

MEDIEVAL STUDIES, CERTIFICATE

Medieval studies offers students interdisciplinary perspectives on the history of Europe and the Mediterranean rim between ca. 300-1500. Courses spanning 18 departments allow students to explore the medieval world from the standpoints of art, visual and material culture, history, law, languages and literature, music, philosophy, religious studies and the history of science and medicine. The certificate in medieval studies is designed to encourage pursuit of interdisciplinary work among several departments.

The Middle Ages was a dynamic period of trans-continental trade and travel that fostered cultural, technological and scientific interactions among the kingdoms and city states of Western Europe, the Byzantine (East Roman) Empire and the Islamic caliphates that eventually encompassed much of Spain, north Africa and the Middle East. It is also known that the Norse (Vikings) established settlements in North America as early as ca. 1000, some 500 years before Columbus.

In Western Europe, the Middle Ages laid the foundations of constitutional government and modern nation-states, instituted a system of trial by jury, and developed the first universities along with the concept of a liberal arts curriculum (encompassing both arts and sciences). The period also saw the development of English, Germanic, Scandinavian and romance languages and literature, which came to eclipse Latin by the end of the fourteenth century as vehicles for secular poetry and prose. Further east, Greek dominated the territory of the Byzantine Empire, while the foundation of the Kievan Rus coincided with the development of Cyrillic script used by Russian and other Slavic languages. The Islamic world saw the wide diffusion of Arabic languages and literature, including scientific works which served to mediate knowledge of Greek natural philosophy and medical science to Western Europe.

Other significant cultural developments include the development of the codex or book often with elaborate programs of visual imagery and diagrams, the innovation of musical notation and early forms of polyphony in Europe, the application of optical science to urban planning and of one-point perspective to painting especially in Italy, and the refinement of structural engineering that led to the soaring light-filled architecture of Gothic cathedrals in Western Europe and expansive centralized domed spaces in the Byzantine Empire and related Orthodox states, as well as in the Islamic world.

The program's focus is embodied in the interdisciplinary courses offered under the auspices of medieval studies. The program cross-lists a number of courses on particular aspects of medieval history and culture that are offered by participating departments, helps to publicize courses with medieval subject matter that are not permanently cross-listed, and offers opportunities for students to undertake independent-study projects with participating faculty members. It also regularly organizes public programming on specific themes under the auspices of the Borghesi–Mellon Workshops administered by the Center for the Humanities.

In addition to departments and programs that cross-list courses with Medieval Studies—Art History, CANES (Classical and Near Eastern Studies), English, French and Italian, German, History, History of Medicine, History of Science, Religious Studies, Scandinavian Studies, Spanish and Portuguese, Women's Studies—the following departments and programs occasionally offer courses and seminars in the medieval area: African

Languages and Literature, Comparative Literature, Folklore, Languages and Cultures of Asia, Music, Philosophy, and Political Science.

Like a minor, the certificate documents a rigorous course of study in addition to the major(s). It attests ambitious intellectual goals as well as the ability to imagine historical problems in transnational and transcultural perspectives. As a credential, it demonstrates a capacity for comparative critical thinking and analysis, skills that appeal to a wide range of potential employers.

HOW TO GET IN

Students interested in working toward the certificate should contact the director of medieval studies as early in their degree program as possible. The director serves as the undergraduate advisor for all students pursuing the certificate. For further information see the Medieval Studies website (<http://www.medievalstudies.wisc.edu/>).

REQUIREMENTS

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CERTIFICATE

The certificate requires the completion of **five courses (15 credits)** in the medieval area, according to the following distributional requirements.

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Code	Title	Credits
Complete one of the following:		
HISTORY 115	Medieval Europe 410-1500	3-4
ILS 201	Western Culture: Science, Technology, Philosophy I	
HIST SCI 201	The Origins of Scientific Thought	3-4
ENGL 241	Literature and Culture I: to the 18th Century	
ART HIST 201	History of Western Art I: From Pyramids to Cathedrals	6
Complete two courses from Category A ("The Middle Ages through History and Social Sciences").¹		
Complete two courses from Category B ("The Middle Ages through Language, Literature and the Arts").¹		6
Total Credits		15

¹ For a list of which individual courses count toward Category A and which toward Category B, see the course lists below.

CATEGORY A COURSE LIST

Code	Title	Credits
Category A Courses		
HISTORY 115	Medieval Europe 410-1500	4
HISTORY/ RELIG ST 205	The Making of the Islamic World: The Middle East, 500-1500	3-4
HISTORY/ MEDIEVAL/ RELIG ST 309	The Crusades: Christianity and Islam	3-4

HISTORY 333		3-4	ART HIST 525	Proseminar in Italian Renaissance Art	3
HISTORY 417	History of Russia	3-4	ART HIST 535	Proseminar in Northern European Painting	3
HISTORY/ LEGAL ST 426	The History of Punishment	3-4	ENGL 177	Literature and Popular Culture	3
HISTORY/ SCAND ST 431	History of Scandinavia to 1815	3	ENGL 241	Literature and Culture I: to the 18th Century	3
HISTORY 439		3-4	ENGL 314	Structure of English	3
HIST SCI/ MEDIÉVAL 322	Ancient and Medieval Science	3	ENGL/HISTORY/ RELIG ST 360	The Anglo-Saxons	3
HIST SCI/ S&A PHM 401	History of Pharmacy	2	ENGL 417	History of the English Language	3
HIST SCI/HISTORY/ MED HIST/ MEDIÉVAL/ S&A PHM 562	Byzantine Medicine and Pharmacy	3	ENGL 422	Outstanding Figure(s) in Literature before 1800	3
HIST SCI 622	Studies in Ancient and Medieval Science	1	ENGL/ MEDIÉVAL 423	Topic in Medieval Literature and Culture	3
ILS 201	Western Culture: Science, Technology, Philosophy I	3	ENGL/ MEDIÉVAL 424	Medieval Drama	3
ILS 205	Western Culture: Political, Economic, and Social Thought I	3	ENGL/ MEDIÉVAL 425	Medieval Romance	3
ILS 271	Pre-Copernican Astronomy and Cosmology in Crosscultural Perspective	3	ENGL/ MEDIÉVAL 426	Chaucers Courtly Poetry	3
INTL ST 266	Introduction to the Middle East	3	ENGL/ MEDIÉVAL 427	Chaucer's Canterbury Tales	3
PHILOS/JEWISH/ RELIG ST 435	Jewish Philosophy from Antiquity to the Seventeenth Century	3	ENGL/ MEDIÉVAL 520	Old English	3
POLI SCI 265	Development of Ancient and Medieval Western Political Thought	3-4	ENGL/ MEDIÉVAL 521	Advanced Old English Literature	3
CATEGORY B COURSE LIST			ENGL 546	Topic in Travel Writing before 1800	3
Code	Title	Credits	FRENCH 430	Readings in Medieval and Renaissance Literature	3
Category B Courses			GERMAN 650	History of the German Language	3
ART HIST 201	History of Western Art I: From Pyramids to Cathedrals	4	GERMAN/ MEDIÉVAL 651	Introduction to Middle High German	3
ART HIST 305	History of Islamic Art and Architecture	3	ILS 203	Western Culture: Literature and the Arts I	3
ART HIST 310	Icons, Religion, and Empire: Early Christian and Byzantine Art, ca. 200-1453	3	ITALIAN 321	Studies in Italian Literature and Culture I	3
ART HIST 318	Romanesque and Gothic Art and Architecture	3-4	ITALIAN/ MEDIÉVAL 659	Dante's Divina Commedia	3
ART HIST 320	Italian Renaissance Art	3-4	ITALIAN/ MEDIÉVAL 671	Il Duecento	3
ART HIST 322	Italian Art from Donatello to Leonardo da Vinci, 1400-1500	3-4	LATIN/ MEDIÉVAL 563	Mediaeval Latin	3
ART HIST 331	Angels, Demons, and Nudes: Early Netherlandish Painting from Bosch to Bruegel	3-4	LITTRANS/ MEDIÉVAL 235	The World of Sagas	3
ART HIST/ RELIG ST 373	Great Cities of Islam	3	LITTRANS/ MEDIÉVAL/ RELIG ST 253	Of Demons and Angels. Dante's Divine Comedy	3
ART HIST 413	Art and Architecture in the Age of the Caliphs	3	LITTRANS/ MEDIÉVAL 255	Black Death and Medieval Life Through Boccaccio's Decameron	3
ART HIST/ MEDIÉVAL 415	Topics in Medieval Art	3	LITTRANS 256	Lit in Translation: Images of the Individual in the Italian Renaissance	3
ART HIST 515	Proseminar in Medieval Art	3	LITTRANS 271	In Translation: Masterpieces of Scandinavian Literature, Middle Ages-1900	3-4

LITTRANS/ FOLKLORE/ MIEVEAL/ SCAND ST 345	The Nordic Storyteller	3
LITTRANS/ FOLKLORE/ MIEVEAL 346	In Translation: The Icelandic Sagas	3-4
LITTRANS/ FOLKLORE 347	In Translation: Kalevala and Finnish Folk-Lore	3-4
MUSIC 411	Survey of Music in the Middle Ages	3
MUSIC 412	Survey of Music in the Renaissance	3
SCAND ST 373	Masterpieces of Scandinavian Literature: From the Middle Ages to 1900	3-4
SCAND ST/ MIEVEAL 407	Introductory Old Norse	3
SCAND ST/ MIEVEAL 409	Survey of Old Norse-Icelandic Literature	3
SCAND ST/ MIEVEAL 430	The Vikings	4
SCAND ST/ LITTRANS 435	The Sagas of Icelanders in English Translation	3
SCAND ST/ MIEVEAL 444	Kalevala and Finnish Folk-Lore	4
SPANISH 322	Survey of Early Hispanic Literature	3
SPANISH/ MIEVEAL 414	Literatura de la Edad Media Castellana (ss. XII-XV)	3
SPANISH/ MIEVEAL 503	Survey of Medieval Literature	3
SPANISH/ MIEVEAL 504	Survey of Medieval Literature	3
SPANISH/ MIEVEAL 541	Old Spanish	3

3. to offer the non-specialist critical analytical skills and historical perspectives on current issues such as religious conflict and the concept of "holy war", colonialism and cultural globalism, gender and sexual identity, scientific and technological innovation.
4. to foster appreciation of all aspects of medieval culture and its manifestations in contemporary popular culture.

ADVISING AND CAREERS

Students can obtain advising for the certificate by contacting the director of medieval studies. The director serves as the undergraduate advisor for all students pursuing the certificate. For further information see the Medieval Studies website (<https://medievalstudies.wisc.edu/certificate/>).

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- At least 8 certificate credits must be completed in residence.
- Minimum 2.000 GPA on all certificate courses.

CERTIFICATE COMPLETION REQUIREMENT

This undergraduate certificate must be completed concurrently with the student's undergraduate degree. Students cannot delay degree completion to complete the certificate.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. to provide opportunities for students and faculty to pool their interests and knowledge and explore the interrelationships among the medieval studies disciplines in ways usually not feasible within conventional academic compartmentalization.
2. to help interested undergraduates develop skills in historical languages, critical reading of primary sources of all kinds (texts, visual and material culture, music and oral culture), historiography and current methodologies necessary to prepare them for graduate studies in medieval areas.