Minor in Medieval Studies

The minor in medieval studies offers you the opportunity to acquire an understanding of the historical, cultural, and social forces that shaped our world during the Middle Ages.

The Minor

Whether it’s studying Anglo-Saxon treasure, tracing the development of Western Christianity, or critically examining 15th century French manuscripts, the medieval studies minor educates students about European culture and society from late antiquity to the Renaissance. A minor in medieval studies is useful preparation for advanced study in many fields, from history to literature to art to politics, as well as for those students who have an existing interest in the period. Students study the forms and systems that governments, organizations, and individuals created to address the Western world’s problems and challenges from the fifth through the fifteenth centuries.

Opportunities

Students in medieval studies can participate in a wide variety of experiences, from studying Winthrop’s collection of medieval manuscript fragments to visiting European castles to interning at art museums and archaeological sites, gaining global knowledge as they pursue their cultural, historical, and intellectual interests in the Middle Ages. Minors frequently participate in undergraduate research activities that enrich their college experience and better prepare them for their future endeavors.

The wide variety of courses and hands-on opportunities in the minor encourage students to
• engage in intensive examination of various material and conceptual aspects of European culture from the fall of the Roman Empire to the beginning of the Renaissance;
• analyze medieval culture through multiple disciplines, including literature, philosophy, religion, political theory, the arts, music, history, archaeology, and/or language;
• demonstrate their understanding of cultural issues in the period from an interdisciplinary perspective; and
• recognize and articulate both the continuities and discontinuities between the worldviews of medieval culture and those of our own culture.

The Program

The minor consists of 18 credit hours, six hours of which must be numbered above 299. In addition to MDST300 (Introduction to Medieval Studies), students select additional courses from a list including anthropology, art history, dance, English, French, history, Latin, religion, theatre, and assorted special topics courses. Students also have the opportunity to participate in a variety of undergraduate research experiences for credit.