



Institute for Medieval Studies

Fall 2019

Course Offerings

Institute for Medieval Studies
2045 Mesa Vista Hall
277-2252
medinst@unm.edu
<http://ims.unm.edu>



Medieval Studies

Fall 2019 Course Offerings

Medieval Studies Faculty

Justine M. Andrews, M.A. (Southern Methodist University), Ph.D. (UCLA); Dept. of Art and Art History

James L. Boone, M.A., Ph.D. (SUNY, Binghamton); Dept. of Anthropology

Jonathan Davis-Secord, M.A., Ph.D. (University of Notre Dame); Dept. of English

Sarah Davis-Secord, M.A. (Trinity International University), Ph.D. (University of Notre Dame);
Dept. of History

Leslie A. Donovan, M.A. (University of New Mexico), Ph.D. (University of Washington);
Honors College

Frederick Gibbs, M.A., Ph.D. (University of Wisconsin); Dept. of History

Timothy C. Graham, M. Phil. (University of London), Ph.D. (University of Cambridge);
Dept. of History

Anita Obermeier, M.A. (Eastern Illinois University), Ph.D. (Arizona State University); Dept. of English

Donna E. Ray, Ph.D. (University of New Mexico); Dept. of History

Michael A. Ryan, M.A. (Western Michigan University), Ph.D. (University of Minnesota); Dept. of History

Medieval Studies Student Association
www.unm.edu/~mssa



Medieval Studies

Fall 2019 Course Offerings

Undergraduate courses in Medieval Studies. These courses apply toward the minor in Medieval Studies.

ENGLISH

ENGL 306.001

Arthurian Legends: Medieval to Modern

Anita Obermeier

TR 3:30–4:45

The Arthurian Legend has been the single most prolific literary motif in Western literature. This course will investigate the enduring strength and attraction of Arthurian legends from their pan-European beginnings in the medieval period to contemporary literature, popular culture, and film. We will read masterpieces from the Celtic tradition, Chrétien de Troyes, the French Lancelot-Grail Cycle, Wolfram von Eschenbach, Thomas Malory, Alfred Lord Tennyson, Mark Twain, Naomi Mitchison, and others. This way, we can observe how each version serves a new authorial, political, or cultural agenda—whether it is to establish a national foundation myth, to endorse specific religious values, to revive medieval values in an industrial age, or to challenge gender stereotypes in modern times. We will also focus on the evolution of other important Arthurian characters, such as Gawain, Tristan, Perceval, Morgan le Fay, Galahad, Merlin, Lancelot, and Guinevere.

ENGL 351.001

Chaucer: *The Canterbury Tales*

Nicholas Schwartz

TR 12:30–1:45

This course focuses on *The Canterbury Tales*, the final work and masterpiece of Geoffrey Chaucer, one of the greatest and most important writers in English. A mix of the bawdy and the chaste, the sacred and the profane, the high- and the low-class, amongst other dichotomies, Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* is a work that provides its readers with a host of personalities, literary conventions, styles, and much, much more. All primary texts will be read in Chaucer's Middle English, though students do not need to have any experience with the language in order to take this course. Chaucer wrote during the fourteenth century—a

time of great tumult, including famine, plague, political uprising, and religious rebellion. We will consider the *Canterbury Tales* in light of this complicated historical context while also paying attention to the long and rich history of scholarly criticism on the *Tales*. Coursework and assignments are designed to develop knowledge of the conventions of medieval English poetry and a competence in Middle English, and to recognize Chaucer's contributions to English language and literature.

HISTORY

HIST 304.001

High and Late Middle Ages

Michael A. Ryan

TR 9:30–10:45

In this class, we will reevaluate the traditional historical narrative that depicts the High Middle Ages (ca. 1000–1300 A.D.) as the “golden” age of medieval civilization, whereas the Later Middle Ages and onset of the early modern era (ca. 1300–1550 A.D.) represent the death or waning of that civilization. The reality, of course, is far more complex. We will question that narrative and invert it by studying the events that took place during the High Middle Ages that tarnished this “golden” era. We will analyze the crises of the Later Middle Ages and the early modern era, but we will also contextualize them within a larger atmosphere of political, cultural, and social change. We will read and analyze primary sources, the eyewitness accounts of the people who lived through these times, and learn the fundamental techniques of the study of history. We will also study a variety of secondary sources that have either reinforced or diverged from these larger narratives. By encountering the many manifestations of what constitutes the European High and Late Middle Ages, students will come away with a more nuanced understanding of what that period comprises.

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HIST 326.001

History of Christianity to 1517

Donna Ray

Taught Online

This course covers the history of Christianity from its beginnings in Palestine to the eve of the Protestant Reformation in the sixteenth century. This was a period of major growth and development for Christianity, but also a time in which the Church faced significant crises and underwent fundamental changes. We will see Christianity emerge from early challenges to become the official religion of the Roman Empire and then define many aspects of life during the Middle Ages. Primary focus will be on the rich variety of forms—doctrinal, liturgical, artistic, intellectual, and institutional—that Christianity assumed throughout this period. Also of concern will be Christianity's contributions to Western culture and its significance as a "civilizing" force.

HIST 395.004

Premodern Cities

Michael A. Ryan

TR 12:30–1:45

Cities in the premodern era, much like today, were nodes of concentrated cultural innovation, economic development, political power, and social dynamism. As such, they were vibrant, complex, contested spaces, defined and made by those who dwelled within them. Extensive maritime and terrestrial trade routes connected cities across Europe, Asia, and Africa in the premodern era, allowing the exchange of ideas, natural and man-made objects, flora and fauna, and pathogens. In this class, we will analyze cities within these and other contexts and see to what degree they effected changes of various types in the premodern world. We will read and analyze primary sources, the eyewitness accounts of the people who lived in—or away from—cities and who remarked about them.

By so doing, we will understand the fundamental techniques of the study of history. We will also read a variety of secondary sources that have studied the city in the premodern world. By encountering the many manifestations of what made the premodern city, students will come away with a more nuanced understanding of the history of these urban centers and what that can tell us about cities today.

HIST 427.001

History of Britain, 1066–1660

Caleb Richardson

MWF 2:00–2:50

Typically, the historian's challenge is conveying the often-esoteric appeal of his or her subject to a wider audience: the study of changing patterns of land ownership in nineteenth-century Ireland, for instance, doesn't exactly sell itself. But the period under study in this course is another matter entirely—if anything, there is almost too much drama here. The years from 1066 to 1660 include enough invasions, wars, political upheavals, great men, greater women, and shockingly naughty kings, queens, and aristocrats to keep BBC America programmers and historical novelists in business for centuries. There are reasons that every one of Shakespeare's histories is set between these years. As for events of significance, this period witnessed the development of the common law, the origins of the state, and the birth of imperialism, among other things (such as the small affair of the Protestant Reformation). In this course we will try to make sense of one of the most exciting, bewildering, and transformative eras in not just British but world history.

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Courses of Interest

LATN 1110.001
Elementary Latin I
Staff
MWF 10:00–10:50

LATN 1110.002
Elementary Latin I
Staff
MWF 11:00–11:50

LATN 1110.003
Elementary Latin I
TBA
MWF 1:00–1:50

LATN 1110.004
Elementary Latin I
Staff
MWF 9:00–9:50

LATN 2110.001
Intermediate Latin I
Staff
MWF 3:00–3:50

ENGL 445.001
History of the English Language
Nicholas Schwartz
TR 11:00–12:15

Ever wonder where “bad words” come from? Have you ever looked at a passage from Chaucer or Shakespeare and wondered why everything seems misspelled? This course is for you! The English language has a long and fascinating history, but to many students the most ancient form of English—Old English—looks practically nothing like the present-day English we are all familiar with today. Have no fear! This course will trace the development of the English language from its very earliest Indo-European beginnings all the way up to the present. Students will learn about important historical and linguistic influences on English and develop skills for analysis and an appreciation of the English language. No previous experience with linguistics or Old or Middle English is needed for this course.



Medieval Studies

Fall 2019 Course Offerings

Graduate courses in Medieval Studies. These courses apply toward the English Department's M.A. and Ph.D. Concentrations in Medieval Studies.

HISTORY

HIST 504.001

High and Late Middle Ages

Michael A. Ryan

TR 9:30–10:45

In this class, we will reevaluate the traditional historical narrative that depicts the High Middle Ages (ca. 1000–1300 A.D.) as the “golden” age of medieval civilization, whereas the Later Middle Ages and onset of the early modern era (ca. 1300–1550 A.D.) represent the death or waning of that civilization. The reality, of course, is far more complex. We will question that narrative and invert it by studying the events that took place during the High Middle Ages that tarnished this “golden” era. We will analyze the crises of the Later Middle Ages and the early modern era, but we will also contextualize them within a larger atmosphere of political, cultural, and social change. We will read and analyze primary sources, the eyewitness accounts of the people who lived through these times, and learn the fundamental techniques of the study of history. We will also study a variety of secondary sources that have either reinforced or diverged from these larger narratives. By encountering the many manifestations of what constitutes the European High and Late Middle Ages, students will come away with a more nuanced understanding of what that period comprises.

HIST 627.001

History of Britain, 1066–1660

Caleb Richardson

MWF 2:00–2:50

Typically, the historian’s challenge is conveying the often-esoteric appeal of her subject to a wider audience: the study of changing patterns of land ownership in nineteenth-century Ireland, for instance, doesn’t exactly sell itself. But the period under study in this course is another matter entirely—if anything, there is almost too much

drama here. The years from 1066 to 1660 include enough invasions, wars, political upheavals, great men, greater women, and shockingly naughty kings, queens and aristocrats to keep BBC America programmers and historical novelists in business for centuries. There are reasons that every one of Shakespeare’s histories is set between these years. As for events of significance, this period witnessed the development of the common law, the origins of the state and the birth of imperialism, among other things (such as the small affair of the Protestant Reformation.) In this course we will try to make sense of one of the most exciting, bewildering and transformative eras in not just British but world history.

HIST 668.001

Bede and His World

Timothy Graham

W 4:00–6:30

The Venerable Bede (673–735) is a towering figure in medieval historiography, hagiography, exegesis, and computistics. His massive achievements are the more impressive in that he lived and worked in a part of England that had only recently converted to Christianity and developed a literate population. In this seminar we will first immerse ourselves in the historical context of the Northumbrian Renaissance, a cultural movement that witnessed the production of such extraordinary artifacts as the Franks Casket, the Ruthwell Cross, the Codex Amiatinus, and the Lindisfarne Gospels, not to mention such landmark literary productions as *Cædmon’s Hymn*. We will study the specific environment within which Bede worked: the monastic complex of Wearmouth-Jarrow, founded in the late seventh century by Benedict Biscop. Bede has himself left a detailed record of the early history of the twin monasteries in his *Lives of the Abbots of Wearmouth and Jarrow*, a work that is supplemented by the anonymous *Life of Ceolfrith*, Bede’s first abbot at Jarrow. We will then focus especially on the detailed study and analysis of Bede’s most famous

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work, *The Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, before moving on to consider his key hagiographical, exegetical, and computistical writings, including (but not limited to) his *Life of St. Cuthbert*, his *On the Temple*, and his *The Reckoning of Time*. During the semester we will read several of Bede's major works in translation and will also familiarize ourselves in depth with the rich scholarly literature that has grown up around this most important author and teacher who is justly reckoned the greatest historian of the early Middle Ages.