

# **MEDIEVAL STUDIES PROGRAM**

**St. Olaf College**



Monastery of Pantanassa, Mystras  
(Classical Studies in Greece, 2023)  
Photo by Rebekah Salfer '24

## MEDIEVAL STUDIES PROGRAM 2023-2024

Founded in 1971, Medieval Studies is one of the oldest interdisciplinary programs at St. Olaf College. Most courses focus on Europe and the British Isles, a few on medieval China or Japan. Students are encouraged to examine the Middle Ages from a variety of perspectives, including comparative and cross-cultural ones.

It is common for students to combine a Medieval Studies major with another major such as English, philosophy, religion, women's and gender studies, history, art history, or a modern language. Even students majoring in math, natural science, or fine arts may opt to use Medieval Studies as half of a double major.

Every Medieval Studies major must complete Latin 235 (Medieval Latin). If that course is unavailable, any other Latin course above 231 may be used as a substitute.

Also required are a medieval literature course, a medieval history course, four electives selected from Art History, Asian Studies, Enduring Questions, English, History, Music, Norwegian, Philosophy, Religion, and Theater, and an Independent Research on a topic of the student's choice (e.g., Justinian's law code, medieval ritual processions, Gregorian chant, Beguine mystics, Malory's Arthur, feud and reconciliation in Old Norse myth, Hunyadi Hungary). Independent studies in medieval languages may be used as electives. A paper written for a Level III course may replace the IR. Study abroad and courses at Carleton College extend the range of possibilities.

If you are interested in a Medieval Studies major, please contact the program director, Prof. Anne Groton, Dept. of Classics (Tomson Hall 367, groton@stolaf.edu), for more information.

*Italicized courses are offered in 2023-2024.*

### REQUIRED COURSES

#### *Latin 235 (Medieval Latin)*

Latin 252, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, or 377 may be substituted for Latin 235.

#### *1 medieval literature course*

#### *1 medieval history course*

#### *4 electives; 1 IR in medieval studies*

### ELECTIVE COURSES

#### **Art and Art History**

- 161 (History of World Architecture—  
if student focuses on Middle Ages)*
- 240 (Topics: Early Medieval Identities)
- 255 (Italian Art in Context) [abroad]*
- 268 (Early Med. Art & Identity)
- 275 (Topics in Art Hist.—if medieval)
- 276 A (Med. Art in Africa & Europe)*
- 276 C (The Art of the Medieval Book)
- 278 (Life & Art in 15th-Cent. Florence)
- 350 (Methods of Art History—if  
student focuses on medieval art)*

#### **Asian Studies**

- 236 (Traditional Chinese Literature)
- 333 (What is a Hero?—if student focuses  
on the medieval hero)*

#### **Enduring Questions**

- 116 (Warriors, Mystics, Reformers)*

#### **English**

- 220 (Topics in Lit. Hist.—if medieval)
- 223 (Old & Middle English Literature)*
- 243 (Arthurian Legend & Literature)
- 262 (Topics: Lit. & Hist.—if medieval)
- 330 (Adv. Studies in Lit. Eras: British—  
if course focuses on Middle Ages)
- 395 (Chaucer from an Ethical Perspective)

#### **History**

- 188/189 (Top. Sem.—if topic is medieval)
- 210 (Major Sem.—if medieval focus)

- 211 (*Vikings: Past & Present*)
- 250 (China: Past & Present)
- 299 (Topics in History—if medieval)
- 396 (Archaeological Research—if  
student focuses on medieval period)

#### **Music**

- 141 (Intro. to Musicology—if student  
focuses on medieval music)*
- 241 (Hist. & Lit. of Music I—if student  
focuses on medieval music)
- 345 (Adv. Study in Music History—if  
course has medieval focus)

#### **Norwegian**

- 205 (Nature in Nord. Lit./Cult.—if  
student focuses on Middle Ages)
- 280 (Nordic Myth & Christianization)
- 371 (Norw. Lit.: An Overview—if  
student focuses on Middle Ages)

#### **Philosophy**

- 118 (Making of Modern Mind—if  
student focuses on medieval phil.)*
- 374 (Seminar: Hist. of Philos.—if  
course has medieval focus)

#### **Religion**

- 212 (Christ. Theol. in Hist. Context—  
if student focuses on Mid. Ages)*
- 238 (Tokien & Theology—if  
student focuses on Mid. Ages)
- 246 (Islam—Religion & Community)*
- 302 (Hist. Christ. Thought I)*
- 303 (Hist. Christ. Thought II)*
- 390 (Hist. of Religions Seminar—if  
topic is medieval or if student  
focuses on the Middle Ages)
- 392 (Stud. in Rel. Sem.—if medieval)
- 399 (Thematic Sem.—if medieval)

#### **Theater**

- 180 (Text & Performance—if student  
focuses on medieval theater)*
- 270 (History of Theater up to 1700)*