

Medieval & Renaissance Studies

Medieval and Renaissance studies is an interdisciplinary undergraduate major which is designed to introduce students to both the culture of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance and the tools required to pursue more advanced study of these periods in a number of disciplines—history, history of arts, languages and literatures, and philosophy. By studying medieval and Renaissance societies, students learn about those centuries that witnessed the end of the ancient world and the formation of the modern world, which are fascinating in their own right for the culture and achievements they produced. Through their work in this program, students develop language and analytical skills as well as an appreciation for the two periods.

During the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, from the collapse of the Roman Empire until the beginning of the 17th century, European culture created and elaborated a major portion of its unique heritage in art, music, literature, government, religion, and philosophy. To study only part of this heritage is to miss the opportunity to grasp its lively forces in their interaction. The Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies was established to develop, coordinate, and support a program of education and research in medieval and Renaissance culture.

Pursuing Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Ohio State

All Ohio State freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus. The primary criteria for admission are the completion of the applicant's high school college preparatory program, performance in that program as indicated by class rank and/or grade-point average, and performance on either the ACT or SAT. Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in medieval and Renaissance studies within the Arts and Humanities. Interested students should contact the undergraduate advisor in the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies and Arts and Sciences Advising.

Medieval and Renaissance Studies Requirements

The major consists of 55 hours of course work offered by the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies and its affiliated departments, including ten credit hours of foreign language above the GEC requirement. Please contact the associate director for specific information.

Specific course choices are worked out on an individual basis and will vary according to the student's particular interests. A concentration in a primary field will be complemented by select courses in other disciplines which will provide a solid foundation

in the culture of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance as well as the tools required to pursue more advanced study of these periods in a given area.

Co-Curricular Opportunities

Ohio State offers many opportunities for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom. These range from cooperative education (co-op) and internships to study abroad programs to student organizations. Co-ops and internships place students in professional environments while they are Ohio State students. Ohio State offers more than 100 study abroad programs in 40 countries around the world. In addition, there are hundreds of student organizations on campus to meet the interests of a diverse student population.

These experiences enable students to gain valuable work experience, learn about cultures, and take on leadership roles before they enter the workforce. All of these experiences enhance learning and may provide an advantage in the job market.

Honors & Scholars Programs

Ohio State offers the Honors and Scholars programs to create an environment of intellectual support and stimulation within a close-knit community of high-ability undergraduate students. Through these programs, students have access to smaller classes, undergraduate research opportunities, close working relationships with faculty, priority scheduling, and unique housing options.

Honors and Scholars programs represent great opportunities to be part of a smaller community within a large university. Good candidates for these programs will receive additional information after admission to the university. Learn more about the Honors and Scholars program at honors-scholars.osu.edu.

Career Prospects in Medieval and Renaissance Studies

A specialist in medieval and Renaissance studies will generally pursue an advanced degree in one of the fields which comprise our affiliated disciplines. These include architecture, comparative studies, dance, East Asian studies, English, French, Italian, German, Greek, history, history of art, Jewish studies, Latin, linguistics, music history, Islamic studies, philosophy, Slavic, Spanish, Portuguese, or theatre.

Specialists with an advanced degree in any of these fields could also earn a certificate in medieval and Renaissance studies as an adjunct to their field studies and would then be qualified to work in an interdisciplinary capacity in any of the occupations

For more information, check these web sites:

Medieval & Renaissance Studies: cmrs.osu.edu
Arts and Humanities: artsandhumanities.osu.edu
Ohio State: osu.edu

Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu
Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu
First Year Experience Program: fye.osu.edu

Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes a student will take to pursue a degree in Medieval and Renaissance Studies. Since university students need more than specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete the General Education Curriculum (GEC). The GEC will allow students to develop the fundamental skills essential to collegiate success across major programs. Course work options satisfying the GEC often come from a variety of academic areas of study allowing students to tailor their GEC toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in Medieval and Renaissance Studies. Consult the departmental web site, cmrs.osu.edu/courses, for details on each specific track.

Freshman Year:

Magic and Witchcraft in the Middle Ages and Renaissance	5
Gothic Paris	5
GEC (English composition)	5
GEC (foreign language)	15
GEC courses	15
Arts and Humanities Survey	1
Freshman Seminar	1
Total hours	47

Sophomore Year:

Manuscript Studies	5
History of Art	5
Intermediate French	10
Electives	5
GEC courses	20
Total hours	45

Junior Year:

Introduction to Medieval Literature	5
French Literature: Middle Ages and Renaissance	5
History of Medieval Europe	5
Electives	5
GEC courses	25
Total hours	45

Senior Year:

Third writing course	5
English Literature: Chaucer	5
Electives	20
GEC courses	15
Total hours	45

which are open to the specialist. These vary, of course, by field, but generally include teaching, research, writing, culture and language investigation and interpretation, as well as other tasks, which are more specific to the primary discipline. For instance, a person with an advanced degree in the history of art and a certificate in medieval and Renaissance studies would be eligible to apply for positions with museums housing medieval and/or Renaissance collections and for positions with corporate or private art collectors with a need for such a specialist. Graduates with an advanced degree in French and a certificate in Medieval and Renaissance studies could apply for positions requiring knowledge of medieval or Renaissance literature in their chosen language for purposes of translation or interpretation.

Medieval and Renaissance studies also provide excellent training as a prelude to a career in law, business, library science, or museum management.

Persons with an undergraduate degree who choose not to pursue an advanced degree would be more widely versed in the humanities than the average college graduate and would find themselves in a more competitive posture in applying to positions where the traditional liberal arts background is valued.

There are no specific salary trends for the discipline. Salary would be whatever is appropriate for the field to which medieval and Renaissance studies is an adjunct.

Career Counseling and Job Placement

Students can explore career options by utilizing Career Connection as well as the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office. Providing complimentary services, Career Connection focuses on helping students establish a career direction, while the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office assists students with finding internships—experiences that are essential to testing out the suitability of career fields they are considering. Located in 48 Townshend Hall, the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office also assists seniors and recent graduates with finding entry-level career employment.

More information about both offices is found at asccareerservices.osu.edu and careerconnection.osu.edu.

Apply to Ohio State

Students wishing to apply for admission have a number of options. Those with Internet access can download application materials or apply online by visiting undergrad.osu.edu/apply. Students may also contact Undergraduate Admissions and First Year Experience at (614) 292-3980 or askabuckeye@osu.edu to have an application mailed.

Revised September 2009. For the most up-to-date information on the medieval and Renaissance studies program, please visit cmrs.osu.edu/courses.

Contact information:

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