Medieval Studies Minor
Educational Goals

Goals: The Program in Medieval Studies expects its minors to do the following:

A. be familiar with the basic framework of western European history in the middle ages and the methods for creating that framework
B. be familiar with major works of medieval literature written in English and translated from other languages and methods for interpreting those works
C. be familiar with major works of philosophy or theology in the Latin middle ages and methods for interpreting those works
D. be familiar with products of medieval culture outside of literature (music, visual arts, etc.) and methods for interpreting those works
E. be able to communicate ideas in oral and written form

Objectives:

Goal A: Medieval history. Students will be able to
1. be familiar with the major events, personalities, institutions and developments of the medieval period in primarily Western Europe from the “fall” of the Roman Empire to the later 15th century.
2. discuss the social, political, intellectual, economic and/or religious context of significant events, individuals, institutions or periods
3. discuss the interrelationships between sacred and secular authority in medieval Europe
4. discuss and analyze primary documents with a view to understanding how they shed light on the events/figures/institutions/society of the period and demonstrate a capacity to discern biases in these documents

Goal B: Medieval literature. Students will be able to:
1. identify, analyze, and discuss the conventions and techniques of the major genres and modes of medieval literature (especially epic, romance, lai, fabliau, lyric, saint’s life, sermon, dream vision, allegory, and drama)
2. locate these genres within their literary, cultural, and historical contexts
3. perform an explication de texte, or close reading, of a literary passage
4. recognize the multilingual and transnational character of regional European literatures during the middle ages

Goal C: Medieval thought. Students will be able to:
1. identify the central questions and problems that characterize the intellectual world of the Latin middle ages.
2. analyze and discuss the ideas and theories of important medieval thinkers.
3. read and understand important medieval philosophical or theological texts within their proper historical contexts.

Goal D: Medieval culture. Students will be able to:
1. discuss the basic stylistic features of at least one non-literary artistic genre (music, manuscript illumination, architecture, sculpture, etc.)
2. discuss how a work of medieval culture was affected by its historical, intellectual, and/or spiritual context

Goal E: Written and Oral Communication. Students will be able to:
1. write essays and papers on medieval subjects
2. make in-class oral presentations