamp, R. Zorach. Spring.*

CLCV 25200. Medieval Latin. *M. Allen. Autumn.*

ENGL 15104/35104. Law and Literature in Anglo-Saxon England (Newberry Library). Interested students should contact Christina von Nolcken at *mcv4@uchicago.edu*. *The class meets in the Newberry Library. J. Schulman. Winter.*

ENGL 15500. Chaucer: *The Canterbury Tales*. *C. von Nolcken. Winter.*

ENGL 15600. Medieval English Literature. *J. Schleusener. Spring.*

ENGL 16180/36180. Travelers on the Silk Road. *M. Murrin. Spring.*

ENGL 20104. From *The Annals of Wales* to *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*: King Arthur in Literature and History. C. von Nolcken. Autumn (London Program).

FREN 21703. *Introduction à la littérature française I.* PQ: FREN 20300. D. Delogu. Autumn.

HIST 12100. War in the Middle Ages. R. Fulton. Spring.

HIST 21703/31703. Byzantine Empire, 1025 to 1453. W. Kaegi. Autumn.

HIST 22001/32001. Byzantium and Islam. W. Kaegi. Spring.

HIST 22002/32002. Byzantine Military History. W. Kaegi. Spring.

HIST 22401/32401. Europe in the Early Middle Ages. R. Fulton. Autumn.

HIST 22405/32405. Medieval Monasticism. R. Fulton. Spring.

HIST 23206/33206. Europe in the Late Middle Ages. J. Lyon. Spring.

HIST 53501. Religious Thought in the Later Middle Ages. PQ: Consent of instructor. R. Fulton. Autumn.

NEHC 20402/30402. Jewish History and Society II: Medieval Jewish Society. (=JWSC 20002, JWSG 30002) Winter.

NEHC 20405/30405. Jewish Thought and Literature II: Rabbinic Judaism from the Mishnah to Maimonides. (=JWSC 20005, JWSG 30005) Winter.

NEHC 20411-20412-20413/30411-30412-30413. Medieval Jewish History I, II, III. (=HUMA 23000-23100-23200, JWSC 23000-23100-23200, JWSG 38100-38200-38300) PQ: Consent of instructor. This sequence does not meet the general education requirement in civilization studies. N. Golb. Autumn, Winter, Spring.

NEHC 20501/30501. Islamic History and Society I: The Rise of Islam and the Caliphate. (=HIST 25704/35704) C. Fleischer. Autumn.

NEHC 20502/30502. Islamic History and Society II: The Middle Period. (=HIST 25804/35804) J. Woods. Winter.

NEHC 20601/30601. Islamic Thought and Literature I. (=SOSC 22000) T. Qutbuddin. Autumn.

NEHC 20636/30636. Ancient Near Eastern Thought and Literature III: Classical Arabic Literature. Prior knowledge of Arabic and/or Islamic studies helpful but not required. Texts in English. T. Qutbuddin. Spring.

NEHC 20602/30602. Islamic Thought and Literature II. (=SOSC 22100) *F. Lewis. Winter.*

PHIL 25109/35109. The Problem of Evil and the Philosophical Interpretation of Scripture in the Middle Ages: The Book of Job (IV). *J. Stern. Winter.*

RLST 20701. The Autobiography of Teresa of Avila. (=FNDL 23112, GNDR 20701, HIST 19801) *L. Pick. Winter.*

RUSS 25200/35200. Russian Literature to 1600. *PQ: Knowledge of Russian. V. Friedman. Winter.*

RUSS 29500/39500. The Aesthetics of Orthodox Christianity. *Students in Interdisciplinary Studies in the Slavic Department may use this course as their advanced seminar. R. Bird. Spring.*

SLAV 22000/32000. Old Church Slavonic. (=LGLN 25100/35100) *PQ: Knowledge of another Slavic language or good knowledge of another one or two old Indo-European languages. V. Friedman. Winter.*

SPAN 21703. Literatura hispánica: textos clásicos. *PQ: SPAN 20300 or consent of instructor. R. Giles. Autumn.*