

# INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES: MEDIEVAL STUDIES, BALAS

*for the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts & Sciences Major in Interdisciplinary Studies, Medieval Studies Concentration*

The Program in Medieval Studies (<https://medieval.illinois.edu/>) sponsors this concentration.

This concentration immerses students in the societies of the medieval world (ca. 500- ca. 1500 CE), providing them with a deep understanding of the periods and movements, institutions, material culture, ideas, beliefs, and values that comprise the medieval globe, with particular attention to premodern Afro-Eurasia as an integrated space of encounter. Coursework spans geographic regions and disciplines to emphasize to the breadth of medieval cultures as well as the diversity of methods and perspectives for their study.

The concentration includes a minimum of 45 hours, divided into (I) an introductory course in global medieval literatures and cultures; (II) geographical distribution coursework; (III) advanced medieval coursework selected by the student in consultation with a Medieval Studies faculty advisor; and (IV) a capstone experience involving an intensive writing and research project. Because Medieval Studies is an interdisciplinary field of study, students are urged to consult with a Medieval Studies faculty advisor to ensure that they take a range of courses providing some exposure to the fields of History and Anthropology; Literature; the Arts; and Philosophy or Religion. Although study of medieval languages is not a requirement, students who intend to pursue graduate study should complete at least two courses in an appropriate language; up to twelve hours of appropriate language study can be applied to the Additional Medieval Studies Coursework.

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A Major Plan of Study Form must be completed and submitted to the LAS Student Academic Affairs Office before the end of the fifth semester (60-75 hours). Please see your advisor.

Substitution for specific courses listed below will be approved by the concentration advisor only in exceptional cases.

**Departmental distinction:** To be eligible for graduation with distinction, a student must have a college grade point average of 3.5, a major concentration grade point average of 3.5, completion of HUM 498 with a grade of A, and completion of a semester paper in HUM 498 that is judged to be deserving of "distinction" by a committee of at least two faculty members.

High distinction: To be eligible for graduation with high distinction, a student must have a college grade point average of 3.5, a major concentration grade point average of 3.7, and must have completed HUM 492 (instead of HUM 498) with a grade of A and a thesis

in HUM 492 that is judged to be deserving of "high distinction" by a committee of at least two faculty members.

## Medieval Studies Concentration Requirements

### Graduation Requirements

Minimum hours required for graduation: 120 hours. Minimum hours of required major and supporting course work: Normally equates to 45 or 49 hours. Twelve hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the major must be taken on this campus.

### University Requirements

Minimum of 40 hours of upper-division coursework, generally at the 300- or 400-level. These hours can be drawn from all elements of the degree.

Students should consult their academic advisor for additional guidance in fulfilling this requirement.

The University and residency requirements can be found in the Student Code (<https://studentcode.illinois.edu/article3/part8/3-801/>) (§ 3-801) and in the Academic Catalog (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/general-information/degree-general-education-requirements/>).

### General Education Requirements

Follows the campus General Education (Gen Ed) requirements (<https://courses.illinois.edu/gened/DEFAULT/DEFAULT/>). Some Gen Ed requirements may be met by courses required and/or electives in the program.

Code	Title	Hours
	Composition I	4-6
	Advanced Composition	3
	Humanities & the Arts (6 hours)	6
	fulfilled by ENGL 202/MDVL 201/CWL 253 and any other course approved as a Humanities & the Arts course	
	Natural Sciences & Technology (6 hours)	6
	Social & Behavioral Sciences (6 hours)	6
	Cultural Studies: Non-Western Cultures (1 course)	3
	Cultural Studies: US Minority Cultures (1 course)	3
	Cultural Studies: Western/Comparative Cultures (1 course)	3
	fulfilled by ENGL 202/MDVL 201/CWL 253	
	Quantitative Reasoning (2 courses, at least one course must be Quantitative Reasoning I)	6-10
	Language Requirement (Completion of the fourth semester or equivalent of a language other than English is required)	0-20

Code	Title	Hours
	<b>Orientation and Professional Development</b>	
LAS 101	Design Your First Year Experience	1
	OR	
LAS 100 & LAS 101	Success in LAS for International Students and Design Your First Year Experience	3
	OR	
LAS 102	Transfer Advantage	1
Total Hours		1 or 3

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Major Core Requirements and Electives</b>		
<b>Introduction to Medieval Studies</b>		<b>3</b>
ENGL 202/ MDVL 201/ CWL 253	Medieval Literature and Culture	
<b>Geographical Distribution Coursework</b>		
(A student may substitute up to 6 hours in geographical distribution coursework with courses on the medieval civilizations of Oceania or the Americas, including ANTH 278. However, at least one course must still be taken from each of the three regional areas.)		
Select two of the following (Medieval Europe):		<b>6</b>
ARTH 111/ MDVL 222	Ancient to Medieval Art	
ARTH/MDVL 222	Medieval Art	
ARTH/MDVL 231	Northern Renaissance Art	
HIST 141	Western Worlds: Ancient and Medieval Societies from the Mediterranean to Northern Europe	
HIST/MDVL 245	Wives, Workers and Witches in Pre-Modern Europe	
HIST/MDVL 247	Medieval Europe	
HIST/MDVL 255	British Isles to 1688	
HIST/MDVL 345	Medieval Civilization	
HIST 445/ MDVL 444	Medieval England	
ITAL/MDVL/CWL 240	Italy Middle Ages & Renaiss	
SCAN/MDVL/REL/ CWL 251	Viking Mythology	
SCAN/MDVL/CWL 252	Viking Sagas in Translation	
MDVL/ARCH 412	Medieval Architecture	
Select two of the following (Classical and Medieval East Asia):		<b>6</b>
EALC 240	Chinese Civilization	
EALC/CWL 275	Masterpieces of East Asian Lit	
EALC 305/ CWL 311	Japan Lit in Translation I	
EALC/ARTH 320	Sacred Sites in Japan	
HIST/EALC 220	Traditional China	
HIST/EALC 226	Premodern Japanese History	
HIST 425/ EALC 476/ CWL 478	Classical Chinese Thought	
HIST/EALC 426	Early Modern Japan	
REL/EALC 287	Introduction to Buddhism	
Select two of the following (Medieval Central Asia, South Asia, the Mediterranean region, or Africa):		<b>6</b>
CWL/REL/SAME 208	Cultures & Literatures of South Asia	
HIST/AFST 111	History of Africa to 1800	
HIST/ANTH 130	History of South Asia	
HIST 135	History of Islamic Middle East	

HIST 432/ REL 442/JS 442	History of Early Judaism	
HIST 443/REL 434	Byzantine Empire AD 284-717	
LA 222/ARTH 219	Islamic Gardens & Architecture	
REL 106	Archaeology and the Bible	
REL/SAME 214	Introduction to Islam	
REL/SAME/CWL 223	The Qur'an (Koran)	
REL/SAME 260	Mystics and Saints in Islam	
REL/CWL 283	Jewish Sacred Literature	
REL/JS/MDVL 344	Jewish Intellectual History: Encounters with Islam and Christianity	
<b>Additional Medieval Studies Coursework</b>		
Medieval-related coursework from participating departments selected in consultation with the concentration advisor. At least 12 hours must be at the 300- or 400-level. Up to 12 hours of appropriate language study can be applied to meet this requirement with approval of a Medieval Studies faculty advisor.		<b>21</b>
<b>Capstone Experience</b>		
A capstone experience (normally in the student's senior year) involving intensive interdisciplinary research and writing on a medieval topic. Any 400-level MDVL course (or medieval-related course not cross-listed with MDVL, with the approval of a Medieval Studies faculty advisor) can be designated as a capstone experience with approval of the instructor. For the course to qualify as a capstone experience, the student must undertake a substantial research project that supplements the standard course requirements, in the form either of an additional project or of a longer and more research-intensive version of an existing course project. The project must involve both primary and secondary research using advanced disciplinary methodologies and resources.		<b>3</b>
(A student may also petition to satisfy the capstone experience by enrolling in MDVL 500, Seminar in Medieval Studies)		
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>45</b>

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## Sample Sequence

*This sample sequence is intended to be used only as a guide for degree completion. All students should work individually with their academic advisors to decide the actual course selection and sequence that works best for them based on their academic preparation and goals. Enrichment programming such as study abroad, minors, internships, and so on may impact the structure of this four-year plan. Course availability is not guaranteed during the semester indicated in the sample sequence.*

*Students must fulfill their Language Other Than English requirement by successfully completing a fourth level of a language other than English. See the corresponding section on the Degree and General Education Requirements page (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/general-information/degree-general-education-requirements/>).*

**First Year**

First Semester	Hours	Second Semester	Hours
LAS 101	3	1 Medieval Europe course	3
ENGL 202, MDVL 201, or CWL 253	3	3 General Education course	3
General Education Course	3	3 General Education course or Composition 1	3
Composition I or General Education course	4	4 Language Other than English (4th level)	4
Language Other than English (3rd level)	2	4 Free elective course	2
	15		15

**Second Year**

First Semester	Hours	Second Semester	Hours
Classical and Medieval East Asia course	3	3 Classical and Medieval East Asia course	3
Medieval Europe course	3	3 Medieval Central Asia, South Asia, the Mediterranean region, or Africa course	3
General Education course	3	3 General Education course	3
General Education course	3	3 General Education course	3
Free Elective course	2	2 Free Elective course	3
Free Elective course	1		
	15		15

**Third Year**

First Semester	Hours	Second Semester	Hours
Medieval Central Asia, South Asia, the Mediterranean region, or Africa course	3	3 Medieval Studies 300- or 400-level course	3
Medieval Studies 300- or 400-level course	3	3 Medieval Studies 300- or 400-level course	3
Additional Medieval Studies Coursework	3	3 Additional Medieval Studies Coursework	3
Free elective course	3	3 General Education course	3
General Education Course	3	3 General Education course	3
	15		15

**Fourth Year**

First Semester	Hours	Second Semester	Hours
Medieval Studies 300- or 400-level course	3	3 Capstone Experience	3
Additional Medieval Studies Coursework	3	3 Free elective course	3
Free elective course	3	3 Free elective course	3
Free elective course	3	3 Free elective course	3
Free elective course	3	3 Free elective course	3
	15		15

**Total Hours 120**

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After completing the Medieval Studies Concentration, students will have:

1. A broad and deep knowledge of the world's medieval cultures (ca. 500 - ca. 1500 CE).
2. An understanding of the periods and movements, institutions, material culture, ideas, beliefs, and values of the diverse cultures that comprise the medieval globe.
3. A capstone experience involving original research in a medieval topic.

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## Medieval Studies (<https://medieval.illinois.edu/>)

Medieval Studies Faculty (<https://medieval.illinois.edu/directory/faculty/>)

Director: Professor Carol Symes ([symes@illinois.edu](mailto:symes@illinois.edu))

## College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (<https://las.illinois.edu/>)

**Overview of College Admissions & Requirements:** Liberal Arts & Sciences (<https://las.illinois.edu/admissions/>)