

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 from the collapse of Roman authority to about 1700 C.E. It is during this important period—which transmitted the classical heritage—that the social, artistic, intellectual, and scientific culture of present-day Europe and the Middle East was formed.

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.

General Information

The program offers an interdisciplinary approach to the histories and cultures of the Middle Ages and the early modern period. It is specifically designed for students wishing to work in more than one field of specialization and to develop individualized programs of study around their own interests rather than those of a single departmental major. Individual advisement enables students to develop a coherent course of study that suits their needs and interests. Among the fields of concentration from which students may draw to develop their programs are

1. language and literature: classics, comparative literature, English, French, German, Hebrew and Judaic studies, Italian, Middle Eastern and Islamic studies, and Spanish and Portuguese;
2. art history;
3. history;
4. music; and
5. philosophy and religion.

Other more specialized programs of study may be designed in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies.

Available to majors and minors is the Marco Polo Travel Award (granted to an outstanding student each year to allow her or him to travel abroad for research), as well as a field prize for outstanding work in the major.

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 8-point 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; in the spring semester, they enroll in MEDI-UA 998 Independent Study. 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>).

Program Requirements

The program requires the completion of 128 credits, and all major courses must be completed with a grade of C or better.

Course	Title	Credits
General Education Requirements		
First-Year Seminar		4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing The Essay:	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 ten courses in Medieval and Renaissance Studies ²		40
Electives		
Other Elective Credits		40
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. Majors are expected to demonstrate proficiency through course work or examination either in a classical language (Latin, ancient Greek, Arabic, or Hebrew) or in another foreign language appropriate to their field of concentration.

2

At least five of the ten courses must be in a single field of concentration; three courses must be in one or more secondary field(s) of concentration; and at least one must be an interdisciplinary seminar.

Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
Foreign Language ¹		4
Quantitative Reasoning		4
Texts and Ideas		4
First-Year Seminar		4
Credits		16
2nd Semester/Term		
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing The Essay:	4
Foreign Language ¹		4
Societies and the Social Sciences		4
Cultures and Contexts		4
Credits		16
3rd Semester/Term		
Primary Concentration Course 1 of 5 ²		4
Secondary Concentration Course 1 of 4 ³		4
Foreign Language ¹		4
Physical Science		4
Credits		16
4th Semester/Term		
Primary Concentration Course 2 of 5 ²		4
Secondary Concentration Course 2 of 4 ³		4
Foreign Language ¹		4
Life Science		4
Credits		16
5th Semester/Term		
Primary Concentration Course 3 of 5 ²		4
Secondary Concentration Course 3 of 4 ³		4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Credits		16
6th Semester/Term		
Primary Concentration Course 4 of 5 ²		4
Secondary Concentration Course 4 of 4 ³		4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Credits		16
7th Semester/Term		
Primary Concentration Course 5 of 5 ²		4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Credits		16
8th Semester/Term		
MEDI-UA 992	Interdisciplinary Seminar	4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Credits		16
Total Credits		128

1

Chosen in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies; the major requires intermediate-level proficiency in one ancient (Latin, ancient Greek, Arabic, or Hebrew) or modern language appropriate to a student's research interests, with a recommendation to go above that level and/or add a second language; does not count toward the ten required major courses.

2

Typically chosen from Classics, Comparative Literature, English, French, German, Hebrew and Judaic Studies, Italian, Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, and Spanish and Portuguese.

3

Chosen from the fields of history; philosophy and religion; fine arts; and/or music.

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 and one modern language appropriate to their field of concentration.
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/>).