MEDIEVAL STUDIES

Courses

Medieval Studies department courses

MVST 5031. Byzantium, Islam and the West. (4 Credits)
This course is a seminar specifically designed around an exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art opening in March 2012. Byzantium and Islam: Age of Transition (7th-9th century). The exhibition offers a unique opportunity to study not only the impact on the visual arts of the interaction of the Byzantine and Islamic cultures at this critical historical period, but also to examine the art of architecture of Carolingian France and Visigothic Spain from this perspective. Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.

MVST 5050. World of Late Antiquity: Introduction to History, Art, and Culture. (4 Credits)
This course offers an introduction to the history, art and culture of the Late Antique world from the third to the sixth century. We will explore the older narratives of decline in this period alongside powerful alternatives proposed by scholars more recently, drawing on both primary sources and monuments and critically examining the secondary literature that studies them. Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.
Attribute: CLAS.

MVST 5064. The Divine Comedy: Poetry, Theology, and the Medieval Imagination. (4 Credits)
This seminar offers an in-depth study of the poetic and theological imagination of Dante's Divine Comedy. We will combine close reading of selected cantos with primary and secondary works illuminating key aspects of Dante's literary and theological invention. Issues will be discussed within the historical and ideological contexts of the relevant theological and poetic debates in Dante's time. We will consider Dante's theological influences, such as Augustine, Boethius, Bernard of Clairvaux, and Bonaventure, and explore theological topics such as medieval Christian practices of pilgrimage, scholastic debates about atonement and the afterlife, cosmology, and the relationship between erotic love and divine union in Christian mystical theology. Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.

MVST 5070. Manuscript Culture. (4 Credits)
Introduction to principles, materials, and study of medieval manuscripts and primary documents as well as to problems of evaluation of the cultural contexts of their production and use. Ancillary topics will include manuscript illumination, the resources of codicology and paleography, the preparation and evaluation of modern editions, the assessment of readership and patronage, material philogy and the materialism of the middle ages, the development of libraries. Students will do hands-on work with primary sources at the Morgan Library, the rare book collection of the New York Public Library, and the rare books and manuscripts collection in Walsh Library. Final projects will be tailored to the students' primary research areas and expertise. Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.

MVST 5071. Sources, Archives, and Materials for Medievalists. (4 Credits)
This course will introduce students to many of the most important sources for the study of the medieval world. Drawing on the diversity of expertise among Fordham's faculty and the rich resources of New York City, the course will introduce students to a variety of handwritten sources (including manuscripts and other documents), as well as coins and seals, and the specialized skills used to understand and interpret these sources. The course will also feature discussions of the processes whereby libraries and archives were developed and maintained, and how scholars use these sources in the digital era. Note: Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.

MVST 5076. Digital Humanities for Premodern Scholars. (4 Credits)
This course explores the use of digital tools and platforms in scholarship related to the premodern world. The class will read a variety of approaches and theories concerning the rise of Digital Humanities and its applications for the study of premodernity. Students will receive training in the creation of datasets for digital processing and in several platforms currently in use by Fordham. Many classes will meet in the LITE (Technology and Innovation) Learning Commons in Walsh Library. Note: Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.

MVST 5077. Editing Medieval Texts. (4 Credits)
This is a course in the theory and practice of editing, especially as it relates to medieval texts, with most of the examples coming from Middle English. We'll give attention to documentary, historical, and aesthetic approaches, and we will spend som etime exploring digital methods and concerns. Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.
Attribute: ENGL.

MVST 5078. Medvl Books & Materials. (4 Credits)
Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.

MVST 5080. Interdisciplinary London: Medieval Manuscripts, Sources, Methods. (4 Credits)
An introduction to methodologies in Medieval studies through a focus on the primary sources and material culture of medieval London. The course will center on how an interdisciplinary approach that draws on a range of sources (textual, visual, and material) and methods (employed in archaeology, digital humanities, history, literary studies, and paleography/codicology) can enrich our understanding of one medieval place and its people. Training in paleography is an important element of the course. Note: Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.
Attributes: HIST, MVSG.

MVST 5095. Medieval Pilgrimage. (4 Credits)
Pilgrimage will be conceptualized broadly, entertaining a variety of aims for travel and also considering the pilgrimage form as a purely conceptual exercise as well as a journey with more practical aims. Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.
Attributes: ENG1, ENME.

MVST 5100. Cultures of Music and Sound in the Medieval World. (4 Credits)
Music and Sound enriched every facet of pre-modern life, liturgy and ritual above all. This interdisciplinary seminar introduces medievalists - especially those without formal musical education- to the cultures of medieval and Renaissance music. It should enable students from any discipline to engage music and the sonic more fully in their research and teaching. Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.

MVST 5101. Modern Sounds, Early Music. (3 Credits)
Medieval and Renaissance music's fragmentary survival has inspired scholars, performers, composers, and artists to realize what remains according to varying creative urges and ideological preoccupations. This course examines the cultures of early music as well as their living legacies. Studying musical traditions from 1000 to 1600, we build a technical vocabulary for discussing music and seek to understand how historical change affects aesthetics, music-making, and listening from 1000 to the present. We also study the reception of medieval music—how it has been rejected, restored, recreated, and reimagined—to consider how "the medieval" is historically produced. No prior musical experience required.

MVST 5102. Theorizing Medieval Sound: Medieval Sonic Worlds. (4 Credits)
In this interdisciplinary seminar, we read widely and listen actively to the texts, musics, and objects of the European Middle Ages to find out just how closely we can come to encountering medieval sonic worlds. Using an electric array of primary, secondary, and theoretical works, we study medieval sound cultures and the production of sonorous meanings for medieval listeners in all their complexity. At the same time, we investigate how open-minded engagement with the sonorous Middle Ages can challenge us to rethink prevailing popular and scholarly attitudes towards the body, the senses, media, and the past.

MVST 5103. Reading Richard Rolle's World. (4 Credits)
Richard Rolle of Hampole was perhaps the most influential and widely read English author of the late Middle Ages. Exceeded in testamentary bequests only by biblical and liturgical books, Rolle's writings exercised immense influence over the literary, mystical, and devotional cultures of late medieval and early modern England. The hermit penned meditations on Christ's passion, lyrics that would shape devotional poetry for a generation, popular books of instruction for female religious, an English translation and commentary on the Psalter, and experimental Latin prose works teetering on alliterative chaos. His corpus captures the devotional spirit of 14th-century England. In this interdisciplinary seminar, we will survey Rolle's writings and explore their literary, theological, affective, hermeneutic, and theoretical innovations. We will also glance backward at the sources from which Rolle draws, and forward to his impact on future authors of spiritual literature. Rollean texts may include Melos amoris, Incendium amoris, English Psalter, Meditations on the Passion, Ego Dormio, and devotional lyrics; readings may also include selections from Bernard's Sermons on the Song of Songs, the Wooing Group, Cloud of Unknowing, Of Angels' Song, Book of Margery Kempe, Middle English lyrics, biblical plays from York and Chester, and late medieval songs. No prior experience with Middle English or Latin is required. Note: Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.

MVST 5201. The Renaissance of the 12Th Ce. (4 Credits)
This graduate seminar explores the religious, intellectual, literary, and cultural contours of the "long" 12th Century with equal weight given to the diversity of medieval sources that survive and to modern historiographic interpreptations. The class will include visits to the Coisters musuem and to the Morgan library. Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.

MVST 5202. Medieval Monsters: Terrors, Aliens, Wonders. (4 Credits)
Taught in conjunction with an exhibition of medical manuscripts ad the Morgan Library & Museum, this course examines the vital role played by monsters in medieval art and culture. The course is taught by the curators will include gallery visits and meetings at the Morgan and will involve original research and work on an online exhibition.

MVST 5205. Court Culture Med Iberia. (4 Credits)
This course will explore the cultural, social, political and religious tensions that helped to form medieval Iberian courtly communities from the 10th to the 15th centuries. The unique situation of Iberia during this period , when the centralization and consolidation of sovereignty occured in different religious and cultural contexts (Islamic and Christian) and political territories (Castile, Aragon) allows for a diverse, rich and contrasted analysis of medieval court culture. Our approach will be multidisciplinary and include literary texts, artistic manifestations, legal codes, religious writings, and chronicles. Among the courts to be studied will be the Omeyan court of the 10th century Cordoba, the Muslim kingdoms of 11th century Granada and Zaragoza, the Christian courts of Alfonso X of Castile and Jaume I of Aragon, and the late medieval court of Isabella Ferdinand. Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.

MVST 5300. Occitania: Language and Power. (4 Credits)
This course introduces students to the cultural world of a medieval "south": Occitania. Texts in Old Occitan include documentary writing, historical narrative, and the poetry of the troubadours. Topics include urban/rural communities, gender and power, the Albigensian crusade and its aftermath and the beginning of vernacular book production.
Attributes: ENG1, ENME.

MVST 5305. Writing East: Outremer and Identity in the Middle Ages. (4 Credits)
As the stage for the central events of the Gospel narrative, the lands of the eastern shore of the Mediterranean long occupied a central place in the collective imagination of Latin western Europe. Over the course of the Middle Ages, however, increasingly frequent encounters resulting from trade, pilgrimage, and crusade not only enriched the European image of the East, but vastly enhanced the significance to how medieval Christians approached the eastern Other. This course will trace the rise of a discourse of differences centered in what was called in England and France, "Outremer," the land beyond the sea. Together with medieval literary productions, histories, letters and travel narratives, we will read works from the growing body of scholarship on this important topic. Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.
Attributes: ENG1, ENME.

MVST 5310. Chivalric Romance. (4 Credits)
This seminar will look at the genre of the chivalric romance at the intersection of different vernacular traditions and genres. What happens to Chretien de Troyes' classics when they are adapted to the language and culture of another country? And how does the romance relate to the chanson de geste, the saint's life, the lai, or the fabliau? What if the protagonist is not a knight but rather a woman? Or a peasant? A Saracen? A pope? Or a combination of some of the above? The goal of this seminar will be to provide an overview of the wide range of romance themes and adaptations in Europe, including their reception to the present day. Students are expected to read and a well-annotated Middle English romance in the original. All other texts can be prepared in translation, while some of the class time will be dedicated to closely reading some crucial passages in the original Latin, Old French, and Middle High German. Open to seniors with a G.P.A. of 3.0 or better. Please consult your advisor.

MVST 5311. Arthurian Literature. (4 Credits)
This seminar will provide an overview of Arthurian romance themes and adaptations in Europe. Chrétien de Troyes may not have written the very first chivalric romance, but he was the pioneer who defined the genre and created the texts which would set the standard for centuries to come. The central role which Chrétien's œuvre occupied in the French-speaking world is reflected in a wave of adaptations into many other vernacular languages, set off almost instantly and covering all of medieval Europe. In this class, we will focus on three literary traditions: the Yvain, Tristan, and Perceval stories in their early Old French versions as well as their Middle High German, Middle English, and Old Norse adaptations. The degree to which these translations try to recreate their sources' original content varies greatly and is determined by a nexus of cultural, political, and social factors which we will examine in some detail. Students are expected to read the Middle English versions in well-annotated editions. All other texts can be prepared in English translation while some of the class time will be dedicated to closely reading some crucial passages in the original vernacular languages. Additional texts in other languages (Italian, Latin), in post-medieval renditions (e.g., T.S. Eliot's "Wasteland" or Richard Wagner's "Parsifal"), other media (films, opera, musicals), and material culture (frescoes, tapestries, book illuminations, etc) will be determined based on the interest of the seminar participants. In addition, we will make use of the rich resources New York City has to offer and explore some of the spectacular Arthurian artifacts housed in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Cloisters, and the J. P. Morgan Museum and Library—online if necessary, on site if possible. Note: Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.

MVST 5400. Courtly Culture. (4 Credits)
Courts, as spaces of political power, intellectual activity, and social influence, have long been a focus of both scholarly inquiry and the popular presentation of the medieval world. Courts across medieval Afro-Eurasia shared literary traditions and cultural forms, exchanging and adapting songs, stories, objects, fashions, and ideas. This course will address some of the central themes of scholarly inquiry into courtly culture including the phenomenon of courtly love, debates about the "civilizing process" of courtly manners, and the evolution and diffusion of courtly themes and literary forms. The course will also evaluate the potential for the study of courtly culture to reshape the field of medieval studies and the wider understanding of the Middle Ages as interconnected, diverse, and truly global. Note: Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.

MVST 5570. Medieval Crusades. (4 Credits)
This course adopts an interdisciplinary approach to the study of the medieval crusades in the Levant, southern France, Iberia, and the Baltic, with attention paid to the Islamic and Byzantine perspectives. The sources to be discussed include chronicles, charters, sermons, literary texts, songs, and hagiography, as well as architectural and artistic monuments and objects. Among the themes to be treated are crusader motivations, crusades and memory, European 'colonization', women and family in crusading society, crusading liturgies, the military orders, and diplomacy. Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.

MVST 5707. Meditation, Contemplation, and the Spriritual Senses. (4 Credits)
The late Middle Ages saw an astonishing proliferation of texts, practices, and styles of devotion seeking to draw human beings closer to God through the body. New emphasis on Christ's humanity and Aristotelian natural philosophy prompted the rediscovery of the five corporeal senses and their cognitive processes in devotional literature. In this course, we will examine the languages, knowledges, desires, and anxieties surrounding the senses in a diverse corpus of texts, probing them for their theological import as much as for their literary design. Major authors: Aristotle, Augustine, Origen, Hugh of St. Victor, Bonaventure, Richard Rolle, Chaucer, Margery Kempe, Meditationes Vitae Christi. Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.
Attributes: ENG1, ENME.

MVST 5708. Struggling Toward God: Meditation and Prayer in the 11th- and 12th-Century Monastery. (4 Credits)
This course explores the dimensions of medieval monastic contemplation in the heyday of Benedictine and Cistercian spiritual writing, the 11th and 12th centuries. The course will aim to answer the following questions: What did extra-liturgical prayer and meditation look like for medieval monks and nuns? When, where, and how was it practiced? Was there a set way to engage with monastic meditation, or were there a variety of medieval monastic meditative experiences in the 11th and 12th centuries? What did monks and nuns perceive as the limitations of monastic prayer and meditation? What extra-textual tools did monks and nuns rely upon to stimulate their practices of meditation? And what does monastic meditation reveal about the emotional lives of Benedictine and Cistercian monks and nuns in the high Middle Ages? Note: Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.

MVST 6209. Themes in Preconquest Lit. (4 Credits)
This course is an advanced-level seminar on the language and literature of Anglo-Saxon England. We will read (in Old English) texts including poetry, homilies, saints' lives, and chronicles. Substantial attention will also be given to Anglo-Saxon palaeography and relevant critical literature, with the aim of providing students with the resources needed for the scholarly study of OE. Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.

MVST 6225. Old French in the Medieval World: Language Contact, Conquest, and Difference. (4 Credits)
This interdisciplinary course offers an introduction to the cultural history of French language and literature during the Middle Ages. Before it was the national language of France, French was a language of empires in England, Italy, Cyprus, and Greece; a tongue of invaders and reformers; and an idiom spread by immigrants, scholars, merchants, sailors, artisans, poets, and romancers. We will explore the diversity of old French, its connections to political power and ideologies, its manuscript contexts, and its contact with other medieval languages and works of literature, such as Arabic, Hebrew, Greek, Latin, old English, middle Welsh, and old Occitan. In addition to interdisciplinary seminar topics and readings, weekly language instruction and fully supported readings from Chrétien de Troyes's "Story of the Grail" will allow students to gain competence in a primary language for research at the graduate level in several disciplines and perhaps the key to eternal life. Previous experience of old French is not expected; basic reading or speaking of modern French is not required but may be helpful; experience with other older languages is welcome.
Attribute: ENG1.

MVST 6232. Fr of Eng: Doc & Lit Cult. (4 Credits)
This course focuses on law, mercantile, medical and other forms of documentary and civic texts in the French of England, as well as literary texts, both the well-known and the under-researched: texts with Middle English versions will be included wherever possible. For newcomers to the subject, a linguistic practicum, which should be regarded as obligatory, is offered in the hour preceding the class meeting: some knowledge of modern French is a must. Some linguistic work together with seminar student presentations and discussion takes place in each class. Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.

MVST 6700. Medieval Scholasticism. (4 Credits)
This interdisciplinary graduate course will provide an introduction to the history, theology, and philosophy of the Scholastic movement in the High Middle Ages. Topics to be considered include: the economic, social, political, religious, and educational transitions that together constitute the "renaissance of the twelfth century"; the rise of open urban schools and the development of the university; and characteristic modes of thought and discourse in scholastic theology and philosophy. Thinkers to be examined include Anselm of Canterbury, Hugh and Richard of St. Victor, Peter Abelard, the shcool of Laon, Peter Lombard, Albert the Great, Thomas Aquinas, Bonaventure, John Duns Scotus, and William of Ockham. Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.

MVST 8100. Internship for Medievalists. (1 Credit)
This is the obligatory tutorial to be taken in conjuction with any inernship taken at libraries, museums, or other institutions of professional interst to medievalists. The student will meet with the instructor regularly to reflect on their intership experience and document their work in an appropriate format (journal, blog etc)

MVST 8500. Independent Research. (1 to 4 Credits)

MVST 8501. Independent Research. (1 Credit)

MVST 8999. Tutorial. (0 to 4 Credits)

Courses in other areas

Aside from courses with the subject code, the following courses have the MVSG attribute and count toward the masters and certificate in Medieval Studies.

Course	Title	Credits
ENGL 5111	Race, Religion, and Monstrosity in Medieval Literature	3
ENGL 5112	Medieval Time Travel	3
ENGL 5203	The Postcolonial Middle Ages	3
ENGL 5208	The English Language 1154-1776	3
ENGL 5210	Intro Old Norse Lang & Lit	3
ENGL 5211	Introduction to Old English Language and Literature	3
ENGL 5230	Richard Rolle and His Influence	3
ENGL 5261	Malory: Cultures of the C15	3
ENGL 6224	French of England: Texts and Literacies in a Multilingual Culture	3
ENGL 6231	Late Medieval Women	3
ENGL 6235	Medieval Travel Narrative	3
HIST 5102	Archives and Narratives of Global History	4
HIST 5202	Medieval Interfaith Relations	4
HIST 5203	Medieval Hagiography	4
HIST 6076	Noble Culture and Society	4
HIST 6077	The Angevin Empire	4
HIST 6078	The Crusader States: The Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem 1099-1291	4
HIST 6133	Medieval Religious Institutions	4
HIST 6136	Disease in the Middle Ages	4
HIST 6152	Medieval Women and Family	4
HIST 6153	Medieval Economy and Society	4
HIST 7024	Proseminar: Making Money in the Middle Ages	4
HIST 7025	PSM: Medieval Religious Cultures	4
HIST 7056	PSM: Medieval Political Cultures	4
HIST 7070	PSM: Medieval Intellectual Cultures	4
HIST 7110	PSM: Church Law and Medieval Society	4
HIST 7150	PSM: Medieval England	4
HIST 8024	Seminar: Making Money in the Middle Ages	4
HIST 8025	SEM: Medieval Religious Cultures	4
HIST 8056	SEM: Medieval Political Cultures	4
HIST 8070	SEM: Medieval Intellectual Cultures	4
HIST 8110	SEM: Church Law and Medieval Society	4
HIST 8150	SEM: Medieval England	4
ITAL 5090	Italian for Reading	0
LATN 5093	Ecclesiastical Latin	3
LATN 5542	Medieval Latin Literature	4
LATN 6521	Latin Palaeography	3
MVST 5080	Interdisciplinary London: Medieval Manuscripts, Sources, Methods	4

PHIL 5001	Introduction to Plato	3
PHIL 5009	Introduction to Aristotle	3
PHIL 5010	Introduction to St. Thomas Aquinas	3
PHIL 5012	Introduction to St. Augustine	3
PHIL 7080	Medieval Views on Cognition and Certainty	3
THEO 5075	Syriac Language and Literature I	3
THEO 5076	Syriac Language and Literature II	3
THEO 5230	Advanced Greek	3
THEO 5401	Introduction to Islam	3
THEO 6211	Paul, Prisoner and Martyr: Political Theology in Early Christianity	3
THEO 6360	Alexandrian Theology	3
THEO 6365	Cappadocian Fathers	3
THEO 6367	Byzantine Christianity: History and Theology	3
THEO 6425	St. Augustine in Context	3
THEO 6426	St. Augustine of Hippo	3
THEO 6445	Affect, Emotion, and Religious Experience	3
THEO 6461	Mystical Theology	3
THEO 6463	From Lollards to Luther	3
THEO 6465	Asceticism and Monasticism	3
THEO 6466	Hagiography	3
THEO 6480	Christianizing the Barbarians	3