

Early Modern World

The Concentration in Early Modern World promotes interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches to historical cultures around the world between the waning of feudalism and the arrival of global industrial capitalism, from the 1300s to the end of the 1800s. Students take courses in a wide range of departments and with faculty affiliated with the Center for the Study of the Early Modern World. Concentrators have the opportunity to be mentored by faculty, staff at the special collections libraries at Brown, and graduate students working on contiguous topics.

Students are invited to take advantage of this breadth of offerings to enhance their understanding of the period, as well as to gain a sense of the uses, limitations, and interrelationships of particular disciplinary approaches.

The Center for the Study of the Early Modern World promotes interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches to historical cultures around the world between the waning of feudalism and the arrival of global industrial capitalism, from the 1300s to the end of the 1800s. Characterized by new global aspirations as well as new modes of domination, resistance, and conflict, this period yielded significant technological transformations and cultural inventions whose study contributes to the historical understanding of the modern world.

Students take courses in a wide range of departments in the humanities and social sciences and from faculty affiliated with the Center. Students are invited to take advantage of this breadth of offerings in order to enhance their understanding of the period as well as to gain a sense of the uses, limitations, and interrelationships of particular disciplinary approaches.

Requirements

Concentrators are required to take a minimum of eight courses. These include the following:

- Three courses on early modern topics in one field in which the student has primary interest or training, e.g., literature, history of art and architecture, or history.
- Three courses related to the early modern period chosen from two other fields.
- A senior project. The senior project constitutes the capstone for all concentrators. Examples of possible senior projects include a senior thesis (roughly equivalent to a senior seminar paper), the staging of an early modern play, the performance of early modern music, or an exhibition. The final project will be developed in consultation with two faculty advisors who work closely with the student. Credit is granted through registration for Independent Study in the department for which the topic of research lies.
- Other relevant courses of the student's choosing.

In addition, the student must be able to demonstrate a reading knowledge of a relevant modern or ancient language other than English. This language requirement does not count as one of the eight courses.

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

HIAA 0062	Dutch and Flemish Art: Visual Culture of the Netherlands in the Seventeenth Century
ENGL 0100C	Altered States
ENGL 0150D	Shakespeare's Present Tense
HIST 0286A	History of Medicine I: Medical Traditions in the Old World Before 1700
ENGL 0310A	Shakespeare
ENGL 0310E	Shakespeare: The Screenplays
HIAA 0550	Painters, Builders, and Bankers in Early Modern Italy
HIAA 0560	Constructing the Eternal City: Popes and Pilgrims in Early Modern Rome

HIAA 0630	Cultural History of the Netherlands in a Golden Age and a Global Age
COLT 0710I	New Worlds: Reading Spaces and Places in Colonial Latin America
FREN 0720A	De l'Amour courtois au désir postmoderne
POBS 0910	On the Dawn of Modernity
ITAL 0981	When Leaders Lie: Machiavelli in International Context
FREN 1030A	L'univers de la Renaissance: XVe et XVIe siècles
FREN 1030B	The French Renaissance: The Birth of Modernity?
FREN 1040B	Pouvoirs de la scène: le théâtre du XVIIe siècle
FREN 1040C	Le Grand Siècle à l'écran
FREN 1040D	Molière et son monde
ENGL 1310A	Firing the Canon: Early Modern Women's Writing
ENGL 1310H	The Origins of American Literature
ENGL 1310J	Imagining the Individual in Renaissance England
ENGL 1310O	Restoration and Early Eighteenth-Century Literature
ENGL 1360K	Shakespeare and Company
ENGL 1360P	Shakespearean Tragedy
ENGL 1360S	Between Gods and Beasts: The Renaissance Ovid
ENGL 1360Z	Shakespeare and Embodiment
ITAL 1400J	The Many Faces of Casanova
COLT 1410P	Shakespeare
HIAA 1560A	Italy and the Mediterranean
ITAL 1580	Word, Image and Power in Early Modern Italy
HIAA 1600I	Collections and Visual Knowledge in Early Modern Europe: 1400-1800
JUDS 1751	Jews Between Christians and Muslims in the Early Modern World
HIST 1825H	Science, Medicine and Technology in the 17th Century
ENGL 1950A	Form and Feeling in Renaissance Poetry
HIST 1964A	Age of Impostors: Fraud, Identification, and the Self in Early Modern Europe
HIST 1974M	Early Modern Globalization
EMOW 1980	Independent Study in EMOW
LATN 2000A	Senecan Tragedy
FREN 2130E	Corps et esprits libertins
FREN 2130F	Façons d'aimer: Discourses of Sexuality in Early Modern France
HISP 2160G	Don Quixote: Contexts and Constructions
ENGL 2360O	Irony and Satire
ENGL 2360P	Thinking with Romance in the Renaissance
ENGL 2360S	Alternative Miltons
HISP 2520I	Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz in Her Literary Context
ITAL 2550	Gender Matters

Liberal Learning

This concentration develops aesthetic awareness, close reading skills, collaborative skills, cultural understanding, facility with symbolic languages, historical awareness as well as speaking and writing skills.

Honors

Interested and eligible students petition to write a thesis and the faculty chooses the Honors group for that year from the applications, making every effort to accommodate all eligible proposals. Selection is based upon the quality of the application, the preparedness of the student to undertake the project, and the availability of appropriate advisors for the subject.

Students accepted in the Honors program sign up for EMOW 1980 in the Fall and again in the Spring, with the section number of their advisor (REMS 1980 will become EMOW 1980 as of Fall 2019). Students must meet regularly with their advisors and second readers throughout the year according to a schedule determined by each student and advisor. Finished drafts of the thesis (which will be about 35 pages in length, not counting bibliography and visual or other supporting materials) will be due to the advisor and second reader on April 1 of the Spring semester. Comments will be returned to the students for final polishing and corrections at that point. Students will receive Honors when both their primary advisor and their second reader have provided written statements in support of the finished project. The finished paper, which should be a polished and revised, edited, professional work of original research, will be made available to the entire Early Modern World faculty for comments. There will be a public presentation of the Honors work at the end of the Spring semester.

Students planning a December graduation will not be eligible for the Honors Thesis program, but they are welcome to work out other ways to pursue projects of independent interest in consultation with an academic advisor.

Students wishing to write an honors thesis must have an A average in the concentration, which means that they will not have received more than one "B" or "S" in any course used for the concentration. Classes taken S/NC may be considered as qualifying the student for Honors if they are marked "S with distinction," meaning that had the student taken the course for a grade, the grade would have been an "A." It is advisable for them to have taken at least one class with the person who will advise the thesis, and have already written a research paper before choosing to undertake this year-long writing project. Honors students are strongly encouraged not to take more than 4 classes either semester of their senior year—the Honors class being considered one of the four classes.

Honors Application Process

Applications are due to the Director of Center for the Study of the Early Modern World in mid-April of the student's junior year. Each application shall consist of:

1. A very brief (one or two paragraph) cover letter identifying the most appropriate advisor and second readers, and stating also the student's preparation for the project. Second readers may be professors who work in areas related to the topic, or in some very special cases (and with the advisor's approval) may be practitioners with whom the student already worked closely, for example.
2. A two-page double-spaced abstract stating and explaining the topic (subject and argument) of the research to be undertaken, written as clearly as possible.
3. A one-page working bibliography of the most relevant books and major articles to be consulted for the project.
4. A current resumé.
5. A printout of the most recent transcript.