Medieval Cultures

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

A traditional area of study in Medieval Cultures 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:

- RELS 0025 Wealth: Religious Approaches
- JUDS 0050M Difficult Relations? Judaism and Christianity from the Middle Ages until the Present
- ENGL 0100D Matters of Romance
- RELS 0110 Christians
- RELS 0150 Islam Unveiled
- HIST 0150B The Philosophers’ Stone: Alchemy From Antiquity to Harry Potter
- ENGL 0150C The Medieval King Arthur
- RELS 0290D Islamic Sexualities
- ENGL 0300F Beowulf to Apha 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
- RELS 0410 Ancient Christianity: Jesus to Muhammad
- RELS 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
- RELS 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 Hispanic Culture and Civilization
MUSC 0910 Medieval and Renaissance Music
ITAL 1010 Dante in English Translation: Dante's World and the Invention of Modernity
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
RELS 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
RELS 1325D Desire and the Sacred
HISP 1330T El amor en español
ENGL 1360F Quest, Vision, Diaspora: Medieval Journey Narratives
ENGL 1360H Introduction to the Old English Language
ENGL 1360J Middle English Literature
ENGL 1360U Europe in the Vernacular
ENGL 1361D Women's Voices in Medieval Literature
ENGL 1361K Seminar in the Old English Language II
HIST 1440 The Ottomans: Faith, Law, Empire
HIAA 1440B The Architecture of Solitude: The Medieval Monastery
RELS 1520 Pilgrimage and Sacred Travel in the Lands of Islam
RELS 1530A Methods and Problems in Islamic Studies: Narratives
RELS 1530D Medieval Islamic Sectarianism
HIAA 1560A Italy and the Mediterranean
ASYR 1600 Astronomy Before the Telescope
JUDS 1630 The Talmud
CLAS 1750L Erotic Desire in the Premodern Mediterranean
COLT 1813P Captive Imaginations: Writing Prison in the Middle Ages
## 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:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLAS 1310</td>
<td>Roman History I: The Rise and Fall of an Imperial Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLAS 1320</td>
<td>Roman History II: The Roman Empire and its Impact (recommended)</td>
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One course in Roman history: 1

One class in medieval history 1

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. 6

**Total Credits: 9**

1 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:

- CLAS 0660 The World of Byzantium
- CLAS 1120G The Idea of Self
- CLAS 1120V The Age of Constantine: The Roman Empire in Transition
- CLAS 1750L Erotic Desire in the Premodern Mediterranean
- COLT 0510K The 1001 Nights
- HIST 1211 Crusaders and Cathedrals, Deviants and Dominance: Europe in the High Middle Ages
- HIST 1963L Barbarians, Byzantines, and Berbers: Early Medieval North Africa, AD 300-1050
- HIST 1963Q Sex, Power, and God: A Medieval Perspective
- HIST 1963M Charlemagne: Conquest, Empire, and the Making of the Middle Ages
- HIST 1974M Early Modern Globalization
- HIST 2970A New Perspectives on Medieval History
- ENGL 0100D Matters of Romance
- ENGL 0150C The Medieval King Arthur
- ENGL 0300F Beowulf to Aphra Behn: The Earliest British Literatures
- ENGL 0310F Prose Sagas of the Medieval North
- ENGL 1310T Chaucer
- ENGL 1310V Chaucer: The Canterbury Tales
- 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
- ENGL 1360F Quest, Vision, Diaspora: Medieval Journey Narratives
- ENGL 1360H Introduction to the Old English Language
- ENGL 1360J Middle English Literature
- ENGL 1360U Europe in the Vernacular
- ENGL 1361D Women’s Voices in Medieval Literature
- ENGL 1900Y Medieval Manuscript Studies: Paleography, Codicology, and Interpretation
- ENGL 2360Q Manuscript, Image, and the Middle English Text
- 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
- GREK 2110F Greek Palaeography and Premodern Book Cultures
- HIAA 0460 Muslims, Jews and Christians in Medieval Iberia
- HIAA 1440B The Architecture of Solitude: The Medieval Monastery
- HISP 0521A Christianity in Conflict in the Medieval Mediterranean
- HISP 0521M The Holy Grail and the Historian's Quest for the Truth
- HIST 0621B The Search for King Arthur
- HIST 1205 The Long Fall of the Roman Empire
- HIST 1210A The Viking Age
- HIST 1260D Living Together: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Medieval Iberia
- HIST 1211 Crusaders and Cathedrals, Deviants and Dominance: Europe in the High Middle Ages
- HIST 1963Q Sex, Power, and God: A Medieval Perspective
- COLT 1813P Captive Imaginations: Writing Prison in the Middle Ages
- HIST 1970Q fifteenth-century sentimental romances
- HISP 2030D Fifteenth-Century Sentimental Romances and Celestina
- GREEK 2110F Greek Palaeography and Premodern Book Cultures
- HIAA 0321 Toward a Global Late Antiquity:200-800 CE
- HIAA 0460 Muslims, Jews and Christians in Medieval Iberia
- HIAA 1440B The Architecture of Solitude: The Medieval Monastery
- HISP 2030D Fifteenth-Century Sentimental Romances and Celestina
- HIST 0150B The Philosophers’ Stone: Alchemy From Antiquity to Harry Potter
- HIST 0521A Christianity in Conflict in the Medieval Mediterranean
- HIST 0521M The Holy Grail and the Historian’s Quest for the Truth
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- HIST 1211 Crusaders and Cathedrals, Deviants and Dominance: Europe in the High Middle Ages
- HIST 1963L Barbarians, Byzantines, and Berbers: Early Medieval North Africa, AD 300-1050
- HIST 1963Q Sex, Power, and God: A Medieval Perspective
- HIST 1963M Charlemagne: Conquest, Empire, and the Making of the Middle Ages
- HIST 1974M Early Modern Globalization
- HIST 2970A New Perspectives on Medieval History
Honors

When in Late Antique 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.