

MEDIEVAL STUDIES, CERTIFICATE

Medieval Studies offers students interdisciplinary perspectives on the history and culture of Europe and the Mediterranean rim between ca. 300–1500. Courses spanning 18 departments allow students to explore the medieval world from the standpoints of art, visual and material culture, history, law, languages and literature, music, philosophy, religious studies, and the history of science and medicine. The certificate in Medieval Studies is designed to encourage the pursuit of interdisciplinary work across several departments.

The Middle Ages was a dynamic period of transcontinental trade and travel that fostered cultural, technological, and scientific interactions among the kingdoms and city states of Western Europe, the Byzantine (East Roman) Empire, and the Islamic caliphates that eventually encompassed much of Spain, north Africa, and the Middle East. It is also known that the Norse (Vikings) established settlements in North America as early as ca. 1000, some 500 years before Columbus.

In Western Europe, the Middle Ages laid the foundations of constitutional government and modern nation-states, instituted a system of trial by jury, and developed the first universities along with the concept of a liberal arts curriculum (encompassing both arts and sciences). The period also saw the development of English, Germanic, Scandinavian, and romance languages (Italian, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Romanian), which by the end of the fourteenth century came to eclipse Latin as vehicles for secular poetry and prose. Further east, Greek dominated the territory of the Byzantine Empire, while the foundation of the Kyivan Rus coincided with the development of Cyrillic script used by many Slavic and non-Slavic languages. The Islamic world saw the wide diffusion of Arabic languages and literature, including scientific works which served to mediate knowledge of Greek natural philosophy and medical science to Western Europe.

Other significant cultural developments include the development of the codex, or book, often with elaborate programs of visual imagery and diagrams, the innovation of musical notation and early forms of polyphony, the application of optical science to urban planning and of one-point perspective to painting (especially in Italy), and the refinement of structural engineering that led to the soaring light-filled architecture of Gothic cathedrals in Western Europe and the expansive centralized domed spaces of the Byzantine Empire and related Orthodox states, as well as the Islamic world.

The program's focus is embodied in the interdisciplinary courses devoted to the history and culture of the Middle Ages that are regularly offered across campus by participating departments and programs. The program cross-lists many of these courses, helps to publicize courses with medieval subject matter that are not permanently cross-listed, and offers opportunities for students to undertake independent study projects with participating faculty members. It also regularly organizes public programming on specific themes with the support of the Anonymous Fund, the Center for the Humanities, the Institute for Research in the Humanities, and affiliated departments and programs.

In addition to departments and programs that regularly offer courses counting towards the Medieval Studies certificate—including Art History, CANES (Classical and Near Eastern Studies), English, French and Italian, Integrated Liberal Studies, German/Nordic/Slavic+ (including Folklore

and Scandinavian Studies), History, History of Medicine, History of Science, Jewish Studies, Religious Studies, and Spanish and Portuguese—the following departments and programs occasionally offer courses on medieval topics: African Studies, Asian Languages and Culture, Music, Philosophy, and Political Science.

Like a minor, the certificate documents a student's pursuit of a rigorous course of study in addition to the major(s). It attests to ambitious intellectual goals as well as the ability to imagine historical problems in transnational and transcultural perspectives. As a credential, it demonstrates a capacity for comparative critical thinking and analysis, skills that appeal to a wide range of potential employers.

HOW TO GET IN

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Students interested in working toward the certificate should contact the director of Medieval Studies as early in their degree program as possible. The director serves as the undergraduate advisor for all students pursuing the certificate. For further information see the Medieval Studies website (<http://www.medievalstudies.wisc.edu/>).

REQUIREMENTS

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The certificate requires the completion of **five courses (15 credits)** in the medieval area, according to the following distributional requirements.

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Code	Title	Credits
Complete one of the following:		3–4
HISTORY 115	Medieval Europe 410–1500	
ILS 201	Western Culture: Science, Technology, Philosophy I	
HIST SCI 201	The Origins of Scientific Thought	
ENGL 241	Literature and Culture I: to the 18th Century	
ART HIST 201	History of Western Art I: From Pyramids to Cathedrals	
Complete two courses from Category A ("The Middle Ages through History and Social Sciences").¹		6
Complete two courses from Category B ("The Middle Ages through Language, Literature and the Arts").¹		6
Total Credits		15

¹ For a list of which individual courses count toward Category A and which toward Category B, see the course lists below.

CATEGORY A COURSE LIST

Code	Title	Credits
Category A Courses		
HISTORY 115	Medieval Europe 410–1500	4

HISTORY/ RELIG ST 205	The Making of the Islamic World: The Middle East, 500-1500	3-4	ART HIST 525	Proseminar in Italian Renaissance Art	3
HISTORY/ RELIG ST 208	Western Intellectual and Religious History to 1500	3-4	ART HIST 535	Proseminar in Northern European Painting	3
HISTORY/ RELIG ST 212	The History of Western Christianity to 1750	4	ENGL 177	Literature and Popular Culture	3
HISTORY/ MEDIEVAL/ RELIG ST 309	The Crusades: Christianity and Islam	3-4	ENGL 241	Literature and Culture I: to the 18th Century	3
HISTORY 417	History of Russia	3-4	ENGL 314	Structure of English	3
HISTORY/ LEGAL ST 426	The History of Punishment	3-4	ENGL/HISTORY/ RELIG ST 360	The Anglo-Saxons	3
HISTORY/ SCAND ST 431	History of Scandinavia to 1815	3	ENGL 417	History of the English Language	3
HIST SCI/ MEDIEVAL 322	Ancient and Medieval Science	3	ENGL 422	Outstanding Figure(s) in Literature before 1800	3
HIST SCI/ S&A PHM 401	History of Pharmacy	2	ENGL/ MEDIEVAL 423	Topic in Medieval Literature and Culture	3
HISTORY/ LEGAL ST 476	Medieval Law and Society	3	ENGL/ MEDIEVAL 424	Medieval Drama	3
ILS 201	Western Culture: Science, Technology, Philosophy I	3	ENGL/ MEDIEVAL 425	Medieval Romance	3
ILS 205	Western Culture: Political, Economic, and Social Thought I	3	ENGL/ MEDIEVAL 426	Chaucers Courtly Poetry	3
INTL ST 266	Introduction to the Middle East	3	ENGL/ MEDIEVAL 427	Chaucer's Canterbury Tales	3
PHILOS/JEWISH/ RELIG ST 435	Jewish Philosophy from Antiquity to the Seventeenth Century	3	ENGL/ MEDIEVAL 520	Old English	3
			ENGL/ MEDIEVAL 521	Advanced Old English Literature	3
			ENGL 546	Topic in Travel Writing before 1800	3
			FRENCH 347	Medieval and Early Modern Culture	3
			FRENCH 430	Readings in Medieval and Renaissance Literature	3
			GERMAN 650	History of the German Language	3
			GERMAN/ MEDIEVAL 651	Introduction to Middle High German	3
			ILS 203	Western Culture: Literature and the Arts I	3
			ITALIAN 321	Studies in Italian Literature and Culture I	3
			ITALIAN/MEDIEVAL/ RELIG ST 440	Poverty, Ecology and the Arts: St. Francis of Assisi	3
			ITALIAN/ MEDIEVAL 659	Dante's Divina Commedia	3
			ITALIAN/ MEDIEVAL 671	The 13th Century	3
			JEWISH/AFRICAN/ MEDIEVAL/ RELIG ST 462	Muslims and Jews	3
			LATIN/ MEDIEVAL 563	Mediaeval Latin	3
			LITTRANS/ MEDIEVAL/ RELIG ST 253	Of Demons and Angels. Dante's Divine Comedy	3
			LITTRANS/ MEDIEVAL 255	Black Death and Medieval Life Through Boccaccio's Decameron	3

CATEGORY B COURSE LIST

Code	Title	Credits
Category B Courses		
ART HIST 201	History of Western Art I: From Pyramids to Cathedrals	4
ART HIST 305	History of Islamic Art and Architecture	3
ART HIST 310	Icons, Religion, and Empire: Early Christian and Byzantine Art, ca. 200-1453	3
ART HIST 318	Romanesque and Gothic Art and Architecture	3-4
ART HIST 320	Italian Renaissance Art	3-4
ART HIST 331	Angels, Demons, and Nudes: Early Netherlandish Painting from Bosch to Bruegel	3-4
ART HIST 360	Gore Luxury Identity Mimesis: Northern Renaissance	3
ART HIST/ RELIG ST 373	Great Cities of Islam	3
ART HIST 413	Art and Architecture in the Age of the Caliphs	3
ART HIST/ MEDIEVAL 415	Topics in Medieval Art	3
ART HIST 440	Art and Power in the Arab World	3
ART HIST/ RELIG ST 478	Art and Religious Practice in Medieval Japan	3
ART HIST 515	Proseminar in Medieval Art	3

LITTRANS 271	In Translation: Masterpieces of Scandinavian Literature, Middle Ages-1900	3-4
LITTRANS/ FOLKLORE/ MEDIEVAL/ SCAND ST 345	The Nordic Storyteller	3
LITTRANS/ FOLKLORE/ MEDIEVAL 346	In Translation: The Icelandic Sagas	3-4
LITTRANS/ FOLKLORE 347	In Translation: Kalevala and Finnish Folk-Lore	3-4
MUSIC 411	Survey of Music in the Middle Ages	3
MUSIC 412	Survey of Music in the Renaissance	3
SCAND ST/ FOLKLORE/ MEDIEVAL 235	The World of Sagas	3
SCAND ST/ FOLKLORE/ MEDIEVAL/ RELIG ST 342	Nordic Mythology	3
SCAND ST 373	Masterpieces of Scandinavian Literature: From the Middle Ages to 1900	3-4
SCAND ST/ MEDIEVAL 407	Introductory Old Norse	3
SCAND ST/ MEDIEVAL 409	Survey of Old Norse-Icelandic Literature	3
SCAND ST/ MEDIEVAL 430	The Vikings	4
SCAND ST/ LITTRANS 435	The Sagas of Icelanders in English Translation	3
SCAND ST/ MEDIEVAL 444	Kalevala and Finnish Folk-Lore	4
SPANISH 322	Survey of Early Hispanic Literature	3
SPANISH/ MEDIEVAL 414	Literatura de la Edad Media Castellana (ss. XII-XV)	3
SPANISH/ MEDIEVAL 503	Survey of Medieval Literature	3
SPANISH/ MEDIEVAL 504	Survey of Medieval Literature	3
SPANISH/ MEDIEVAL 541	Old Spanish	3

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- At least 8 certificate credits must be completed in residence.
- Minimum 2.000 GPA on all certificate courses.

CERTIFICATE COMPLETION REQUIREMENT

This undergraduate certificate must be completed concurrently with the student's undergraduate degree. Students cannot delay degree completion to complete the certificate.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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1. Historical knowledge: Acquire knowledge of historical events, social structures, cultural productions, and/or scientific innovation from c. 300-1500; develop an understanding of the relationship between these and present-day institutions, forms of artistic expression, geo-political problems, and environmental and social concerns.
2. Interdisciplinary perspective: Approach problems in the study of the past using sources and methods drawn from more than one traditionally defined academic discipline; achieve an understanding of the inherently interdisciplinary nature of medieval studies.
3. Primary research: Encounter and analyze primary sources—including but not limited to historical documents, religious writings, scientific treatises, literary texts, works of visual art and architecture, material culture, performance texts, and music—to reach an understanding of significant aspects of medieval culture and demonstrate that understanding in an applied format.
4. Critical thinking: Discern and synthesize different perspectives on the Middle Ages; identify and question assumptions about the medieval era; assess evidence and/or evaluate methods for understanding the complexities of the past.

ADVISING AND CAREERS

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Students can obtain advising for the certificate by contacting the director of medieval studies. The director serves as the undergraduate advisor for all students pursuing the certificate. For further information see the Medieval Studies website (<https://medievalstudies.wisc.edu/certificate/>).

L&S CAREER RESOURCES

Every L&S major opens a world of possibilities. SuccessWorks (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/>) at the College of Letters & Science helps students turn the academic skills learned in their major, certificates, and other coursework into fulfilling lives after graduation, whether that means jobs, public service, graduate school or other career pursuits.

In addition to providing basic support like resume reviews and interview practice, SuccessWorks offers ways to explore interests and build career skills from their very first semester/term at UW all the way through graduation and beyond.

Students can explore careers in one-on-one advising, try out different career paths, complete internships, prepare for the job search and/or graduate school applications, and connect with supportive alumni and even employers in the fields that inspire them.

- SuccessWorks (<https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/>)
- Set up a career advising appointment (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/>)
- Enroll in a Career Course (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/career-courses/>) – a great idea for first- and second-year students:
 - INTER-LS 210 L&S Career Development: Taking Initiative (1 credit)
 - INTER-LS 215 Communicating About Careers (3 credits, fulfills Comm B General Education Requirement)
- Learn about internships and internship funding (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/finding-a-job-or-internship/>)

- INTER-LS 260 Internship in the Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Activate your Handshake account (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/handshake/>) to apply for jobs and internships from 200,000+ employers recruiting UW-Madison students
- Learn about the impact SuccessWorks has on students' lives (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/about/mission/>)