Proposal to change the interdisciplinary major in Medieval Studies to Medieval and Early Modern studies

Submitted by Diane Wolfthal (Art History), Director of Medieval Studies

Rationale for change to the title of the program:

Medieval studies has always included early modern courses; however many early modernists on campus (especially those who have been hired recently) do not realize that they can or should cross list their courses with Medieval Studies. The proposed title change is designed to make the program more welcoming to faculty across campus.

Rationale for changes to the requirements:

There are more medievalists and early modernists in the departments of Religious Studies and History of Art than when the Medieval Studies requirements were drawn up. The original requirements did not include Religious Studies at all—an oversight that needs to be rectified. By contrast, other departments have been depleted of medieval and early modern scholars in ways that make the stated requirements difficult to achieve for many undergraduates.

Specifically, in the original description of the major, an English course was the only required class. This was imposed when the Director of Medieval Studies was a Professor of English, but currently that department has no tenure-track faculty in the medieval field.

The spirit of the requirements was always to encourage interdisciplinary study. For this reason we still require a range of courses, but we have changed the description so that courses are required in at least three different departments or programs. This will permit the requirements to remain constant even as professors come and go.

**Director and Advisor**
Diane Wolfthal

**Professors**
Michael Maas
Scott McGill
Donald Ray Morrison
Deborah Nelson-Campbell
Paula Sanders
Diane Wolfthal

**Associate Professors**
David Cook
Shin-shan Susan Huang
Peter Loewen
Linda E. Neagley
Nanxiu Qian

**Assistant Professors**
Claire Fanger

Maya Soifer Irish
Degree Offered: BA

This interdisciplinary major enables students to compare medieval cultures, noting both their differences and their common traditions, in the period between 500 and 1500 C.E. The program combines a broad background in various aspects of medieval culture with more specialized study in a selected field.

These fields of emphasis include medieval art history, history, literature (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Italian and Latin), music, philosophy, and religion.

Degree Requirements for BA in Medieval Studies

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements. Students majoring in medieval studies must complete at least 30 semester hours (10 courses); the minimum for double majors is 24 hours. All majors must complete five of these medieval studies courses at the 300 or 400 level.

Required and recommended courses include the following:

A minimum of 30 semester hours (10 semester courses), of which at least five courses must be at the 300/400 level. Double majors must complete a minimum of 24 semester hours.

One course in medieval literature; one course in medieval art or medieval music: one course in medieval history or philosophy.

Frequently taught courses (i.e., at least every two years):

- **Literature**
  - MDST 316 *Chaucer*
  - MDST 335 *Mapping German Culture: Courtship, Love, and Marriage in the Age of Chivalry*
  - MDST 370 *Introduction to Traditional Chinese Poetry*
  - MDST 375 *Introduction to Classical Chinese Literature*
  - MDST 379 *Women in Chinese Literature*
  - MDST 404 *Beginnings in the Language and Literature of France*
  - MDST 425 *Courtly Love in Medieval France*
Art History

- MDST 330 Early Medieval Art
- MDST 331 Gothic Art and Architecture in Northern Europe, 1140–1300
- MDST 332 Late Gothic Art and Architecture in Northern Europe, 1300–1500

Music

- MDST 222 Medieval and Renaissance Eras
- MDST 429 Music in the Middle Ages

History

- MDST 281/381 Pre–Modern Middle East History
- MDST 382 Classical Islamic Cultures

Philosophy

- MDST 201 History of Philosophy

Religious Studies

- MDST 105 Medieval Christian Thought

It is recommended, but not required, that students take two semesters at the college level in an appropriate language (or languages), in particular, Latin.

Three courses (at least two at the 300 or 400 level) in the student’s chosen field of emphasis—one of these may be a directed reading course.

For single majors, three additional courses in the medieval period, one of which may be a senior thesis (one semester) on a topic in the student’s field of emphasis; for double majors, one additional course in the medieval period.

Students work out their programs of study in consultation with the program director. Those contemplating graduate work in medieval studies should study at least one foreign language in some depth (as most graduate schools require a reading knowledge of French and German for the PhD).

Students may select from among the following to fulfill the course requirements for the major in medieval studies.

Please note that not all courses listed below will be offered during the academic year. For a current list of courses that will be offered, please visit the Medieval Studies website at medieval.rice.edu.
Classical Studies
MDST 101 Elementary Latin I
MDST 102 Elementary Latin II
MDST 211 Intermediate Latin I
MDST 212 Intermediate Latin II

English
MDST 313 Beowulf
MDST 316 Chaucer
MDST 320 Directed Readings in Medieval Studies

French Studies
MDST 404 Beginnings of Language and Literature of France
MDST 410 The Literary and Historical Image of the Medieval Woman
MDST 425 Courtly Love in Medieval France
MDST 436 Literature and Culture of the Middle Ages

German Studies
MDST 126 Freshman Seminar: The Legend of King Arthur in the Middle Ages
MDST 330 Mapping German Culture: Courtship, Love and Marriage in the Age of Chivalry
MDST 402 Middle High German

History of Art
MDST 104 Case Studies in Ancient and Medieval Architecture
MDST 108 Art in Context: Late Medieval and Renaissance Culture
MDST 111 Introduction to the History of Western Art I: Prehistoric to Gothic
MDST 230 Medieval Art and Literature
MDST 330 Early Medieval Art
MDST 331 Gothic Art and Architecture in Northern Europe, 1140–1300
MDST 332 Late Gothic Art & Architecture in Northern Europe, 1300–1500
MDST 373 Chinese Art and Visual Culture
MDST 431 Architecture of the Gothic Cathedral from the Middle Ages to the 20th Century
MDST 434 From Beowulf to the Bayeux Tapestry

History
MDST 202 Introduction to Medieval Civilization I: The Early Middle Ages
MDST 203 Introduction to Medieval Civilization II: The High Middle Ages
MDST 281 Pre-Modern Middle East History: The Middle East from the Prophet Muhammad to Sulayman the Magnificent
MDST 308 The World of Late Antiquity
MDST 321 Directed Readings in Medieval History
MDST 345 Renaissance Europe
MDST 358 European Intellectual History from Augustine to Descartes
MDST 382 Classical Islamic Cultures
MDST 385 Christians and Jews in the Medieval Islamic World
MDST 438 Women and Gender in Medieval Islamic Societies
MDST 488 Topics in Medieval History

Asian Studies
MDST 370 Introduction to Traditional Chinese Poetry
MDST 375 Introduction to Chinese Literature
MDST 379 Women in Chinese Literature

Music
MDST 222 Medieval and Renaissance Eras
MDST 427 Topics in Early Music
MDST 429 Music of the Middle Ages
MDST 456 Collegium

Philosophy
MDST 201 History of Philosophy I
MDST 301 Ancient and Medieval Philosophy
MDST 481 Seminar in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy

Religious Studies
MDST 105 Medieval Christian Thought
MDST 106 Medieval Devotion
MDST 386 Magic and Magicians

Please see Medieval Studies Course Catalog
**Medieval and Early Modern Studies [proposed change]**

>**Department Info Tab <<**

**Degree Offered: BA**

This interdisciplinary major enables students to study medieval and early modern cultures in the period between 500 and 1700 C.E. The program combines a broad background in various aspects of medieval and early modern culture with more specialized study in a selected field.

These fields of emphasis include medieval and early modern art history, history, literature (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Italian and Latin), music, philosophy, and religion.

>**Undergraduate Requirements Tab <<**

**Degree Requirements for BA in Medieval and Early Modern Studies**

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements

Students majoring in Medieval and Early Modern Studies must complete at least 30 semester hours (at least 10 courses); the minimum for double majors is 24 hours (at least 8 courses). Three of these must be from three different focus areas among the following:


All majors must complete at least five (5) Medieval and Early Modern courses at the 300 or 400 level.

It is recommended, but not required, that students take at least two semesters at the college level in an appropriate language (or languages), especially if they intend to pursue graduate studies.

List of current MDST courses and originating departments, plus proposed Early Modern additions (MDEM, in bold). Course taught regularly (at least every two years) are indicated with an asterisk.

OTR Note: If the change in major is approved (MDST to MDEM), all courses will become MDEM courses.
Courses in Medieval and Early Modern Studies

**ART HISTORY**
- MDST 108-Art in Context: Late Medieval and Renaissance Culture
- *MDST 111-Introduction to the History of Western Art I: Prehistoric to Gothic
- *MDST 330-Early Medieval Art
- *MDST 331-Gothic Art
- MDST 332-Art of the Courts
- MDST 340-Northern Renaissance Art
- MDST 373-Chinese Art and Visual Culture
- MDST 376-East & West: Medieval Visual Culture in China and Northern Europe
- MDST 431-Architecture of the Gothic Cathedral from the Middle Ages to the Twentieth Century
- MDST 433-The Bayeux Tapestry and the Anglo-Norman World
- *MDST 435-Multicultural Eyrpe, 1400-1700
- MDEM XXX- The Age of Rembrandt
- MDEM XXX-Early Renaissance Art in Italy
- MDEM XXX-The High Renaissance and Mannerism in Italy
- MDEM XXX-Masters of the Baroque Era
- MDEM XXX-Leonardo and Michelangelo

**ASIAN STUDIES**
- *MDST 364 Central Asian Conquest Empires
- *MDST 370-Introduction to Traditional Chinese Poetry
- *MDST 375-Introduction to Classical Chinese Novels
- MDST 379-Women in Chinese Literature

**CLASSICAL STUDIES**
- MDST 101-Elementary Latin I
- MDST 102-Elementary Latin II
- MDST 211-Intermediate Latin I: Prose
- MDST 212-Intermediate Latin II

**ENGLISH**
- *MDST 312 Topics in Old English
- MDST 313-Beowulf in Translation
- MDST 314 –Medieval Romance
- *MDST 316-Chaucer
- MDST 317-Arthurian Literature
- *MDST 412-Introduction to Old English Language
- MDST 413- Beowulf in Old English
- MDEM XXX-Early Shakespeare
- MDEM XXX-Later Shakespeare
- MDEM XXX-Early Modern Drama
- MDEM XXX-Christopher Marlowe: From Medieval to Modern

**FRENCH STUDIES**
- *MDST 404-Beginnings of the Language and Literature of France
- MDST 411-The Literary and Historical Images of the Medieval Woman
*MDST 425-Courty Love in Medieval France
MDST 436-Literature and Culture of the Middle Ages: King Arthur

**HISTORY**
*MDST 120-Medieval Civilizations
MDST 281-The Middle East from the Prophet Muhammed to Sulayman the Magnificent
MDST 308-The World of Late Antiquity
*MDST 324-Coexistence in Medieval Spain
*MDST 327 European Frontier Societies in the Middle Ages (spring 13)
*MDST 357 Jews and Christians in Medieval Europe (fall 12)
MDST 358-Early European Intellectual History from Augustine to Descartes
MDST 364-Central Asian Conquest Empires

**PHILOSOPHY**
*MDST 201-History of Philosophy I
MDST 301/481-Ancient and Medieval Philosophy

**MDST ONLY**
 MDST 320-Directed Reading in Medieval Studies
MDST 478-Medieval Studies

**MUSIC**
*MDST 222-Medieval and Renaissance Eras
MDST 427-Topics in Early Music
*MDST 429-Music of the Middle Ages
MDST 456-Collegium Musicum

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES**
*MDST 100 Romancing Religion Narratives of the Sacred
*MDST 171 The Body and the Cosmos in the Middle Ages
*MDST 105-Introduction to Medieval Christian Thought
*MDST 271-Medieval Popular Christianity
MDST 305 Pain, Ecstasy and Embodiment in Religious Experience
MDST 314 Divine Sex:Gender and Divinity in the Middle Ages
MDST 329 Comparative Mysticisms: Christianity and Judaism
MDST 367-Representing the Devil in Christian Theology and Art
MDST 351 Ghostly Sight: Medieval Ways of Experiencing God
MDST 386-Medieval and Renaissance Magic and Magicians
MDEM XXX Reincarnation and Cosmos (Reli 329)
MDEM XXX Kabbalah Seminar (Reli 472)
MDEM XXX-The Reformation & its Results
MDEM XXX-English Spirituality after Henry VIII: Protestant, Catholic, or Anglican?

**Code**
Plain font=current courses
Bold font= proposed new additions
*= courses taught at least every two years
If proposal is passed, additional faculty members will include:

Professor:
Huston, J. - English
Manca, Joseph - Art History
Metcalf, Alida - History
Skura, Meredith - English
Snow, Edward - English
Stroup, John - Religious Studies
Zammito, John - History

Associate Professors:
Barnett, Greg - Musicology
Campana, Joseph - English
Ellenzweig, Sarah - English

Assistant Professors
Balabanlilar, Lisa History
Ogren, Brian - Religious Studies

Lecturers:
Ellard, Donna Beth - English
Lander, Shira - History/Jewish Studies
Staller, Jared - History
Somerville, Ted - Latin