Medieval Studies

Chair
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Undergraduate certificate: medieval studies
Website: https://clas.uiowa.edu/classics/undergraduate-program/medieval-studies-program

Medieval studies is an interdisciplinary program designed to offer students an introduction to the history and culture of the Middle Ages and to provide them with the tools necessary to pursue a more advanced study in a number of disciplines, including languages and literatures, philosophy, history, and art history. The study of Medieval society provides a window to those centuries that span the end of the ancient world and the beginning of the modern era. During the Middle Ages, the development of Western heritage began in such areas as law, religion, philosophy, language, art, and music.

The Medieval Studies Program offers an undergraduate program of study and a selection of courses open to students in all majors.

Programs

Undergraduate Program of Study
Certificate
• Certificate in Medieval Studies

Courses

Medieval Studies Courses

MDVL:3226 Literature and Culture of the Middle Ages  3 s.h.
English majors and English and Creative Writing majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: Medieval and Early Modern Literature and Culture. PERIOD: Early Literatures Through 17th Century. Same as ENGL:3226.

MDVL:3409 Medieval Civilization I  3 s.h.
Europe from the decline of Roman empire to the eleventh century; cultural, political, economic, artistic and architectural foundations of Western civilization. Same as HIST:3409.

MDVL:3410 Medieval Civilization II  3 s.h.
Europe from the eleventh century to the Italian Renaissance; cultural, political, economic, artistic, and architectural foundations of Western civilization. Same as HIST:3410.

MDVL:3423 Ireland in the Early Middle Ages  3 s.h.
Ireland and the northern British islands 400-1000 C.E., a region of small kingdoms and thin population, lacking natural resources, far from Rome and ancient centers of Mediterranean culture; development of civilization, including monastic, legal, theological, and scholarly traditions that had a major impact on continental Europe; early medieval Irish history; introduction to the world of historical scholarship. Same as HIST:3423.

MDVL:4412 History of the Medieval Church  3 s.h.
Development of Christianity to end of great schism; rise of Roman primacy, development of monasticism, orthodox and heterodox groups. Same as HIST:4412.

MDVL:4415 European Intellectual History Medieval to Modern  3 s.h.
Long view of European intellectual life from Middle Ages to modern times; students learn about key thinkers of the medieval period before expanding focus to include Renaissance and Early Modern thinkers (e.g., Cusanus, Giordano Bruno, Vico); exploration of modern European philosophical and historiographical tradition—intertwining patterns of sociology, philosophy, and history including Hans Jonas, Hannah Arendt, and Ernst Cassirer; understanding these thinkers within broader context of European cultural and political history. Same as HIST:4415.

MDVL:4417 Medieval Intellectual History 300-1150  3 s.h.
Philosophy, art, literature, religious culture of Europe from waning of classical intellectual modes of culture in late antiquity, to their recovery in 12th century. Same as HIST:4417.

MDVL:4418 Medieval Intellectual History 1150-1500  3 s.h.
European philosophy, religion, literature, art from 12th-century rise of scholasticism; their transformation in period of Copernicus, Luther. Same as HIST:4418.

MDVL:4419 Ancient and Medieval Science  3 s.h.
Greeks' initiation of scientific inquiry; developments in astronomy, cosmology, optics, mathematics, physics, medicine, psychology in ancient and medieval societies of Middle East, Europe. Same as HIST:4419.

MDVL:4421 The Middle Ages in Film  3 s.h.
How films that represent medieval events and literature may be analyzed to reveal the culture and times in which the films were made; Middle Ages and European nationalistic mythmaking as represented in film. Same as HIST:4421.