Medieval Studies

Director
Mercedes Vaquero

Medieval Studies offers two distinct areas of historical focus: the Medieval and the Late Antique. The former focuses on the sixth through the fifteenth centuries, combining interdisciplinary perspectives with in-depth study of one or two related disciplines. Late Antique Studies deals with the third through the ninth centuries, when ancient cultural forms were still in place but medieval cultures were beginning to take shape. The first undergraduate degree of its kind in this country, Late Antique Studies facilitates the study of human activity in all of its variety. A traditional area of study in Medieval Studies is Western Europe, but students are encouraged to work in other cultural areas such as Byzantine, Islamic, Judaic, and Slavic. The concentration serves students interested in the changing relation of cultural practices, social patterns, political and economic forms, and artistic and literary traditions in this important transitional period.

For additional information, please visit the department's website: http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Medieval_Studies/

Medieval Studies Concentration
Requirements

The program in Medieval Studies offers a concentration in Medieval Studies with two tracks with distinct foci: one in Medieval Cultures and the other in Late Antique Cultures. Medieval Studies focuses on the 6th-15th centuries, combining interdisciplinary perspectives with in-depth study of one or two related disciplines. Late Antique Studies deals with the 3rd-9th centuries, when ancient cultural forms were still in place but medieval cultures were beginning to take shape. The first undergraduate degree of its kind in this country, Late Antique Studies studies the changing relation of cultural practices, social patterns, political and economic forms, and artistic and literary traditions in this important transitional period.

A traditional area of study in Medieval Studies is Western Europe in the High Middle Ages, but students are encouraged to work comparatively in Byzantine, Islamic, Judaic, and/or Slavic cultures in the middle ages.

Medieval Cultures Track

It is recommended that prospective concentrators take the introductory course, Medieval Perspectives, during their freshman or sophomore year.

Requirements

Ten courses approved by the Program in Medieval Studies, including two courses in medieval history and one 1000- or 2000-level course that uses primary texts in a medieval language other than Middle English. Interested students are invited to discuss their plans with an appropriate faculty member of the Program. A concentration proposal should be prepared in consultation with the faculty advisor and submitted to the Program Chair for approval.

Under the supervision of the director of the program, students may choose courses from the following:

ENGL 0300F Beowulf to Aphra Behn: The Earliest British Literatures
ENGL 0310F Prose Sagas of the Medieval North
HIAA 0321 Toward a Global Late Antiquity: 200-800 CE
MDVL 0360 Cities: Medieval Perspectives
REL 0410 Christianity in Late Antiquity
REL 0415 Ancient Christian Culture
HIAA 0460 Muslims, Jews and Christians in Medieval Iberia
COLT 0510K The 1001 Nights
HIST 0521A Christianity in Conflict in the Medieval Mediterranean
HIST 0521M The Holy Grail and the Historian's Quest for the Truth
CLAS 0600 The Literary Worlds of Late Antiquity
MDVL 0620 Muslims, Jews, and Christians in Medieval Iberia
HIST 0621B The Search for King Arthur
REL 0640 Dying To Be With God: Jihad, Past and Present
CLAS 0660 The World of Byzantium
JUDS 0681 Great Jewish Books
HISP 0750E Topics in Byzantine History and Civilization
MUSC 0910 Medieval and Renaissance Music
ITAL 1010 Dante in English Translation: Dante's World and the Invention of Modernity
PHIL 1100C Medieval Arabic Philosophy
LATN 1110F Fortunatus
LATN 1110H Literature at the Court of Charlemagne
LATN 1110L Medieval Latin Lyric
GREK 1110Q Greek Erotic Literature: From Plato to the Medieval Romances
GREK 1110T Rhetors and Philosophers: Intellectual Thought and Sophistic Style in the Ancient World
LATN 1120C Survey of Late and Medieval Latin
LATN 1120D Alcuin
CLAS 1120G The Idea of Self
CLAS 1120V The Age of Constantine: The Roman Empire in Transition
HIST 1205 The Long Fall of the Roman Empire
HIST 1210A The Viking Age
HIST 1211 Crusaders and Cathedrals, Deviants and Dominance: Europe in the High Middle Ages
HIST 1260D Living Together: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Medieval Iberia
HIST 1280 Death from Medieval Relics to Forensic Science
REL 1300 Ancient Christianity and the Sensing Body
COLT 1310E A Classical Islamic Education: Readings in Arabic Literature
ENGL 1310T Chaucer
ENGL 1310V Chaucer: The Canterbury Tales
ENGL 1311E History of the English Language
ENGL 1311H Sagas Without Borders: Multilingual Literatures of Early England
ENGL 1311L From Mead-Hall to Mordor: The Celtic and Germanic Roots of Tolkien's Fiction
REL 1325D Desire and the Sacred
HISP 1330T El amor en español
**Honors**

This is awarded to students who present a meritorious honors thesis in addition to completing the required courses of the concentration. The thesis permits the student to synthesize various disciplines or interests, or to pursue a new interest in greater depth. To be eligible for Honors, candidates must complete a minimum of six approved courses in Medieval Studies by the end of their third year with more grades of A than B. Students should apply for admission to Honors and should meet with their faculty advisor(s) no later than spring of the junior year to plan the thesis project. Accepted candidates write the thesis in a two-semester course sequence under the supervision of a director and second reader drawn from the Medieval Studies faculty.

Interested students should contact the concentration advisor for further details or consultation (863-1994).

**Late Antique Cultures Track**

**Requirements:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLAS 1310</td>
<td>Roman History I: The Rise and Fall of an Imperial Republic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One course in Roman history: 1

*Requirements:

Late Antique Cultures Track

One course in Roman history:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLAS 1310</td>
<td>Roman History I: The Rise and Fall of an Imperial Republic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One course at the advanced level (numbered at least 1000) in one approved language 1

Six other courses drawn from appropriate offerings and with the approval of the concentration advisor. These courses should support a concentrational area of special interest.

**Total Credits**: 9

*Note:* The language in most cases will be Latin, but students will present different competencies and interests; other languages, such as Greek, Hebrew, or one of the medieval vernaculars can be substituted for Latin, with the approval of the concentration advisor and in conjunction with a clearly articulated program of study.

Under the supervision of the director of the program, students may choose courses from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLAS 0660</td>
<td>The World of Byzantium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLAS 1120G</td>
<td>The Idea of Self</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLAS 1120V</td>
<td>The Age of Constantine: The Roman Empire in Transition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLAS 1750L</td>
<td>Erotic Desire in the Premodern Mediterranean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLT 0510K</td>
<td>The 1001 Nights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLT 1813P</td>
<td>Captive Imaginations: Writing Prison in the Middle Ages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 0100D</td>
<td>Matters of Romance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 0150C</td>
<td>The Medieval King Arthur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 0300F</td>
<td>Beowulf to Aphra Behn: The Earliest British Literatures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 0310F</td>
<td>Prose Sagas of the Medieval North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1301T</td>
<td>Chaucer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1310V</td>
<td>Chaucer: The Canterbury Tales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1311H</td>
<td>Sagas Without Borders: Multilingual Literatures of Early England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1311L</td>
<td>From Mead-Hall to Mordor: The Celtic and Germanic Roots of Tolkien’s Fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1360F</td>
<td>Quest, Vision, Diaspora: Medieval Journey Narratives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1360H</td>
<td>Introduction to the Old English Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1360J</td>
<td>Middle English Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1360U</td>
<td>Europe in the Vernacular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1361D</td>
<td>Women’s Voices in Medieval Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1900Y</td>
<td>Medieval Manuscript Studies: Paleography, Codicology, and Interpretation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 2360Q</td>
<td>Manuscript, Image, and the Middle English Text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GREK 1110Q</td>
<td>Greek Erotic Literature: From Plato to the Medieval Romances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GREK 1110T</td>
<td>Rhetors and Philosophers: Intellectual Thought and Sophistic Style in the Ancient World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GREK 2110F</td>
<td>Greek Palaeography and Premodern Book Cultures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIAB 0321</td>
<td>Toward a Global Late Antiquity: 200-800 CE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIAB 0460</td>
<td>Muslims, Jews and Christians in Medieval Iberia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIAB 1440B</td>
<td>Architecture of Solitude: The Medieval Monastery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HISP 2030D</td>
<td>Fifteenth-Century Sentimental Romances and Celestina</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Students should apply for admission to Honors and should meet with their faculty advisor(s) no later than spring of the junior year to plan the thesis project. Accepted candidates write the thesis in a two-semester course sequence under the supervision of a director and second reader drawn from the Medieval Studies faculty.**

**Honors**

This is awarded to students who present a meritorious honors thesis in addition to completing the required courses of the concentration. The thesis permits the student to synthesize various disciplines or interests, or to pursue a new interest in greater depth. To be eligible for Honors, candidates must complete a minimum of six approved courses in Medieval Studies by the end of their third year with more grades of A than B. Students should apply for admission to Honors and should meet with their faculty advisor(s) no later than spring of the junior year to plan the thesis project. Accepted candidates write the thesis in a two-semester course sequence under the supervision of a director and second reader drawn from the Medieval Studies faculty.

Interested students should contact the concentration advisor for further details or consultation (863-1994).
Honors

When in Late Antiquity Cultures, these are awarded to students who present a meritorious honors thesis in addition to completing the required courses of the concentration. Application for admission to honors should be made in the spring of the junior year, by which time honors candidates must have completed a minimum of six approved courses in Late Antique Studies. Accepted candidates write the thesis in a two-semester course sequence (MDVL 1990) under the supervision of a director and a second reader to be determined in consultation with the advisor.

### Courses

**MDVL 0015. Sacred Stories (RELS 0015).**
Interested students must register for RELS 0015.

**MDVL 0025. Wealth: Religious Approaches (RELS 0025).**
Interested students must register for RELS 0025.

**MDVL 0041. The Architectures of Islam (HIAA 0041).**
Interested students must register for HIAA 0041.

**MDVL 0100D. Matters of Romance (ENGL 0100D).**
Interested students must register for ENGL 0100D.

**MDVL 0110. Christianity (RELS 0110).**
Interested students must register for RELS 0110.

**MDVL 0150. Islam: An Introduction (RELS 0150).**
Interested students must register for RELS 0150.

**MDVL 0150B. The Philosopher’s Stone: Alchemy From Antiquity to Harry Potter (HIST 0150B).**
Interested students must register for HIST 0150B.

**MDVL 0150C. The Medieval King Arthur (ENGL 0150C).**
Interested students must register for ENGL 0150C.

**MDVL 0150E. Skill: From the Medieval Workshop to the Maker Movement (AMST 0150E).**
Interested students must register for AMST 0150E.

**MDVL 0290D. Women, Sex and Gender in Islam (RELS 0290D).**
Interested students must register for RELS 0290D.

**MDVL 0300F. Beowulf to Aphra Behn: The Earliest British Literature (ENGL 0300F).**
Interested students must register for ENGL 0300F.

**MDVL 0310F. Prose Sagas of the Medieval North (ENGL 0310F).**
Interested students must register for ENGL 0310F.

**MDVL 0310G. Gender and Genre in Medieval Celtic Literatures (ENGL 0310G).**
Interested students must register for ENGL 0310G.

**MDVL 0321. Toward a Global Late Antiquity: 200-800 CE (HIAA 0321).**
Interested students must register for HIAA 0321.

**MDVL 0360. Cities: Medieval Perspectives.**
Where did our modern cities come from? How does the medieval city still live in modernity? In this course, we study histories of cities, their making, transformation, or disappearance, through the lens of a series of medieval urban centers (such as Rome, London, Damascus, Constantinople/Istanbul, and Toledo), some of which had a continued existence into the modern world. We will focus on such topics as: the end of ancient cities; religious beliefs, conflict, and tolerance; the city and its margins; citizens and foreigners; societies without cities; book culture and bureaucracy; the city as metaphor; sex (and romance) and the city.

**MDVL 0410. Christianity in Late Antiquity (RELS 0410).**
Interested students must register for RELS 0410.

**MDVL 0415. Ancient Christian Culture (RELS 0415).**
Interested students must register for RELS 0415.

**MDVL 0460. Muslims, Jews and Christians in Medieval Iberia (HIAA 0460).**
Interested students must register for HIAA 0460.

**MDVL 0510K. The 1001 Nights (COLT 0510K).**
Interested students must register for COLT 0510K.

**MDVL 0521A. Christianity in Conflict in the Medieval Mediterranean (HIST 0521A).**
Interested students must register for HIST 0521A.

**MDVL 0600. Literary Worlds of Late Antiquity (CLAS 0600).**
Interested students must register for CLAS 0600.
MDVL 0620. Muslims, Jews, and Christians in Medieval Iberia.
The cultural diversity of medieval Spain and Portugal is proclaimed by their Christian cathedrals, Islamic palaces, and Jewish synagogues. The three distinct cultures that produced these buildings lived together for centuries in medieval Iberia, sometimes in peace, sometimes not. This *convivencia* of Jews, Muslims, and Christians will be examined from the perspectives of literature, art, architecture, archaeology and history.

MDVL 0640. Dying to Be With God: Jihad, Past and Present (RELS 0640).
Interested students must register for RELS 0640.

MDVL 0660. The World of Byzantium (CLAS 0660).
Interested students must register for CLAS 0660.

Interested students must register for JUDS 0681.

MDVL 0683. Jews and Money (JUDS 0683).
Interested students must register for JUDS 0683.

MDVL 0710D. History of the Spanish Language (HISP 0710D).
Interested students must register for HISP 0710D.

MDVL 0750E. Topics in Hispanic Culture and Civilization (HISP 0750E).
Interested students must register for HISP 0750E.

MDVL 0812H. Literary Bestsellers of the Islamic World (COLT 0812H).
Interested students must register for COLT 0812H.

MDVL 0910. Medieval and Renaissance Music (MUSC 0910).
Interested students must register for MUSC 0910.

MDVL 0980G. The Search for King Arthur (HIST 0621B).
Interested students must register for HIST 0621B.

MDVL 1010. Dante in English Translation: Dante’s World and the Invention of Modernity (ITAL 1010).
Interested students must register for ITAL 1010.

MDVL 1020. Living Together: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Medieval Iberia (HIST 1020).
Interested students must register for HIST 1020.

MDVL 1030. The Long Fall of the Roman Empire (HIST 1030).
Interested students must register for HIST 1030.

MDVL 1100C. Medieval Arabic Philosophy (PHIL 1100C).
Interested students must register for PHIL 1100C.

MDVL 1101F. Fortunatus (LATN 1110F).
Interested students must register for LATN 1110F.

MDVL 1110G. En Marge: Exilés et Hors-la-Loi au Moyen Age (FREN 1110G).
Interested students must register for FREN 1110G.

MDVL 1110H. Literature at the Court of Charlemagne (LATN 1110H).
Interested students must register for LATN 1110H.

MDVL 1110L. Medieval Latin Lyric (LATN 1110L).
Interested students must register for LATN 1110L.

MDVL 1110Q. Greek Erotic Literature: From Plato to the Medieval Romances (GREK 1110Q).
Interested students must register for GREK 1110Q.

MDVL 1110T. Rhetors and Philosophers: Intellectual Thought and Sophistic Style in the Ancient World (GREK 1110T).
Interested students must register for GREK 1110T.

MDVL 1120C. Survey of Late and Medieval Latin (LATN 1120C).
Interested students must register for LATN 1120C.

MDVL 1120D. Alcuin (LATN 1120D).
Interested students must register for LATN 1120D.

MDVL 1120G. The Idea of Self (CLAS 1120G).
Interested students must register for CLAS 1120G.

MDVL 1120V. The Age of Constantine: The Roman Empire in Transition (CLAS 1120V).
Interested students must register for CLAS 1120V.

MDVL 1205. The Long Fall of the Roman Empire (HIST 1205).
Interested students must register for HIST 1205.

MDVL 1210C. History of the Spanish Language (HISP 1210C).
Interested students must register for HISP 1210C.

MDVL 1211. Crusaders and Cathedrals: Europe in the High Middle Ages (HIST 1211).
Interested students must register for HIST 1211.

Interested students must register for ARCH 1220.

MDVL 1260D. Living Together: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Medieval Iberia (HIST 1260D).
Interested students must register for HIST 1260D.

MDVL 1280. Death from Medieval Relics to Forensic Science (HIST 1280).
Interested students must register for HIST 1280.

MDVL 1300. Ancient Christianity and the Sensing Body (RELS 1300).
Interested students must register for RELS 1300.

MDVL 1310E. A Classical Islamic Education: Readings in Arabic Literature (COLT 1310E).
Interested students must register for COLT 1310E.

MDVL 1310T. Chaucer (ENGL 1310T).
Interested students must register for ENGL 1310T.

MDVL 1310V. Chaucer: The Canterbury Tales (ENGL 1310V).
Interested students must register for ENGL 1310V.

MDVL 1311E. History of the English Language (ENGL 1311E).
Interested students must register for ENGL1311E.

Interested students must register for ENGL 1311H.

MDVL 1311L. From Mead-Hall to Mordor: The Celtic and Germanic Roots of Tolkien’s Fiction (ENGL 1311L).
Interested students must register for ENGL 1311L.

MDVL 1325C. The Virgin Mary in Christian Tradition (RELS 1325C).
Interested students must register for RELS 1325C.

MDVL 1325D. Desire and the Sacred (RELS 1325D).
Interested students must register for RELS 1325D.

MDVL 1330T. El amor en español (HISP 1330T).
Interested students must register for HISP 1330T.

MDVL 1360F. Quest, Vision, Diaspora: Medieval Journey Narratives (ENGL 1360F).
Interested students must register for ENGL 1360F.

MDVL 1360H. Introduction to the Old English Language (ENGL 1360H).
Interested students must register for ENGL 1360H.

MDVL 1360J. Middle English Literature (ENGL 1360J).
Interested students must register for ENGL 1360J.

MDVL 1360U. Europe in the Vernacular (ENGL 1360U).
Interested students must register for ENGL 1360U.

MDVL 1361D. Women’s Voices in Medieval Literature (ENGL 1361D).
Interested students must register for ENGL 1361D.

MDVL 1361J. Seminar in Old Norse-Icelandic Language and Literature (ENGL 1361J).
Interested students must register for ENGL 1361J.

MDVL 1361K. Seminar in the Old English Language II (ENGL 1361K).
Interested students must register for ENGL 1361K.

MDVL 1440. The Ottomans: Faith, Law, Empire (HIST 1440).
Interested students must register for HIST 1440.
MDVL 1440B. Architecture of Solitude: The Medieval Monastery (HIAA 1440B).
Interested students must register for HIAA 1440B.

MDVL 1440E. The Body and the Senses in Medieval Art (HIAA 1440E).
Interested students must register for HIAA 1440E.

MDVL 1520. Pilgrimage and Sacred Travel in the Lands of Islam (RELS 1520).
Interested students must register for RELS 1520.

MDVL 1530. Methods and Approaches to Islamic Studies (RELS 1530).
Interested students must register for RELS 1530D.

MDVL 1560A. Italy and the Mediterranean (HIAA 1560A).
Interested students must register for HIAA 1560A.

MDVL 1600. Astronomy Before the Telescope (ASYR 1600).
Interested students must register ASYR 1600.

MDVL 1610. The Divina Commedia: Inferno and Purgatorio (ITAL 1610).
Interested students must register for ITAL 1610.

MDVL 1630. The Talmud (JUDS 1630).
Interested students must register for JUDS 1630.

MDVL 1744. Difficult Relations? Judaism and Christianity from the Middle Ages until the Present (JUDS 1744).
Interested students must register for JUDS 1744.

MDVL 1750L. Erotic Desire in the Premodern Mediterranean (CLAS 1750L).
Interested students must register for CLAS 1750L.

MDVL 1801. Jewish Magic (JUDS 1801).
Interested students must register for JUDS 1801.

MDVL 1813P. Captive Imaginations: Writing Prison in the Middle Ages (COLT 1813P).
Interested students must register for COLT 1813P.

MDVL 1835A. Unearthing the Body: History, Archaeology, and Biology at the End of Antiquity (HIST 1835A).
Interested students must register for HIST 1835A.

MDVL 1900Y. Medieval Manuscript Studies: Paleography, Codicology, and Interpretation (ENGL 1900Y).
Interested students must register for ENGL 1900Y.

Interested students must register for HIST 1963L.

Interested students must register for HIST 1976R.

Interested students must register for HIST 1979H.

Independent research and writing on a topic of special interest to the student, under the direction of a faculty member. Required of candidates for honors. Permission should be obtained from the Director of the Program in Medieval Studies.

MDVL 2030D. Fifteenth-Century Sentimental Romances and Celestina (HISP 2030D).
Interested students must register for HISP 2030D.

MDVL 2040D. Arts du récit, 1100-1400 (FREN 2040D).
Interested students must register for FREN 2040D.

MDVL 2110F. Greek Palaeography and Premodern Book Cultures (GREK 2110F).
Interested students must register for GREK 2110F.

MDVL 2360Q. Manuscript, Image, and the Middle English Text (ENGL 2360Q).
Interested students must register for ENGL 2360Q.

MDVL 2970A. New Perspectives on Medieval History (HIST 2970A).
Interested students must register for HIST 2970A.

MDVL 2971I. New Perspectives on Medieval History (HIST 2971I).
Interested students must register for HIST 2971I.
Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Helvetica was used instead of Arial.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.