

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.

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 |

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| Total Credit Hours Required for the BA Degree with a Major in Medieval and Early Modern Studies | 120 |
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Degree Requirements

| Code | Title | Credit Hours |
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Core Requirements

Select 10 courses from the following:^{1, 2} 30

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| Anthropology | | |
| MDEM 311 / ANTH 312 | THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF AFRICA | |
| Art History | | |
| MDEM 111 / CLAS 102 / HART 101 | INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF WESTERN ART I: ANTIQUITY TO GOTHIC | |
| MDEM 330 / HART 330 | EARLY MEDIEVAL ART | |
| MDEM 331 / HART 331 | GOTHIC ART | |
| MDEM 332 / HART 332 | ART OF THE COURTS | |
| MDEM 340 / HART 340 | NORTHERN RENAISSANCE ART | |
| MDEM 343 / HART 343 | MASTERS OF THE BAROQUE ERA | |
| MDEM 373 / ASIA 372 / HART 372 | CHINESE ART AND VISUAL CULTURE | |
| MDEM 376 / ASIA 376 / HART 376 | EAST & WEST: MEDIEVAL VISUAL CULTURE IN CHINA AND NORTHERN EUROPE | |
| MDEM 378 / HART 378 | DUTCH ART IN THE AGE OF REMBRANDT | |
| MDEM 431 / HART 431 | ARCHITECTURE OF THE GOTHIC CATHEDRAL FROM THE MIDDLE AGES TO THE TWENTIETH CENTURY | |
| MDEM 434 / HART 434 / SWGS 434 | SEEING SEX IN EUROPEAN ART, 1400-1700 | |
| MDEM 435 / HART 435 / HIST 443 | MULTICULTURAL EUROPE, 1400-1700 | |
| Asian Studies | | |
| MDEM 370 / ASIA 330 / CHIN 330 | INTRODUCTION TO TRADITIONAL CHINESE POETRY | |
| MDEM 375 / ASIA 335 / CHIN 335 | INTRODUCTION TO CLASSICAL CHINESE NOVELS | |
| MDEM 379 / ASIA 399 / SWGS 399 | WOMEN IN CHINESE LITERATURE | |
| Classical Studies | | |
| MDEM 101 / LATI 101 | ELEMENTARY LATIN I | |
| MDEM 102 / LATI 102 | ELEMENTARY LATIN II | |

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| MDEM 211 / LATI 201 | INTERMEDIATE LATIN I: PROSE |
| MDEM 212 / LATI 202 | INTERMEDIATE LATIN II |
| English | |
| MDEM 312 / ENGL 312 | OLD ENGLISH LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE |
| MDEM 316 / ENGL 316 / SWGS 305 | CHAUCER |
| MDEM 317 / ENGL 317 / SWGS 301 | ARTHURIAN LITERATURE |
| MDEM 319 / ENGL 314 | MEDIEVAL ROMANCE |
| French Studies | |
| MDEM 404 / FREN 404 | BEGINNINGS OF THE LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE OF FRANCE |
| MDEM 425 / FREN 415 | COURTLY LOVE IN MEDIEVAL FRANCE |
| MDEM 436 / FREN 416 | LITERATURE AND CULTURE OF THE MIDDLE AGES: KING ARTHUR |
| German Studies | |
| MDEM 402 | MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN |
| History | |
| MDEM 120 / HIST 120 | MEDIEVAL CIVILIZATIONS |
| MDEM 205 / HIST 205 | MEDIEVAL MEDITERRANEAN WORLD |
| MDEM 210 / HIST 211 | MEDIEVAL VIOLENCE |
| MDEM 281 / HIST 281 | GOLDEN AGE OF ISLAM |
| MDEM 308 / HIST 308 | THE WORLD OF LATE ANTIQUITY |
| MDEM 324 / HIST 324 | CONFLICT AND COEXISTENCE IN MEDIEVAL SPAIN |
| MDEM 327 / HIST 327 | EUROPEAN FRONTIER SOCIETIES |
| MDEM 357 / HIST 357 | JEWS AND CHRISTIANS IN MEDIEVAL EUROPE |
| Medieval and Early Modern Studies | |
| MDEM 320 | DIRECTED READING IN MEDIEVAL STUDIES |
| MDEM 411 | THE LITERARY AND HISTORICAL IMAGE OF THE MEDIEVAL WOMAN |
| MDEM 477 | SPECIAL TOPICS |
| MDEM 478 | MEDIEVAL STUDIES |
| MDEM 494 | SENIOR THESIS |
| MDEM 495 | SENIOR THESIS |
| Music | |
| MDEM 222 / MUSI 222 | MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE ERAS |
| MDEM 427 | TOPICS IN EARLY MUSIC |
| MDEM 456 / MUSI 436 | COLLEGIUM MUSICUM |

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| Philosophy | |
| MDEM 481 | ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY |
| PHIL 281 | HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY I |
| PHIL 381 | ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY |
| Religion | |
| MDEM 103 / RELI 104 | INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH MYSTICISM |
| MDEM 105 / RELI 105 | INTRODUCTION TO MEDIEVAL CHRISTIAN THOUGHT |
| MDEM 271 / RELI 271 | MEDIEVAL POPULAR CHRISTIANITY |
| MDEM 391 / RELI 391 | THE REFORMATION & ITS RESULTS |
| MDEM 444 / RELI 444 | VISIONS AND VISIONARY PRACTICES: MEDIEVAL TO MODERN |
| 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 major requirements may additionally meet distribution 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, Latin American Studies, Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Music, Philosophy, Religion, and Spanish and Portuguese).

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 (as most graduate schools require a reading knowledge of French and German for the PhD).

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

Transfer Credit

For Rice University's policy regarding transfer credit, see [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 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:

- 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 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/) coordinated each Spring by the Office of the Registrar, course distribution 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-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 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 16th 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).

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/>

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.