

# MEDIEVAL & RENAISSANCE STUDIES (MEDI-UA)

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## MEDI-UA 1 History of Western Art I (4 Credits)

*Typically offered occasionally*

Introduction to the history of painting, sculpture, and architecture from ancient times to the dawn of the Renaissance, emphasizing the place of the visual arts in the history of civilization. Includes the study of significant works in New York museums, such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Cloisters, and the Brooklyn Museum.

**Grading:** CAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

## MEDI-UA 2 History of Western Art II (4 Credits)

*Typically offered occasionally*

Introduction to the history of painting, sculpture, and architecture from the early Renaissance to the present day. Includes the study of significant works in New York museums, such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Frick Collection, the Guggenheim Museum, and the Museum of Modern Art.

**Grading:** CAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

## MEDI-UA 111 The Early Middle Ages (4 Credits)

Europe in the early Middle Ages was created out of a mixture of ingredients?the legacy of the Roman Empire; the growth and development of Christianity; invading peoples who settled within the boundaries of the former Roman Empire; the clash of competing languages, religions, and legal systems. This tumultuous time forged a new entity, medieval Europe, whose development, growing pains, and creative successes this course examines. Uses the records and artifacts of the period itself as central elements for investigating the period.

**Grading:** CAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

## MEDI-UA 115 Readings in Medieval and Renaissance Literature (4 Credits)

*Typically offered occasionally*

Introductory-level literature course that, through a close reading of authors such as Dante, Boccaccio, Petrarch, Machiavelli, and Ariosto, focuses on how to understand a literary text in Italian. Covers Italian literature from its origins to the 17th century.

**Grading:** CAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

**Prerequisites:** (ITAL-UA 30 OR ITAL-UA 9030).

## MEDI-UA 121 The Renaissance (4 Credits)

*Typically offered occasionally*

The history of the Renaissance from its origins in the 14th century to its waning at the end of the 16th century. Focuses on developments in Italy, especially the development of republican city-states, the social basis for the explosion in artistic and intellectual production, and the emergence of new forms of political and scientific analysis.

**Grading:** CAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

## MEDI-UA 130 Topics: (4 Credits)

*Typically offered occasionally*

Varying in content from term to term, these courses are designed to introduce students to the Middle Ages and/or Renaissance through the lens of a broadly defined topic: for instance, a defining cultural preoccupation or ambition, such as "world-making"; an influential cultural production or phenomenon, such as the literature of exploration and travel; or the origins and development of a material and social structure, such as the city.

**Grading:** CAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

## MEDI-UA 148 Giordano Bruno and the Art of Memory (4 Credits)

The Art of Memory reached a peak of refinement during the Italian Renaissance. Far more than instruments for remembering, memory devices aimed to organize knowledge and were intended as tools for creative output. We examine the impact of the culture of memory on the literary production of the time, highlighting the interdependence between textual and visual codes. Focuses on the heretic philosopher and cosmologist Giordano Bruno, burned at the stake by the Roman Inquisition in 1600, who conceived his imposing mnemonic system as an inner mirror of the infinite universe. Sampling the varied textual genres of Bruno's work (philosophical dialogues, writings on magic, a satirical comedy), we seek to answer the same question posed to Bruno by Henry III of France: is the Art of Memory acquired "by magic" or "by science"?

**Grading:** CAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

## MEDI-UA 201 Art of Early Mid Ages (4 Credits)

*Typically offered occasionally*

Christian architecture, sculpture, painting, mosaic, manuscript illumination, and luxury arts of the Greek East and Latin West from their origins ca. 200 C.E. through ca. 950 C.E. Considers the visual and material culture of Christianity in the Mediterranean world, Asia Minor, the Middle East, and northern Europe in light of the religious, historical, political, social, and cultural contexts of their creation. Style periods include early Christian, early Byzantine, barbarian, insular, Merovingian, and Carolingian. Monuments studied include the catacombs, the Arch of Constantine, the great mosaic programs of Italy, Hagia Sophia, the Lindisfarne Gospels and Book of Kells, and Charlemagne's palace chapel at Aachen. Topics include art and the commemoration of the dead; Christian attitudes toward Judaism and the classical tradition; art and theology; the emergence of the cult of saints and its art and architecture; early medieval patrons; arts of pilgrimage and early monasticism; word and image in early medieval culture; and iconoclasm and debates about the role of images in early Christianity.

**Grading:** CAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

**Prerequisites:** ARTH-UA 1 OR ARTH-UA 4 OR MEDI-UA 1 OR MEDI-UA 200).

**MEDI-UA 205 Medieval Architecture (4 Credits)***Typically offered occasionally*

Surveys the architecture of the Middle Ages in Western Europe with emphasis on the period from ca. 1000–1500 C.E., from the emergence of the Romanesque to the late Gothic period. Examines monumental religious and secular projects, such as the soaring cathedral of Amiens and the civic palaces of communal Italy, from stylistic, technical, functional, iconographic, and ideological perspectives. Topics include regionalism, patronage, the status of the "architect," and the concept of the multimedia ensemble. Also situates buildings within their social, religious, and political contexts and examines the advantages and shortcomings of different approaches to the study of medieval architecture.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**Prerequisites:** (ARTH-UA 2 OR ARTH-UA 4).**MEDI-UA 210 British Literature I (4 Credits)***Typically offered occasionally*

Survey of English literature from its origins in the Anglo-Saxon epic through Milton. Close reading of representative works, with attention to the historical, intellectual, and social contexts of the period.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**Prerequisites:** ENGL-UA 101.**MEDI-UA 269 Dante's Divine Comedy in Context (4 Credits)**

Identical to ITAL-UA 269 The Divine Comedy is a very long poem traditionally judged to be one of the most important in Western culture. At the center of the poem is the human being, his condition in the after life and his punishment or reward. Taken literally, the theme is the state of the souls after the death. But allegorically, the true subject is moral life and thus the torments of the sins themselves or the enjoyment of a happy and saintly life. Since the beginning of its circulation the Divine Comedy has been seen as a text to be read in context, that is in light of the cultural tradition Dante was channelling and interpreting. This course proposes a reading of Dante's Commedia, considered in light of the ancient and medieval idea of learning. The objective of the course is to familiarize students with one of the most important author of Western culture. Through Dante's texts, students will gain a perspective on the Biblical, Christian, and Classical traditions as well as on the historical, literary, philosophical context of medieval Europe.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**MEDI-UA 285 Topics in Italian Lit: (4 Credits)***Typically offered occasionally*

Courses on subjects of special interest taught by either a regular or a visiting faculty member. For specific courses, please consult the current class schedule.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**MEDI-UA 303 Northern Renaissance Art, 1400-1530 (4 Credits)***Typically offered occasionally*

Addresses painting north of the Alps, ca. 1380–1530, partly late medieval, partly Renaissance. Examines the connection of breathtaking technique and deeply religious aspects of the art to function, symbolic thought, patronage, and changes in the society to which painting was related. Also explains ways in which we write history when most of the vital written documents are missing or destroyed. Artists discussed include Jan van Eyck, the Master of Flemalle, Rogier van der Weyden, Jean Fouquet, Hugo van der Goes, Enguerrand Quarton, Jerome Bosch, Albrecht Dürer, Matthias Grünewald, and Hans Holbein.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**Prerequisites:** ARTH-UA 1 with a Minimum Grade of C OR ARTH-UA 2 with a Minimum Grade of C OR ARTH-UA 5 with a Minimum Grade of C).**MEDI-UA 311 Dutch & Flemish Painting 1600-1700 (4 Credits)***Typically offered occasionally*

In Antwerp, Rubens overturned all previous concepts of painting. The first to deserve the term "Baroque," he dominated Flanders. Van Dyck, his pupil, took Rubens's style to England. Dutch painters, including Hals, Rembrandt, and Vermeer, moved in a different direction, addressing every aspect of their country and society: the peasant, the quiet life of the well-ordered household, the sea and landscape, views of the cities, and church interiors.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**Prerequisites:** ARTH-UA 2 AND ARTH-UA 5.**MEDI-UA 315 Art in Spain from El Greco to Goya (4 Credits)**

First focuses on the major figures in the development of early modern Spanish art: El Greco in Italy and Toledo, Velázquez, Zurbarán, Murillo, Ribera, Valdés Leal, and others. Lectures on still life painting and polychrome wood sculpture are also included. The 18th century (the Tiepolo family, Meléndez) is then discussed. The focus then shifts to the art of Francisco de Goya and the projection of Spanish art into the modern era. Seeks to define Spain in the 16th and 17th century as a global power by considering colonial-era art in such New World centers as Mexico City and Lima.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**MEDI-UA 333 Renaissance Art (4 Credits)***Typically offered occasionally*

An introduction to Renaissance and baroque art and architecture, 1400–1750. The course situates major developments in the arts against the context of historical, cultural, religious, technological, and social change. Topics include the emergence of humanism and its engagement with the ancient past; the development of transformative new techniques and technologies for making art; the function of art in religious, public, and domestic settings; the role of the patron; the impact of the Protestant and Catholic Reformations on art and society; the ever-expanding range of iconography; and the proliferation of new genres. Emphasis is placed on the great masters in each phase, and close study of works in the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Frick Collection is an integral part of the course.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

**MEDI-UA 450 Colloquium: Milton (4 Credits)***Typically offered occasionally*

Emphasis on the major poems—Paradise Lost, Paradise Regained, and Samson Agonistes—with some attention to the early poems and the prose. Traces the poet's sense of vocation, analyzes the gradual development of the Miltonic style, and assesses Milton's position in the history of English literature, politics, and theology.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**Prerequisites:** (ENGL-UA 101 OR ENGL-UA 101) AND ENGL-UA 111 AND Restriction: Academic Plan = Medieval and Renaissance Studi-BA.**MEDI-UA 800 Arthurian Legend (4 Credits)***Typically offered occasionally*

Beginning with early stories of King Arthur and the knights of the Round Table, the course focuses on masterpieces of French, English, and German medieval literature. Through the European literary tradition, students examine larger problems of the development of medieval literature: the conception of history, the rise of the romance genre, the themes of courtly love, the code of chivalry, and philosophical and theological questions as the Arthurian material is developed through the stories of the Holy Grail.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**MEDI-UA 801 Dante and His World (4 Credits)***Typically offered occasionally*

Interdisciplinary introduction to late medieval culture, using Dante, its foremost literary artist, as a focus. Attention not only to the literature, art, and music, but also to the political, religious, and social developments of the time as well as to new philosophical and scientific currents. Emphasizes the continuity of the Western tradition, especially the classical backgrounds of medieval culture and its transmission to the modern world. Cinematic re-creations, documentaries, other visual aids, and museum trips.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**MEDI-UA 868 Acting Medieval Literature (4 Credits)***Typically offered occasionally*

This course presents medieval literature as a set of springboards to performance rather than as a series of "books" to be read. In this strongly performance-oriented course, students approach this "literature" as works that were acted out, sung, and narrated from memory as part of a storytelling tradition. Students are invited to draw on their dramatic and musical skills and interests, and stage medieval works. For their final project, students participate in staging and putting on a play; perform a substantial piece of narrative poetry; or sing or play a body of medieval songs; etc. Works studied/performed include songs of the troubadours and trouvères; The Song of Roland; Chrétien de Troyes's romance, Yvain; French fabliaux; Sir Gawain and the Green Knight.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**MEDI-UA 960 Introductory Old English (4 Credits)***Typically offered occasionally*

An introduction to the Old English language and literature as well as the culture of England before the Norman Conquest of 1066. Students learn the grammar and vocabulary of this earliest surviving form of English, while being introduced to topics such as the heroic code; conversion and cultural syncretism; the rise of English national identity; monasticism and spirituality; the law and customs of the Anglo-Saxons; the Viking invasions and the Norman Conquest; and hybridity and multilingualism. Concludes with reading excerpts from Beowulf in the original and orally performing scenes from the poem.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**MEDI-UA 983 Topics: (4 Credits)***Typically offered occasionally*

This course, varying in content from term to term, focuses on special themes. Recent offerings include Tolkien and Lewis: The Medievalist's Answer to Modernism; Religion and Identity in Medieval Europe; The Kiss; Gothic Romance; Music and Cosmology; Poets, Patrons, and Public in Medieval Lyric; Gender Issues in the Art of the Middle Ages; Myths and Legends of the Middle Ages; Doomsday: The Last Judgment in Medieval Culture; Medieval Minstrels; Angels; Sexual Transgression in the Middle Ages and Renaissance; Saints: Lore and Legend; The Troubadours: Lyrics, Love, and War; Early Irish Art; The Middle Ages at the Movies; The Medieval Book (held at the Pierpont Morgan Library).

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**MEDI-UA 991 Seminar: (4 Credits)***Typically offered occasionally*

Each semester, the course is devoted to a topic chosen for its interdisciplinary character. Recent offerings have included The Bible in the Middle Ages; Renaissance Libraries; Millenarianism; 1497-1498: The Renaissance at Full Tilt; Visions of Medieval History; The Age of Chivalry; The World of the Celts; Apocalypse, Then: Visions of the End in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance; Journey in Medieval Christian Theology; Interpreting the Medieval World; Idealization and Satire in the Sixteenth Century; The 12th-Century Renaissance; The Classical Tradition in the Middle Ages; Christian Culture in the Middle Ages; Literature and Culture of the Renaissance; Renaissance Monarchy; Medieval and Renaissance Travel Journals; and The Structure of Knowledge in the Renaissance.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** Yes**MEDI-UA 992 Interdisciplinary Seminar (4 Credits)***Typically offered occasionally*

Each semester, the course is devoted to a topic chosen for its interdisciplinary character. Recent offerings have included Chaucer's Italy; The Bible in the Middle Ages; Renaissance Libraries; Millenarianism; 1497-1498: The Renaissance at Full Tilt; Visions of Medieval History; The Age of Chivalry; The World of the Celts; Apocalypse, Then: Visions of the End in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance; Journey in Medieval Christian Theology; Interpreting the Medieval World; Idealization and Satire in the 16th Century; The 12th-Century Renaissance; The Classical Tradition in the Middle Ages; Christian Culture in the Middle Ages; Literature and Culture of the Renaissance; Renaissance Monarchy; Medieval and Renaissance Travel Journals; and The Structure of Knowledge in the Renaissance.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

**MEDI-UA 997 Independent Study (2-4 Credits)***Typically offered occasionally*

Prerequisite: written permission of the director of the program. Counts toward majors and minors only. May not duplicate the content of a regularly scheduled course. 1 to 4 points per term.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** Yes**MEDI-UA 998 Independent Study (1-4 Credits)***Typically offered occasionally*

Prerequisite: permission of the director of undergraduate studies. Open only to majors. Provides an opportunity for graduating seniors majoring in medieval and renaissance studies who have excelled academically to engage in a substantial, original research project on a topic related to their major field(s) of study and chosen by them in consultation with a faculty adviser and the director of undergraduate studies. It introduces students to appropriate critical methodologies, to the tools available in Bobst Library for advanced research, to the field standards for preparing research papers (forms of documentation, citation, and bibliography), and to current theories in the field of literary and cultural criticism.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** Yes**MEDI-UA 999 Senior Honors Seminar (4 Credits)***Typically offered occasionally*

Open only to majors. Students meet regularly with their faculty advisers as they complete the research and writing of the 40-page senior honors thesis.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**MEDI-UA 9017 Medieval Church: Religious Hist of Crisis & Creativ (4 Credits)**

Wielding nearly unlimited authority over the lives - and the after-life - of millions of Europeans, the Catholic Church was by far the most important political, as well as cultural, power of the Middle Ages. The only global institution of this era, the Church was at the same time able to nourish strong local roots: its cardinals and popes came from all over the continent and dealt with international politics at the highest level, while priests and friars brought home to the people a faith tied to the neighborhood church and confraternity, and personified by a saint's shrine and relics. Through a combination of lectures, students' presentations, films and site visits, this course will explore selected aspects of the Medieval Church's history: its often rocky relations with the other supreme power of the time, the Holy Roman Empire; the rise of monasticism and its different versions; the spread of heretical movements and their repression by the Inquisition; sainthood, and how "heavenly" women and men could serve to articulate very earthly ideologies on state, society, gender roles.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**MEDI-UA 9123 Italy During The Renaissance: Florence (4 Credits)**

This course presents an overview of the political, social, and cultural history of Italy from roughly 1300 to 1600. Its aim is to provide students with a basic understanding of the forces and processes that shaped the states and the societies of the Italian peninsula in an era of extraordinary changes: from the developments of urban civilization and the rise of humanism in the fourteenth and early fifteenth century, to the political and religious crisis of the late Quattrocento and early Cinquecento, and finally to the establishment of a new balance of power and a new cultural climate in the course of the sixteenth century.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**MEDI-UA 9995 Magic, Religion & Inquisition (4 Credits)**

This course is made up of four sections. The first opens with an analysis of the intellectual foundations of the witch-hunt from late Antiquity to the early Renaissance. The second section concentrates on the most infamous handbook for witch-hunters, Malleus Maleficarum ("The Hammer of the Witches") and on the roots of medieval misogyny. The third section looks at the mass witch-hunts of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries on the backdrop of the break between Protestant and Catholic Europe, and examines the connections linking witch-hunting to the momentous social, political and religious changes of the times. In the fourth part, the course will shift focus to the grassroots level, shedding light on the economic and social mechanisms which lead a community to "make a witch".

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No