

MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE STUDIES (BA)

Department Website (<http://as.nyu.edu/marc/>)

NYSED: 80087 HEGIS: 4903.00 CIP: 24.0103

Program Description

The undergraduate program in Medieval and Renaissance Studies (MARS) is part of the Medieval and Renaissance Center (MARC). It focuses on the history, institutions, languages, literatures, thought, faith, art, and music of Europe, the Atlantic, and the Mediterranean world together with their global connections—from Timbuktu to India to Mongolia and beyond—from the collapse of the Roman empire to about 1700. Notably “other” from modern and contemporary societies, this important period invites us to engage its multifold diversity (cultural, linguistic, religious, philosophical, aesthetic) and also to grapple with the roots of questions that remain urgent today, ranging from humanitarian ideals (individual freedom, equality, social and environmental responsibility) to long-lasting systems that continue to counter those ideals (racism, colonialism, environmental exploitation). Studying the Middle Ages and the Renaissance is therefore a powerful tool for facing the complexity not only of the past, but also of our own present.

The MARS curriculum links undergraduates with NYU’s outstanding humanities faculty; with the superb libraries, museums, and collections in the New York area; and with musical and theatrical performances of works from this period that are given regularly in the city. It also enriches students’ experience in CAS study away programs. Students design their own programs in consultation with the program director and faculty, receiving individualized attention from a center of excellence situated within a great university and a vibrant city.

MARS majors have gone on to graduate work in medieval studies, early modern studies, archival and museum studies, religious studies, history, art history, music, and literature and language studies, as well as to professional schools (medicine, law, management) and careers in business and education.

Honors Program

To qualify for the honors program in the Medieval and Renaissance studies major, students must maintain at least a 3.65 cumulative average and a 3.65 major average. The honors track is a year-long program which requires students to write and orally defend a senior honors thesis. During the fall semester of their senior year, students who qualify for honors enroll in MEDI-UA 999 Senior Honors Seminar (4 credits), which replaces one of the three courses in a secondary concentration required for the major. In the spring semester they enroll in MEDI-UA 998 Independent Study (1 to 4 credits, which for some students may be in addition to the nine courses and 36 credits required for the major). The Senior Honors Seminar guides students through the research and writing of the thesis. In Honors Independent Study, students complete their honors theses under the supervision of a faculty mentor. Students interested in honors must consult with the director of the program by the end of junior year.

Admissions

New York University’s Office of Undergraduate Admissions supports the application process for all undergraduate programs at NYU. For additional information about undergraduate admissions, including application requirements, see [How to Apply](https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/how-to-apply.html) (<https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/how-to-apply.html>).

Program Requirements

The major requires the completion of eight 4-credit courses and two 2-credit courses (36 credits) with a grade of C or better (courses graded Pass/Fail do not count) and chosen in consultation with a program adviser, as outlined below. The five fields of concentration available in the major are: language and literature; art history; history; music; and philosophy and religion.

Course	Title	Credits
General Education Requirements		
First-Year Seminar		4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing as Inquiry	4
Foreign Language ¹		16
Quantitative Reasoning		4
Physical Science		4
Life Science		4
Texts and Ideas		4
Cultures and Contexts		4
Societies and the Social Sciences		4
Major Requirements		
Select four courses in a primary area of concentration		16
Select three courses in one or more secondary areas of concentration		12
Senior Seminar in primary area of concentration		4
MEDI-UA 901	Workshop in Medieval and Renaissance Studies I	2
MEDI-UA 902	Workshop in Medieval and Renaissance Studies II	2
Electives		
Other Elective Credits		44
Total Credits		128

¹ The foreign language requirement is satisfied upon successful completion through the Intermediate level of a language. This may be accomplished in fewer than 16 credits, but those credits must then be completed as elective credit. The major in Medieval and Renaissance Studies does not have its own specific language requirement, although majors are advised to study (or establish proficiency through examination) in one of the following: Latin, ancient Greek, Arabic, Hebrew, Chinese, and modern European languages.

Program Approval and Advisement

The director of the program meets with students to discuss their general educational and career aims, as well as the specific opportunities provided by the program in Medieval and Renaissance studies. All major and minor programs and course selections require the approval of the director of the program.

Sample Plan of Study

Note: The sample plan below is reflective of a student completing the Literature concentration.

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
Foreign Language		4
Quantitative Reasoning		4
Texts and Ideas		4
First-Year Seminar		4
	Credits	16
2nd Semester/Term		
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing as Inquiry	4
Foreign Language		4
Societies and the Social Sciences		4
Cultures and Contexts		4
	Credits	16
3rd Semester/Term		
CLASS-UA 146	Greek & Roman Epic	4
Foreign Language		4
Physical Science		4
Elective		4
	Credits	16
4th Semester/Term		
ENGL-UA 111	Literatures in English I: Medieval and Early Modern Literatures	4
ARTH-UA 203	Gothic Art in Northern Europe	4
Foreign Language		4
Life Science		4
	Credits	16
5th Semester/Term		
MEIS-UA 640	The Making of The Muslim Middle East, 600 - 1400	4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Elective		4
	Credits	16
6th Semester/Term		
ARTH-UA 204	Art and Architecture in The Age of Giotto	4
ITAL-UA 155	Francesco Petrarca Rime	4
Elective		4
Elective		4
	Credits	16
7th Semester/Term		
ENGL-UA 415	Colloq: Shakespeare	4
MEDI-UA 901	Workshop in Medieval and Renaissance Studies I	2
Senior Seminar (in primary area of concentration)		4
Elective		4
Elective		2
	Credits	16
8th Semester/Term		
MEDI-UA 902	Workshop in Medieval and Renaissance Studies II	2
Elective		4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Elective		2
	Credits	16
	Total Credits	128

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of program requirements, students are expected to have acquired:

1. An ability to approach the civilizations and cultures of either the Middle Ages or Renaissance (or both) through the perspectives offered by at least three disciplines (chosen from language and literature; fine arts; history; music; and philosophy and religion).
2. A broad knowledge of the objects and methods of study in a single field of concentration (chosen from those listed above).
3. Proficiency in one ancient or modern language.
4. Effective written and oral presentation skills.
5. The ability to conduct research, including the use of library resources, archives, and relevant technologies.

Policies

NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).

College of Arts and Science Policies

A full list of relevant academic policies can be found on the CAS Academic Policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/arts-science/academic-policies/>).