

MEDIEVAL STUDIES, MINOR

Requirements for a minor may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the minor. Students may not change from a campus that offers their major to a campus that does not offer their major for the purpose of completing a minor.

Program Description

The Medieval Studies minor encourages an interdisciplinary approach to the diverse and interconnected cultures of Europe and the Mediterranean rim between the fifth and the fifteenth centuries and to contact zones in the Americas, Near East, and the northwestern Pacific. Students survey and evaluate key dimensions of the medieval period across disciplinary boundaries. They develop skills in critical writing and in analyzing documents, monuments, contexts, and conventions of expression; consider emerging fields such as digital humanities and new media; and examine the abiding cross-cultural and trans-historical significance of historical, social, religious, creative, and linguistic developments from the medieval period. The minor allows students to combine courses, guided readings, and research projects in fields such as history, art, archaeology, literature, languages, philosophy, and religious studies.

What is Medieval Studies?

Medieval Studies is an interdisciplinary field that ranges widely across periods and geographies. We usually imagine the Middle Ages as the millennium between the end of classical antiquity and the start of the Renaissance. But concepts and institutions that we take as distinctively modern—the individual, companionate marriage, the state, vernacular languages as expressions of national identity—begin in the Middle Ages. And the Middle Ages return as a powerful source for imaginative expression in the art and literature of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and in digital culture in the twenty-first century.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You want to grow as an analytical thinker with good writing skills, the ability to synthesize disparate materials, and a deep sense of context.
- You have an interest in studying a rich and dynamic period, and wish to further understand the time through its history, literature, philosophy, and culture.

Program Requirements

Requirement	Credits
Requirements for the Minor	18

Requirements for the Minor

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the minor, as specified by Senate Policy 59-10 (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/59-00-minors-and-certificates/#59-10>). In addition, at least six credits of the minor must be unique from the prescribed courses required by a student's major(s).

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
MEDVL/HIST 107	Medieval Europe	3
MEDVL 108	Medieval Civilization	3
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		

Select 12 credits (at least 6 credits at the 400-level) of the following: 12

<i>Art History</i>	
ARTH 111	Ancient to Medieval Art
ARTH 140	Introduction to the Art and Architecture of the Mayas, Aztecs, and Incas
ARTH 201	Ancient to Medieval Architecture
ARTH 302	Pagans and Christians: Encounters in Early Medieval Art
ARTH 312	Romanesque and Gothic Art
ARTH 330	
ARTH 402	The Illuminated Manuscript
ARTH 412	The Gothic Cathedral
ARTH 413	Architecture of the Medieval Monastery
ARTH 422	Studies in Medieval Sculpture
ARTH 442	Late Antique and Early Christian Art
ARTH 452	Byzantine Art
ARTH 460	Art and Empire: Aztec, Inca and Spanish
<i>History</i>	
HIST 105	The Byzantine Empire
HIST 108	Crusades: Holy War in the Middle Ages
HIST 141	Medieval and Modern Russia
HIST 165	Islamic States, Societies and Cultures c. 600-1500
HIST 406W	Research in Medieval Sources
HIST 407	Early Medieval Society
HIST 408	Church and State in the High Middle Ages
HIST 411	Medieval Britain
HIST 412	Innovation in Medieval Europe
HIST 413	Medieval Celtic Studies
HIST 471Y	Classical Islamic Civilization, 600-1258
HIST 480	Japan in the Age of Warriors
<i>Literature and Language</i>	
CMLIT 1	Introduction to Western Literatures Through the Renaissance
CMLIT 106	The Arthurian Legend
CMLIT 401Y	
CMLIT 408	Heroic Literature
ENGL 221W	British Literature to 1798
ENGL 441	Chaucer
ENGL 442	Medieval English Literature
FR 351	French and Francophone Literature I
GER 175	Germanic Heroic and Medieval Literature in English Translation
GER 430	History of the German Language
GER 431	History of German Literature and Culture I
HEBR 10	Jewish Civilization
IT 330W	Greatest Books of Italian Literature
IT 415	Dante
IT 490	Dante in Translation
SPAN 130	Iberian Civilization
SPAN 353	Topics in the Cultures of Spain
SPAN 418	The Evolution of Spanish
<i>Medieval Studies</i>	
MEDVL 197	Special Topics

MEDVL 199	Foreign Studies
MEDVL 294	Research Project
MEDVL 299	Foreign Studies
MEDVL 395	Internship
MEDVL 399	Foreign Studies
MEDVL 411	Medieval Britain
MEDVL 413	Medieval Celtic Studies
MEDVL 494	Research Project
MEDVL 496	Independent Studies
MEDVL 497	Special Topics
MEDVL 499	Foreign Studies
<i>Philosophy and Religious Studies</i>	
PHIL 201	Medieval Philosophy
RLST 120	New Testament
RLST 420	Major Christian Thinkers (upon advising)

Academic Advising

The objectives of the university's academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee's unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/>)

University Park

Liberal Arts Academic Advising

814-865-2545

Use the Liberal Arts Meet the Academic Advisers web page (<https://la.psu.edu/student-services/academic-advising/meet-the-academic-advisers/>) to see the contact information for the specific adviser(s) of this program

Career Paths

A minor in Medieval Studies prepares students for those careers which require a broad knowledge of the humanities. Many students combine a Medieval Studies major with a major such as art history, broadcasting, art, language and literature, political science or any of the liberal arts majors, or students may take courses in areas like economics, speech communication, and sociology.

Careers

- Publishing
- Teaching
- Museum Curatorship
- Archiving
- Business
- Medicine

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

Graduate work is required for teaching at the college or university level. Former students in the Penn State major have continued their studies at universities such as Oxford, Catholic University, Bryn Mawr, St. Andrews, and Dublin. Many students continue their work in medieval studies or related fields like art, music, theatre, literature, history, or philosophy at the graduate level.

Contact

University Park

MEDIEVAL STUDIES
108 Weaver Building
University Park, PA 16802
814-865-1367
bdw150@psu.edu

<https://medieval.la.psu.edu>