MEDIEVAL STUDIES, MINOR

Requirements for a minor may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the minor. Students may not change from a campus that offers their major to a campus that does not offer their major for the purpose of completing a minor.

Program Description

The Medieval Studies minor encourages an interdisciplinary approach to the diverse and interconnected cultures of Europe and the Mediterranean rim between the fifth and the fifteenth centuries and to contact zones in the Americas, Near East, and the northwestern Pacific. Students survey and evaluate key dimensions of the medieval period across disciplinary boundaries. They develop skills in critical writing and in analyzing documents, monuments, contexts, and conventions of expression; consider emerging fields such as digital humanities and new media; and examine the abiding cross-cultural and trans-historical significance of historical, social, religious, creative, and linguistic developments from the medieval period. The minor allows students to combine courses, guided readings, and research projects in fields such as history, art, archaeology, literature, languages, philosophy, and religious studies.

What is Medieval Studies?

Medieval Studies is an interdisciplinary field that ranges widely across periods and geographies. We usually imagine the Middle Ages as the millennium between the end of classical antiquity and the start of the Renaissance. But concepts and institutions that we take as distinctively modern—the individual, companionate marriage, the state, vernacular languages as expressions of national identity—begin in the Middle Ages. And the Middle Ages return as a powerful source for imaginative expression in the art and literature of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and in digital culture in the twenty-first century.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You want to grow as an analytical thinker with good writing skills, the ability to synthesize disparate materials, and a deep sense of context.
- You have an interest in studying a rich and dynamic period, and wish to further understand the time through its history, literature, philosophy, and culture.

Program Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Minor</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Requirements for the Minor

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the minor, as specified by Senate Policy 59-10 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/59-00-minors-and-certificates/#59-10).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDVL/HIST 107</td>
<td>Medieval Europe</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEDVL 108</td>
<td>Medieval Civilization</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
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Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

Select 12 credits (at least 6 credits at the 400-level) of the following:

12 credits

Art History

- ARTH 111 Ancient to Medieval Art
- ARTH 140 Introduction to the Art and Architecture of the Mayas, Aztecs, and Incas
- ARTH 201 Ancient to Medieval Architecture
- ARTH 302 Art of the Early Middle Ages
- ARTH 312 Romanesque and Gothic Art
- ARTH 330 Islamic Architecture and Art
- ARTH 402 The Illuminated Manuscript
- ARTH 412 The Gothic Cathedral
- ARTH 413 Architecture of the Medieval Monastery
- ARTH 422 Studies in Medieval Sculpture
- ARTH 442 Late Antique and Early Christian Art
- ARTH 452 Byzantine Art
- ARTH 460 Art and Empire: Aztec, Inca and Spanish

History

- HIST 105 The Byzantine Empire
- HIST 108 The Crusades: Holy War in the Middle Ages
- HIST 141 Medieval and Modern Russia
- HIST 165 Islamic States, Societies and Cultures c. 600-1500
- HIST 406 Research in Medieval Sources
- HIST 407 Early Medieval Society
- HIST 408 Church and State in the High Middle Ages
- HIST 411 Medieval Britain
- HIST 412 Intellectual History of the Middle Ages
- HIST 413 Medieval Celtic Studies
- HIST 471 Classical Islamic Civilization, 600-1258
- HIST 480 Japan in the Age of Warriors

Literature and Language

- CMLIT 1 Introduction to Western Literatures Through the Renaissance
- CMLIT 106 The Arthurian Legend
- ENGL 221W British Literature to 1798
- GER 175 Germanic Heroic and Medieval Literature in English Translation
- HEBR 10 Jewish Civilization
- SPAN 130 Iberian Civilization
- FR 351 French and Francophone Literature I
- IT 330W Greatest Books of Italian Literature
- SPAN 353 Topics in the Cultures of Spain
- CMLIT 401 The Western Literary Heritage I
- CMLIT 408 Heroic Literature
- ENGL 441 Chaucer
- ENGL 442 Medieval English Literature
- GER 430 History of the German Language
- GER 431 History of German Literature and Culture I
- IT 415 Dante
- IT 490 Dante in Translation
- SPAN 418 The Evolution of Spanish

Medieval Studies

- MEDVL 197 Special Topics
- MEDVL 199 Foreign Studies
- MEDVL 294 Research Project
Universities such as Oxford, Catholic University, Bryn Mawr, St. Andrews, and Dublin. Many students continue their work in medieval studies or related fields like art, music, theatre, literature, history, or philosophy at the graduate level.

**Contact**

**University Park**

MEDIEVAL STUDIES  
108 Weaver Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
814-865-1367  
rre1@psu.edu  
http://www.medieval.la.psu.edu/

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### Academic Advising

The objectives of the university’s academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee’s unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information need to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy)

### University Park

**Liberal Arts Academic Advising**  
814-865-2545  
http://starfish.psu.edu  
http://www.la.psu.edu/current-students/undergraduate-students/education/majors-and-minors

### Career Paths

A minor in Medieval Studies prepares students for those careers which require a broad knowledge of the humanities. Many students combine a Medieval Studies major with a major such as art history, broadcasting, art, language and literature, political science or any of the liberal arts majors, or students may take courses in areas like economics, speech communication, and sociology.

### Careers

- Publishing
- Teaching
- Museum Curatorship
- Archiving
- Business
- Medicine

### Opportunities for Graduate Studies

Graduate work is required for teaching at the college or university level. Former students in the Penn State major have continued their studies at...