Medieval Studies

Program Chair: Christina von Nolcken, W 414, 702.8024, mcv4@uchicago.edu
Program Coordinator: Amy Schulz, W 416, 702.7092, aschulz@uchicago.edu
Web: medieval.uchicago.edu

Program of Study

The BA 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 BA paper on some aspect of medieval civilization. Students investigate the Middle Ages through studies in historical, literary, and adjunct areas. Interested students are encouraged to attend the medieval studies workshop. For more information, visit cas.uchicago.edu/workshops/medieval.

Program Requirements

Students interested in majoring in medieval studies must 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 BA 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 BA 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 or literary studies
- 2 courses in adjunct areas
- 3 electives
- 1 reading and research course
- 1 BA paper
- 12 credits

**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 BA 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 2010 to Spring 2011)**

*Please also consult Departmental listings.*


**ARTH 16709. Islamic Art and Architecture, 1100 to 1500.** (=NEAA 10630) P. Berlekamp. Spring.

**ARTH 17211. Arts of Medieval Japan.** (=NEAA 10630) C. Foxwell. Winter.

**ARTH 17311. The Art of the Book in the Middle Ages.** A. Kumler. Spring.


**ENGL 14900/34900. Old English.** C. von Nolcken. Autumn.

**ENGL 15106/35106. Old English Seminar: Masculinity and the Anglo-Saxons.** PQ: ENGL 14900/34900 or equivalent. This seminar meets at the Newberry Library. A. Frantzen. Winter.


**ENGL 15600. Medieval English Literature.** M. Sauve. Autumn.


**HIST 21701/31701. Byzantine Empire, 330 to 610.** W. Kaegi. Autumn.

**HIST 21702/31702. Byzantine Empire, 610 to 1025.** W. Kaegi. Spring.


**HIST 22203/32203. The Holy Roman Empire, 962 to 1356.** J. Lyon. Spring.

**HIST 22403. The Crusades and the Medieval West.** J. Lyon. Winter.

**HIST 23310/33310. Animals in the Middle Ages.** R. Fulton. Autumn.

**HIST 25701/35701. North Africa: Late Antiquity to Islam.** (=CLAS 30200, CLCV 20200, NEHC 20634/30634) W. Kaegi. Autumn.


**ITAL 21900/31900. Dante’s Divine Comedy I: Inferno.** J. Steinberg. Autumn.

**ITAL 22000/32000. Dante’s Divine Comedy II: Purgatorio.** J. Steinberg. Winter.

**ITAL 21900/31900 Dante’s Divine Comedy III: Paradiso.** J. Steinberg. Spring.


**NEHC 20405/30405. Jewish Thought and Literature II: Rabbinic Judaism from the Mishnah to Maimonides.** (=JWSC 20005) Winter.


NEHC 20602/30602. Islamic Thought and Literature II. (=SOSC 22100) F. Lewis. Winter.

NEHC 20840/30840. Radical Islamic Pieties, 1200 to 1600. (=HIST 25901/35901, RLST 20840) C. Fleischer. 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. Y. Gorbachov. Winter.


SPAN 21703. Literatura hispánica: textos clásicos. PQ: SPAN 20300 or consent of instructor. R. Giles. Spring.
