

Medieval and Early Modern Studies

Website: Medieval and Early Modern Studies (<https://new.sewanee.edu/programs-of-study/medieval-and-early-modern-studies/>)

The Medieval and Early Modern Studies program at Sewanee is designed to develop a cross-disciplinary overview of these historical periods, incorporating the study of art, literature, history, and philosophy, as well as to offer scope for mentored research projects in pursuit of the student's own distinctive scholarly interests.

We encourage our majors and minors to take advantage of a range of study-away opportunities, including a longstanding relationship with the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Oxford. Founded in 1975, the institute provides academic training for overseas students who wish to complete part of their education at Oxford in these areas of study.

Sewanee also offers an opportunity unique among small liberal arts as host of the Sewanee Medieval Colloquium (<https://www.sewaneemedievalcolloquium.com/>), an annual academic conference. The colloquium is held each spring and draws scholars from across the country (and beyond) to campus; student attendance at all the events is welcomed, and participation by majors and minors is encouraged.

Faculty

Professors: Bruce, Conn, Engel, Glacet, Irvin, McDonough, Peters, Raulston, Ridyard

Major

The major in Medieval and Early Modern Studies requires at least ten courses, selected in conversation with and approved by a student's advisor. Students have the ability to develop their own program of study and to focus their course selection and final projects to reflect their own interests and aims.

Requirements for the Major in Medieval and Early Modern Studies

The major requires successful completion of the following:

Code	Title	Semester Hours
Course Requirements ¹		
HUMN 104	Experience, Expression, and Exchange in Western Culture: Texts and Contexts of the Medieval World	4
or HUMN 105	Experience, Expression, and Exchange in Western Culture: Texts and Contexts of Early Modern World	
Select one of the following courses in pre-medieval culture from any geographical area: ²		4
PHIL 203	Ancient Philosophy from Homer to Augustine	
PHIL 215	Chinese Philosophy	
CLST 101	Classical Mythology	
CLST 200	Classical Drama	
CLST 210	Ancient Epic in Translation	
HUMN 103	Experience, Expression, and Exchange in Western Culture: Texts and Contexts of the Ancient World	
HIST 292	Jews in the Greco-Roman World	
LATN 302	Cicero	
LATN 303	Catullus	
LATN 320	Horace's Lyric Poetry	
LATN 401	Roman Comedy	
Select two of the following literature courses: ³		8
ENGL 301	Old English Language and Literature	
ENGL 352	Chaucer	
ENGL 353	English Drama to 1642	
ENGL 354	Early Women's Voices	
ENGL 359	Renaissance Literature I	
FREN 401	Early French Literature	

FREN 403	The Seventeenth Century	
FREN 405	The Eighteenth Century	
GRMN 321	Textual Inquiry: Literature in Context, 1750-1900	
SPAN 301	Spanish Literature and Culture through 1700	
SPAN 322	Introduction to Medieval Spain and the Road to Santiago	
SPAN 413	The Middle Ages after the Middle Ages	
Select two of the following courses focused on history: ⁴		8
HIST 205	History of Britain and Ireland I	
HIST 209	Early Modern Europe	
HIST 219	History of Africa to 1880	
HIST 273	The Haitian Revolution	
HIST 296	History of the Middle East I	
HIST 304	Europe from the First Crusade to the Black Death	
HIST 324	Colonial and Imperial Warfare in North America and Southern Africa	
HIST 337	Nature, Magic, and Machines in Early Modern Europe	
HIST 369	Muslim Spain: Glory, Decline, and Lasting Influence in Contemporary Spain	
MHUM 218	Hippocrates Shadow: Origins of Western Medicine	
Select one of the following courses focused on the arts: ⁴		4
ARTH 343	Visualizing the Other in Early Modern Latin America: Race, Ethnicity, and Art	
ARTH 352	Art and Politics during the Hispanic Enlightenment	
ARTH 353	Early Modern Art of Latin America	
ARTH 323	Imagining the Medieval Italian City	
ARTH 325	Italian Renaissance Art and Architecture	
ARTH 327	To Delight and to Move: The Global Baroque, 1600-1800	
ARTH 305	Sacred Arts of Japan	
ARTH 309	Sacred Arts of China	
MUSC 235	The Liturgical Music of Johann Sebastian Bach	
MUSC 335	Music for the Soul: The Requiem Mass in History and Culture	
THTR 246	Design and Décor Period Styles	
Select one of the following culture courses involving a long historical sweep or broad geographic range: ²		4
ARTH 111	Latin American Art, Ancient to Modern	
ARTH 105	Asian Art: Prehistory to Contemporary	
HIST 211	China: Inside the Great Wall	
INGS 208	West and Central Africa in the Atlantic World	
PHIL 216	Indian Philosophy	
MEMS 400	Medieval and Early Modern Seminar	4
Total Semester Hours		36

Code	Title	Semester Hours
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Additional RequirementsA comprehensive examination ⁵The capstone project ⁶¹

Courses must contain at least 3 classes that are broadly designated as “medieval” (attribute MEMD (<http://e-catalog.sewanee.edu/archives/2024-2025/arts-sciences/departments-interdisciplinary-programs/medieval-studies/medieval-courses-by-attribute/#text>)) and at least 3 classes that are broadly designated as “early modern” (attribute MEEM (<http://e-catalog.sewanee.edu/archives/2024-2025/arts-sciences/departments-interdisciplinary-programs/medieval-studies/medieval-courses-by-attribute/#text>)). In addition, at least one class must be focused on a non-Western area of the globe (attribute MENW (<http://e-catalog.sewanee.edu/archives/2024-2025/arts-sciences/departments-interdisciplinary-programs/medieval-studies/medieval-courses-by-attribute/#text>)).

²

Additional courses can be used for this requirement with prior approval from a departmental advisor.

3

Additional literature courses at the 300-level or above in any language can be used for this requirement with prior approval from a departmental advisor.

4

Additional courses at the 200-level or above in can be used for this requirement with prior approval from a departmental advisor.

5

For the comprehensive exam, students will be presented with four different artifacts (textual, visual, or otherwise) from a variety of disciplines and be asked to respond to them in a series of brief essays.

6

The capstone requirement for the major asks students to assemble a portfolio of at least 3 substantial papers from 2 different categories above. To this they will add a paper or project from a class outside of the scope of the major. The papers will be revised under the supervision of their advisor, and they will produce a brief reflection on the connections they see between them. They will use the portfolio to write an apologia as to the importance of the study of the pre-modern, and will argue for what they see the role or the presence of this discipline within the modern intellectual climate.

Honors

To pursue honors, a student must have a GPA of at least 3.5 in their coursework in the major and formulate a project under the direction of a supervising faculty member. The proposal for this project will be developed by the student and their advisor, and will be approved by a committee of the MEMS faculty in the fall semester of the student's senior year. The project might be a scholarly research paper, an archival project, a digital presentation, or a service project that builds off of their coursework. The student must then successfully present their project to members of the MEMS faculty in an oral defense in the final semester of their senior year. Finally, to receive honors, the student must also receive a high pass (B+ or better) on both the capstone and the comprehensive exam.

Student Learning Outcomes

A student majoring in Medieval & Early Modern Studies will

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the ways in which the medieval and Early Modern periods, broadly defined, function as a unique site of interdisciplinary study.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the broad sweep of medieval and Early Modern periods from an historical and cultural perspective.
3. Develop independent research and present their work to a clearly defined audience.
4. Appraise the traditional boundaries and definitions of these periods and differentiate where their boundaries come from and what (or whom) they serve.
5. Appraise and defend what it means to study the global pre-Modern period of history in a modern intellectual environment.

Minor

The minor in Medieval and Early Modern Studies requires at least 5 courses at the 200-level or above selected in conversation with a departmental advisor.

Requirements for the Minor in Medieval Studies

The minor requires successful completion of the following:

Code	Title	Semester Hours
Course Requirements		
HUMN 104	Experience, Expression, and Exchange in Western Culture: Texts and Contexts of the Medieval World	4
or HUMN 105	Experience, Expression, and Exchange in Western Culture: Texts and Contexts of Early Modern World	
Select one course in literature at the 300-level or above		4
Select one course with a focus on history at the 200-level or above		4
Select one course with a focus on art history or culture at the 300-level or above		4
Select two additional courses at the 200-level or above in consultation with a departmental advisor.		8
Total Semester Hours		24

Courses

Medieval and Early Modern Studies Courses

MEMS 400 Medieval and Early Modern Seminar (4)

This interdisciplinary course explores topics in medieval and early modern studies. *Open only to students pursuing majors in medieval studies or medieval and early modern studies.*