Medieval Studies

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Web: http://medieval.uchicago.edu

Program of Study

The B.A. program in medieval studies aims to acquaint students with a broad range of medieval materials from a variety of perspectives (e.g., historical, literary, artistic, theological) as a preparation for writing a B.A. paper on some aspect of medieval civilization. Students investigate the Middle Ages through studies in historical, literary, and adjunct areas.

Program Requirements

Students interested in majoring in medieval studies should consult the program coordinator by Autumn Quarter of their third year. Twelve courses are required, including at least three courses basically historical in nature, three courses of linguistic character, and two courses in other disciplines (e.g., art, music, philosophy, theology). Students should determine these courses in consultation with the program coordinator.

Students are also expected to demonstrate competence in reading one language in which a significant body of medieval source material exists. Such competence is demonstrated primarily through the language courses and through the use of source materials in the B.A. paper. Latin is strongly urged for those working in Western materials, but other options (particularly for students interested in Byzantine, Jewish, or Muslim cultures) are available. Students should consult the program coordinator regarding the three-course language requirement, which is to be used for acquiring language skills, if necessary, beyond the College language competency requirement and for reading medieval texts.

The program also requires all students to participate in a one-quarter reading and research course, usually in Autumn Quarter of their fourth year, with a member of the committee who has agreed to advise them in planning and writing the B.A. paper; students should register for a reading course in this committee member’s department. Their completed paper will typically be read by at least two members of the committee representing different academic departments.
Summary of Requirements

3 courses in historical studies
3 courses in language studies
2 courses in adjunct areas
3 electives
1 reading and research course
B.A. paper

Grading. All courses must be taken for a quality grade.

Honors. Consideration for honors is individually arranged with the program coordinator. For candidacy, a student must have completed a B.A. paper of the highest quality, and have a GPA of at least 3.0 overall and at least 3.5 within the major.

Faculty

Courses (Autumn 2006 to Spring 2007)

Historical and Civilization Studies


Linguistic and Literary Studies


ENGL 15204/35204. Old English Seminar: Unworthy Bodies—The Other Texts of the Beowulf Manuscript. PQ: ENGL 14900/34900 or equivalent. The class meets at the Newberry Library. For further information, contact Christina von Nolcken. S. Kim. Winter.


ITAL 10400-10500-10600. Italian through Dante, I, II III. Not open to students who have taken ITAL 10100-10200-10300. E. Weaver. Autumn, Winter, Spring.

ITAL 20700. Survey I: Letteratura italiana dal Duecento al Quattrocento. PQ: ITAL 20300 or consent of instructor. J. Steinberg. Autumn.


ITAL 23600/33600. Il poema epico-cavalleresco del Quattrocento. PQ: ITAL 20300 or consent of instructor. E. Weaver. Autumn.

MUSI 27100. History of Western Music to 1600. A. Robertson. Autumn.


SLAV 22000/32000. Old Church Slavonic. (=LGLN 25100/35100) PQ: Knowledge of another Slavic language or good knowledge of another one or two old Indo-European languages. V. Friedman. Winter.

SPAN 10400-10500-10600. Spanish through Cervantes. Not open to students who have taken SPAN 10100-10200-10300. Autumn, Winter, Spring.
