

BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA) DEGREE WITH A MAJOR IN MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN STUDIES

Program Learning Outcomes for the BA Degree with a Major in Medieval and Early Modern Studies

Upon completing the BA degree with a major in Medieval and Early Modern Studies, students will be able to:

1. Situate Medieval and Early Modern studies more broadly within several interdisciplinary fields, including history, art, philosophy, music, literature, and religion.
2. Define and apply appropriate disciplinary and/or interdisciplinary methodologies, vocabularies, concepts, and theories to critically respond to questions within the field of Medieval and Early Modern Studies.
3. Demonstrate the ability to define and respond to research questions and scholarly debates within the field, including the ability to analyze primary and secondary sources, draw conclusions from the analysis of these sources, and cite evidence in support of conclusions.
4. Demonstrate a firm grasp of written, visual, and oral communication, including critical writing principles such as appropriate citation, use of evidence, clarity, and grammatical correctness.

Requirements for the BA Degree with a Major in Medieval and Early Modern Studies

For general university requirements, see [Graduation Requirements \(https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/). Students pursuing the BA degree with a major in Medieval and Early Modern Studies must complete:

- A minimum of 10 courses (30 credit hours) to satisfy major requirements.
- A minimum of 120 credit hours to satisfy degree requirements.
- A minimum of 5 courses (15 credit hours) taken at the 300-level or above.
- A maximum of 4 courses (12 credit hours) from study abroad or transfer credit. For additional program guidelines regarding transfer credit, see the [Policies](#) (p. 4) tab.

The courses listed below satisfy the requirements for this major. In certain instances, courses not on this official list may be substituted upon approval of the major's academic advisor, or where applicable, the department's Director of Undergraduate Studies. (Course substitutions must be formally applied and entered into Degree Works by the major's [Official Certifier \(https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/degreeworks/officialcertifier/\)](https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/degreeworks/officialcertifier/).) Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

Summary

Code	Title	Credit Hours
	Total Credit Hours Required for the Major in Medieval and Early Modern Studies	30
	Total Credit Hours Required for the BA Degree with a Major in Medieval and Early Modern Studies	120

Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Core Requirements		
	Select 10 courses from the following categories (see course lists below): ^{1, 2}	30
	Anthropology	
	Art History	
	Asian Studies	
	Classical Studies	
	English	
	French Studies	
	German Studies	
	History	
	Jewish Studies	
	Medieval and Early Modern Studies	
	Music	
	Philosophy	
	Religion	
	Spanish	
	Total Credit Hours Required for the Major in Medieval and Early Modern Studies	30
	Additional Credit Hours to Complete Degree Requirements*	59
	University Graduation Requirements (https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/) *	31
	Total Credit Hours	120

Footnotes and Additional Information

* **Note:** [University Graduation Requirements](#) include 31 credit hours, comprised of Distribution Requirements (Groups I, II, and III), FWIS, and LPAP coursework. In some instances, courses satisfying FWIS or distribution requirements may additionally meet other requirements, such as the Analyzing Diversity (AD) requirement, or some of the student's declared major, minor, or certificate requirements. [Additional Credit Hours to Complete Degree Requirements](#) include general electives, coursework completed as upper-level, residency (hours taken at Rice), and/or any other additional academic program requirements.

¹ Of the 10 required courses (30 credit hours), a total of 5 courses (15 credit hours) must be taken at the 300-level or above. Please note that not all courses will be offered each academic year.

² The 10 required courses (30 credit hours) must be taken from at least 3 different fields or departments (Anthropology, Art History, Asian Studies, Classical Studies, English, European Studies, French Studies, German Studies, History, Jewish Studies, Latin American and Latinx Studies, Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Music, Philosophy, Religion, and Spanish).

Course Lists to Satisfy Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Anthropology		
ANTH 312 / MDEM 311	THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF AFRICA	
ANTH 392	KINGS, QUEENS, AND COMMONERS: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF ANCIENT MESOAMERICA	
ANTH 394	THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF SLAVERY AND THE AFRICAN DIASPORA	

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Art History		
HART 101 / MDEM 111 / CLAS 102	INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF WESTERN ART I: ANTIQUITY TO GOTHIC	
HART 118	A GLOBAL ARCHITECTURE HISTORY I	
HART 220	INTRODUCTION TO MEDIEVAL ART AND ARCHITECTURE OF WESTERN EUROPE	
HART 319	ARCHITECTURE, TRADE, AND POWER IN EARLY MODERN ISLAMIC EMPIRES	
HART 323 / MDEM 323 / ASIA 323	BUDDHIST AND DAOIST ART AND RITUAL	
HART 324	PERSIANATE ARTS OF THE BOOK	
HART 325	COFFEEHOUSES AND TEAHOUSES: A GLOBAL HISTORY	
HART 330 / MDEM 330	EARLY MEDIEVAL ART	
HART 332 / MDEM 332	ART OF THE COURTS	
HART 333	LOOKING AT EUROPEAN PRINTS 1400-1700	
HART 339	AMERICAN ART AND ARCHITECTURE I: 1620-1800	
HART 340 / MDEM 340	NORTHERN RENAISSANCE ART	
HART 341	EARLY RENAISSANCE ART IN ITALY	
HART 342	THE HIGH RENAISSANCE AND MANNERISM IN ITALY	
HART 343 / MDEM 343	MASTERS OF THE BAROQUE ERA	
HART 344	CAPITALISM AND CULTURE	
HART 356	SEX AND MONEY: THE SPECIES DIVIDE	
HART 371 / ASIA 371	HOW TO READ CHINESE PAINTING	
HART 372 / MDEM 373 / ASIA 372	CHINESE ART AND THE WORLD	
HART 377 / MDEM 377	MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPTS	
HART 378 / MDEM 378	DUTCH ART IN THE AGE OF REMBRANDT	

HART 385	ARCHITECTURE AND LITERATURE IN ISLAMIC CULTURES	
HART 427	VISUAL CULATURE OF MEDIEVAL PILGRIMAGE	
HART 434 / MDEM 434 / SWGS 434	SEEING SEX IN EUROPEAN ART, 1400-1700	
HART 435 / MDEM 435 / HIST 443	MULTICULTURAL EUROPE, 1400-1700	

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Asian Studies		
ASIA 213	TRANSNATIONAL ART AND CULTURE IN ASIA BEFORE THE TWENTIETH CENTURY	
ASIA 214	ART & WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES IN CHINA, JAPAN AND KOREA	
ASIA 224	A HISTORY OF THE SILK ROADS	
ASIA 243	PREMODERN CHINA: HISTORY OF AN OPEN EMPIRE TO 1800	
ASIA 330 / MDEM 370 / CHIN 330	INTRODUCTION TO TRADITIONAL CHINESE POETRY	
ASIA 334 / CHIN 334	TRADITIONAL CHINESE TALES AND SHORT STORIES	
ASIA 335 / MDEM 375 / CHIN 335	INTRODUCTION TO CLASSICAL CHINESE NOVELS	
ASIA 336	GENDER AND SOCIETY IN BUDDHISM	
ASIA 342	EAST ASIAN ORTHODOXIES AND HERESIES: LAW AND SOCIETY IN TRADITIONAL CHINA, KOREA, AND VIETNAM	
ASIA 372 / MDEM 373 / HART 372	CHINESE ART AND THE WORLD	
ASIA 399 / MDEM 379 / SWGS 399	WOMEN IN CHINESE LITERATURE	

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Classical Studies		
LATI 101 / MDEM 101	ELEMENTARY LATIN I	
LATI 102 / MDEM 102	ELEMENTARY LATIN II	
LATI 201 / MDEM 211	INTERMEDIATE LATIN I: PROSE	
LATI 202 / MDEM 212	INTERMEDIATE LATIN II	

Code	Title	Credit Hours
English		
ENGL 210	BEGINNINGS: BRITISH LITERATURE TO 1800	

ENGL 311	TOPICS IN MEDIEVAL LITERATURE AND/ OR CULTURE	
ENGL 314 / MDEM 319	MEDIEVAL ROMANCE	
ENGL 316 / MDEM 316 / SWGS 305	CHAUCER	
ENGL 317 / MDEM 317 / SWGS 301	ARTHURIAN LITERATURE	
ENGL 320	SHAKESPEARE ON FILM	
ENGL 321	SHAKESPEARE	
ENGL 322	TOPICS IN SHAKESPEARE	
ENGL 323	RENAISSANCE DRAMA	
ENGL 328	JOHN MILTON: RADICAL THOUGHT THEN AND NOW	
ENGL 332	LITERATURE OF THE BRITISH ENLIGHTENMENT	
ENGL 333	18TH CENTURY BRITISH FICTION	

Code	Title	Credit Hours
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French Studies

FREN 311	MAJOR LITERARY WORKS AND ARTIFACTS OF PRE-REVOLUTIONARY FRANCE	
FREN 404 / MDEM 404	BEGINNINGS OF THE LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE OF FRANCE	
FREN 412	SAINTS AND SINNERS	
FREN 416 / MDEM 436	LITERATURE AND CULTURE OF THE MIDDLE AGES: KING ARTHUR	

Code	Title	Credit Hours
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History

HIST 101	MODERN EUROPE, 1500-1789	
HIST 117	EARLY AMERICA	
HIST 120 / MDEM 120	MEDIEVAL CIVILIZATIONS	
HIST 176	MEXICO: AN INTRODUCTION	
HIST 204	THE IDEA OF AFRICA	
HIST 205 / MDEM 205	MEDIEVAL MEDITERRANEAN WORLD	
HIST 211 / MDEM 210	MEDIEVAL VIOLENCE	
HIST 213	THE MIDDLE EAST FROM THE AGE OF MUHAMMAD TO THE ARAB SPRING	
HIST 219	GENGHIS KHAN AND THE EMPIRE OF THE MONGOLS	
HIST 222	HISTORY OF EARLY AFRICA	
HIST 227	LATIN AMERICAN CULTURAL TRADITIONS	
HIST 239	NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY: FROM EUROPEAN CONTACT TO THE ERA OF REMOVAL	
HIST 266	SLAVERY AND THE FOUNDING FATHERS	
HIST 271	HISTORY OF SOUTH ASIA	

HIST 281 / MDEM 281	GOLDEN AGE OF ISLAM	
HIST 301	FIGHTING THE ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE	
HIST 308 / MDEM 308	THE WORLD OF LATE ANTIQUITY	
HIST 311	SEX, GENDER, AND FAMILY IN EUROPE, 1300-1700	
HIST 316	JEWS AND CHRISTIANS IN THE MEDIEVAL ISLAMIC WORLD	
HIST 320	IMPERIAL PLEASURE GARDENS, A WORLD HISTORY	
HIST 323	HISTORY OF ATLANTIC AFRICA	
HIST 324 / MDEM 324	CONFLICT AND COEXISTENCE IN MEDIEVAL SPAIN	
HIST 327 / MDEM 327	MEDIEVAL BORDERLANDS	
HIST 357 / MDEM 357	JEWS AND CHRISTIANS IN MEDIEVAL EUROPE	
HIST 361	HISTORY OF PREMODERN BRITAIN: TUDORS AND STUARTS, 1485 - 1707	
HIST 365 / ECON 365	WORLD ECONOMIC HISTORY	
HIST 374	JEWISH HISTORY, 1500-1948	
HIST 392	PRE-MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT FROM CICERO TO LOCKE	
HIST 401	THE AGE OF ATILTA THE HUN	
HIST 409	MUSLIMS, JEWS, CHRISTIANS, HERETICS, AND PAGANS IN THE AGE OF THE CRUSADES	
HIST 412	EMPIRE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW	
HIST 413	A HISTORY OF TRAVEL: FROM MEDIEVAL PILGRIMAGE TO THE HIPPIE TRAIL	
HIST 434	MUSLIMS, AMERICA, AND ISLAMOPHOBIA	
HIST 494	RULING HINDUSTAN: THE TIMURID- MUGHAL KINGS OF INDIA	

Code	Title	Credit Hours
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Jewish Studies

JWST 201	GREAT BOOKS OF JEWISH HISTORY AND CULTURE	
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Code	Title	Credit Hours
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Medieval and Early Modern Studies

MDEM 320	DIRECTED READING IN MEDIEVAL STUDIES	
MDEM 477	SPECIAL TOPICS	
MDEM 494	SENIOR THESIS	
MDEM 495	SENIOR THESIS	

Code	Title	Credit Hours
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Music

MUSI 222 / MDEM 222	MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE ERAS	
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MUSI 436 / COLLEGIUM MUSICUM
MDEM 456

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Philosophy		
PHIL 281	HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY I	
PHIL 289	HISTORY OF CHINESE PHILOSOPHY	
PHIL 362	HISTORY OF ETHICS	
PHIL 372	HISTORY OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY	
PHIL 381	ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY	

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Religion		
RELI 104 / MDEM 103	INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH MYSTICISM	
RELI 108	INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM	
RELI 112	COMPARING CHRISTIANITIES: INTRODUCTION TO EARLY CHRISTIANITY	
RELI 221 / ASIA 221	THE LIFE OF THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD	
RELI 223	QUR'AN AND COMMENTARY	
RELI 271 / MDEM 271	MEDIEVAL POPULAR CHRISTIANITY	
RELI 350 / MDEM 350	DEMONS, MENTAL ILLNESS AND MEDICINE	
RELI 363	JEWISH PHILOSOPHY: GREAT THINKERS AND THEMES IN JEWISH THOUGHT	
RELI 367	REPRESENTING THE DEVIL IN CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY AND ART	
RELI 384	PILGRIMAGE AND CRUSADE	
RELI 406	CHRISTIANITY AND LATE ANTIQUITY	
RELI 416	NEW TESTAMENT / CHRISTIAN ORIGINS	
RELI 442	CLASSICAL AND CONTEMPORARY ARABIC TEXTS	
RELI 444 / MDEM 444	VISIONS AND VISIONARY PRACTICES: MEDIEVAL TO MODERN	
RELI 449	SECOND CENTURY CHRISTIANITIES	

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Spanish		
SPAN 347	INTRODUCTION TO MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN SPANISH LITERATURE AND CULTURE	
SPAN 412	DON QUIJOTE	

Recommended Coursework

It is *recommended*, but not required, that students take 2 semesters at the college level in an appropriate language (or languages). For students considering MDEM graduate work, it is recommended that they study at least 1 foreign language in some depth.

Policies for the BA Degree with a Major in Medieval and Early Modern Studies

Program Restrictions and Exclusions

Students pursuing the major in Medieval and Early Modern Studies should be aware of the following program restriction:

- As noted in [Majors, Minors, and Certificates \(https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-opportunities/majors-minors-certificates/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-opportunities/majors-minors-certificates/), students may not major and minor in the same subject.

Transfer Credit

For Rice University's policy regarding transfer credit, see [Transfer Credit \(https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/transfer-credit/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/transfer-credit/). Some departments and programs have additional restrictions on transfer credit. The Office of Academic Advising maintains the university's official list of [transfer credit advisors \(https://oaa.rice.edu/advising-network/transfer-credit-advisors/\)](https://oaa.rice.edu/advising-network/transfer-credit-advisors/) on their website: <https://oaa.rice.edu>. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic program's transfer credit advisor when considering transfer credit possibilities.

Program Transfer Credit Guidelines

Students pursuing the major in Medieval and Early Modern Studies should be aware of the following program-specific transfer credit guidelines:

- No more than 4 courses (12 credit hours) of transfer credit from U.S. or international universities of similar standing as Rice may apply towards the major.
- Requests for transfer credit will be considered by the program director (and/or the program's official transfer credit advisor) on an individual case-by-case basis.

Distribution Credit Information

The determination of distribution credit eligibility is done initially as part of the [new course creation process \(https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/courseprocess/\)](https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/courseprocess/). Additionally, as part of an [annual roll call \(https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/distribution_credit/\)](https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/distribution_credit/) coordinated each Spring by the Office of the Registrar, course distribution credit eligibility is routinely reviewed and reaffirmed by the Dean's Offices of each of the academic schools.

Faculty and leadership in the academic schools are responsible for ensuring that the courses identified as distribution-credit-eligible meet the criteria as set in the [General Announcements \(https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/#text\)](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/#text). Students are responsible for ensuring that they meet [graduation requirements \(https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/#text\)](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/#text) by completing coursework designated as distribution-credit-eligible at the time of course registration.

Distribution courses from Medieval and Early Modern Studies (MDEM) are broad in theme and scope and prompt students to probe knowledge about the variety of often interrelated medieval and early modern civilizations from the 4th to the 18th centuries. They involve a broad, interdisciplinary spectrum of knowledge that provides students with the tools for thinking critically about formations of ideas in the long history of culture and cultural exchange among Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and the Americas. Many of them are introductions to the medieval

and/or early modern periods in a particular field of study (e.g. History, Art History, Religion, Music).

See <https://humanities.rice.edu/student-life> (<https://humanities.rice.edu/student-life/>) for tables of fellowships, prizes, and internships/practica that may be relevant to this major.

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Medieval and Early Modern Studies website: <https://medieval.rice.edu/>

Opportunities for the BA Degree with a Major in Medieval and Early Modern Studies

Academic Honors

The university recognizes academic excellence achieved over an undergraduate's academic history at Rice. For information on university honors, please see [Latin Honors](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/) (<https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/>) (*summa cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, and *cum laude*) and [Distinction in Research and Creative Work](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/) (<https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/>). Some departments have department-specific Honors awards or designations.

Senior Thesis

Qualified majors may apply before their senior year for directed research leading to a senior thesis, carried out during both semesters of the senior year. Each semester will require 3 credit hours; these 6 credit hours (MDEM 494 and MDEM 495) are in addition to the credit hours required for the major.

To qualify for senior thesis, students must have an approved research proposal and the agreement of a faculty member to serve as advisor for that project. Applicants will normally be required to have a GPA of 3.75 in MDEM courses and to have completed courses relevant to the proposed thesis topic (e.g. English, History, Art History, etc.), to be determined by the thesis advisor. Applications should be submitted to the director of Medieval and Early Modern Studies and will be evaluated by the advisory board.

Students who are considering applying to write a senior thesis should consult the program director and potential advisor as early as possible. Normally students will apply before preregistration in the second semester of their junior year and will spend time during the following summer reading from a list they have developed with their advisor. The thesis normally will be between 7,500 and 15,000 words (approximately 30-60 pages) in length. Students will enroll MDEM 494 and MDEM 495.

Application Requirements

- Program thesis application form (available at program website and from the program director) signed by the program director and the faculty member who will supervise the project
- A 500 word abstract of the proposed project

Final Submission and Presentations

- An electronic copy of the final thesis must be submitted by the last day of final examinations for degree candidates. Presentations will take place at the MDEM Undergraduate Conference.

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Medieval and Early Modern Studies website: <https://medieval.rice.edu/>