**MEDIEVAL & RENAISSANCE STUDIES**

**Description**

The undergraduate major in Medieval and Renaissance Studies provides interdisciplinary exposure to several liberal arts areas and encourages students’ in-depth study of more narrowly defined topics in Medieval and Renaissance culture as they complete their degree. At the end of the program, majors work closely under the guidance of one of our faculty members to conclude their studies, usually focusing on a topic of their choice in a long paper for a capstone or interdisciplinary seminar course in one of our core fields. Students have the option of completing a thesis for distinction or within the honors program to fulfill this final requirement, provided they work with program faculty members to develop an appropriate project through a 300- or 400-level directed readings course.

Majors and minors take courses across the core areas of history, literature and humanities, and arts and philosophy to provide interdisciplinary breadth in their studies. Students may choose from a variety of courses to fulfill each part of the core requirements. Additionally, students will design their own specialized elective focus from a diverse group of courses within the different fields associated with the program. Special topics courses taught by program faculty may, on a case by case basis, fulfill elective credits and should be discussed with the major advisor. Medieval and Renaissance Studies majors should develop their elective grouping in consultation with their major advisor or the program director, to ensure that they are focusing on a coherent grouping of courses.

**Program Assessment:** To assist us in evaluating the program’s effectiveness, each major is asked to submit to the program advisor before graduating 1) a copy of the honors thesis or a research paper written in the student’s junior or senior year, and 2) a completed senior exit questionnaire (see the program advisor for details). Results of participation in this assessment activity will in no way affect students GPA or graduation.

**Admission**

**College Admission**

The entrance requirements for the College of Arts and Sciences are the same as the UNL General Admission Requirements. Students who are admitted through the Admission by Review process may have certain conditions attached to their enrollment at UNL. These conditions are explained under “Removal of Deficiencies.”

In addition to these requirements, the College of Arts and Sciences strongly recommends a third and fourth year of one foreign language in high school. Four years of high school coursework in the same language will fulfill the College of Arts and Sciences’ language requirement. It will also allow students to continue language study at a more advanced level at UNL, and provide more opportunity to study abroad.

**Advising**

**Academic and Career Advising**

The Academic and Career Advising Center in 107 Oldfather is a centrally located and easily accessed resource for students in all majors in the College of Arts and Sciences. The professional academic advisors and career coaches offer 1-1 meetings on a walk-in and appointment basis weekdays. Advisors will provide assistance choosing majors and minors, understanding degree requirements and academic policies, completing paperwork, meeting deadlines, adding/dropping courses, and planning for graduation. In addition, career coaches can help students identify career options related to their interests and connect them with experiences like internships, research, and more that will prepare them for those career options. These specially trained advisors and coaches also serve as first point of contact in the College for all incoming freshmen and transfer students during New Student Enrollment.

Students in the College who have declared a major will be assigned an academic advisor who is their first point of contact for a variety of questions. Academic advisors help students be successful in adjusting to UNL overall as well as making progress toward degree completion. The assigned advisor may be located within the department of their primary major, or in the Advising Center. Students can identify their assigned advisor in MyRED on the academics tab. In addition, faculty advisors are experts in their discipline, including advanced coursework and requirements, opportunities for research, student organizations, and considering graduate school in the discipline. Students who have declared a pre-health or pre-law area of interest will also work with advisors in the Exploratory and Pre-Professional Advising Center (Explore Center) in 127 Love Library South, who are specially trained to guide students preparing to enter a professional school.

For complete and current information on advisors for majors, minors, or pre-professional areas, contact the Arts and Sciences Academic and Career Advising Center, 107 Oldfather Hall, 402-472-4190, http://cas.unl.edu/advising.

**College Degree Requirements**

**College Distribution Requirements**

**Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science (16 hours + Language)**

The College of Arts and Sciences distribution requirements are designed to ensure a breadth of courses within the liberal arts degree. By engaging in study in several different areas within the College, students develop the ability to learn in a variety of ways and apply their knowledge from a variety of perspectives. All requirements are in addition to University ACE requirements.

- A student may not use a single course to satisfy both an ACE outcome and a College distribution requirement.
- A student may not use a single course to satisfy more than one College Distribution Requirement.
- A student may not use a course from their primary major to satisfy the Breadth Requirement (F), but may apply an ancillary requirement of the primary major or a course from their second major toward this requirement.
- Independent study, directed readings, or internship courses cannot be used to satisfy a College Distribution Requirement.
- Cross-listed courses from interdisciplinary programs will be applied in the same area as courses from the home/cross-listed department.

**College Distribution Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CDR A - Written Communication</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select from courses approved for ACE outcome 1.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDR B and BL - Natural, Physical, and Mathematical Sciences with Lab</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select from biochemistry, biological sciences, chemistry, computer science, geology, meteorology, mathematics, physics and statistics. Must include one lab in the natural or physical sciences. Lab courses may be selected from biochemistry, biological sciences, chemistry, geology, meteorology and physics.

Some courses from geography and anthropology may also be used to satisfy the lab requirement above.¹

**CDR C - Humanities**  
3

Select from classics, English, history, modern languages and literatures, philosophy, and religious studies.²

**CDR D - Social Science**  
3

Select from anthropology, communication studies, geography, political science, psychology, or sociology.³

**CDR E - Language**  
0-16

- Fulfilled by the completion of the 6-credit-hour second-year sequence in a single foreign language in one of the following departments: Classics and religious studies, or modern languages and literature. Instruction is currently available in Arabic, Chinese, Czech, French, German, Greek, Japanese, Latin, Russian, and Spanish.

- A student who has completed the fourth-year level of one foreign language in high school is exempt from the languages requirement, but encouraged to continue on in their language study.

**CDR F - Additional Breadth**  
3

Select from natural, physical and mathematical sciences (Area B), humanities (Area C), or social sciences (Area D). Cannot be a course from the primary major.

**Credit Hours Subtotal:** 16-32

1. See Degree Audit or a College of Arts and Sciences advisor for approved geography and anthropology courses that apply as natural science.
2. Language courses numbered 210 and below do not fulfill the CDR C.
3. See Degree Audit or College of Arts and Sciences advisor for list of natural/physical science courses in anthropology, geography, and psychology that do not apply as social science.

**Scientific Base**

**Bachelor of Science Only (60 hours)**

The bachelor of science degree requires students to complete 60 hours in mathematical, physical, and natural sciences. Approved courses for scientific base credit come from the following College of Arts and Sciences disciplines: actuarial science, anthropology (selected courses), astronomy, biochemistry (excluding BIOC 101), biological sciences (excluding BIOS 100 or BIOS 203), chemistry (excluding CHEM 101), computer science (excluding CSCE 10), geography (selected courses), geology, life sciences, mathematics (excluding courses below MATH 104), meteorology, microbiology, physics and statistics.

See your degree audit or a College of Arts and Sciences advisor for a complete list including individual classes that fall outside of the disciplines listed above. Up to 12 hours of scientific and technical courses offered by other colleges may be accepted toward this requirement with approval of a college advisor.

**Language Requirement**

UNL and the College of Arts and Sciences place great value on academic exposure and proficiency in a second language. The UNL entrance requirement of two years of the same foreign language or the College's language distribution requirement (CDR E) will rarely be waived and only with relevant documentation. See the main College of Arts and Sciences page for more details.

**Minimum Hours Required for Graduation**

A minimum of 120 semester hours of credit is required for graduation from the College of Arts and Sciences. A total grade point average of at least 2.0 is required.

**Grade Rules**

**Restrictions on C- and D Grades**

The College will accept no more than 15 semester hours of C- and D grades from other domestic institutions except for UNO and UNK. All courses taken at UNO and UNK impact the UNL transcript. No transfer of C- and D grades can be applied toward requirements in a major or a minor. No UNL C- and D grades can be applied toward requirements in a major or a minor. International coursework (including education abroad) with a final grade equivalent to a C- or lower will not be validated by College of Arts and Sciences departments to be degree applicable.

**Pass/No Pass Privilege**

The College of Arts and Sciences adheres to the University regulations for the Pass/No Pass (P/N) privilege with the following additional regulations:

- Pass/No Pass hours can count toward fulfillment of University ACE requirements and college distribution requirements up to the 24-hour maximum.
- Most arts and sciences departments and programs do not allow courses graded Pass/No Pass to apply to the major or minor. Students should refer to the department's or program's section of the catalog for clarification. By college rule, departments can allow up to 6 hours of Pass/No Pass in the major or minor.
- Departments may specify that certain courses of theirs can be taken only on a P/N basis.
- The college will permit no more than a total of 24 semester hours of P/N grades to be applied toward degree requirements. This total includes all Pass grades earned at UNL and other U.S. schools. NOTE: This 24-hour limit is more restrictive than the University regulation.

**Grading Appeals**

A student who feels that he/she has been unfairly graded must ordinarily take the following sequential steps in a timely manner, usually by initiating the appeal in the semester following the awarding of the grade:

1. Talk with the instructor concerned. Most problems are resolved at this point.
2. Talk to the instructor’s department chairperson.
3. Take the case to the Grading Appeal Committee of the department concerned. The Committee should be contacted through the department chairperson.
4. Take the case to the College Grading Appeals Committee by contacting the Dean’s Office, 1223 Oldfather Hall.

**Course Level Requirements**

**Courses Numbered at the 300 or 400 Level**

Thirty (30) of the 120 semester hours of credit must be in courses numbered at the 300 or 400 level. Of those 30 hours, 15 hours (1/2) must be completed in residence at UNL.
**Residency Requirement**

Students must complete at least 30 of the 120 total hours for their degree at UNL. Students must complete at least 1/2 of their major coursework including 6 hours at the 300 or 400 level in their major, and 15 of the 30 hours required at the 300 or 400 level in residence. Credit earned during education abroad may be used toward the residency requirement only if students register through UNL.

**ACE Requirements**

Consistent with the mission and values of the University, ACE is based on a shared set of four institutional objectives and ten student learning outcomes. The ACE program was approved by faculty in all eight undergraduate colleges and endorsed by the Faculty Senate, the student government, and the Academic Planning Committee in January 2008 for implementation in the fall 2009. ACE aligns with current national initiatives in general education.

To meet the ACE Program requirement, a student will complete a minimum of 3 credit hours for each of the ten ACE Student Learning Outcomes (a total of 30 ACE credit hours). See the ACE website at: http://ace.unl.edu for the most current information and the most recently certified courses.

**Catalog to Use**

Students must fulfill the requirements stated in the catalog for the academic year in which they are first admitted to and enrolled as a degree-seeking student at UNL. In consultation with advisors, a student may choose to follow a subsequent catalog for any academic year in which they are admitted to and enrolled as a degree-seeking student at UNL in the College of Arts and Sciences. Students must complete all degree requirements from a single catalog year. Beginning in 1990-1991 the catalog which a student follows for degree requirements may not be more than 10 years old at the time of graduation.

**Learning Outcomes**

Graduates of Medieval and Renaissance Studies will be able to:

1. Understand the main outlines of the history and culture of the Medieval/Renaissance period.
2. Read at least one language relevant to this area of study.
3. Know the primary artistic developments of the period and understand the contributions of Medieval and Renaissance culture to modern culture.

**Major Requirements**

Thirty (30) hours of Medieval and Renaissance Studies related courses with at least 12 hours at the 300 level or above.

**Specific Major Requirements**

**History**

Select two of the following:

<table>
<thead>
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**Literature and Humanities**

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**Arts and Philosophy**

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**Capstone**

Consult with the faculty advisor at least one year prior to graduation to identify and approve a capstone experience based on your goals and interests. This may include an existing or special topics course, or an independent study, research, or directed readings course.

**Additional Courses in Medieval and Renaissance Studies**

Select 15 hours after consultation with the faculty advisor to form a coherent area of study. This must include courses from at least two of the following three areas: History, Literature and the Humanities, and the Visual and Performing Arts.  

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**Credit Hours Subtotal:**  

**Learning Objectives**

Graduates of Medieval and Renaissance Studies will be able to:

1. Understand the main outlines of the history and culture of the Medieval/Renaissance period.
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Thirty (30) hours of Medieval and Renaissance Studies related courses with at least 12 hours at the 300 level or above.

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**Capstone**

Consult with the faculty advisor at least one year prior to graduation to identify and approve a capstone experience based on your goals and interests. This may include an existing or special topics course, or an independent study, research, or directed readings course.

**Total Credit Hours:** 30

**Additional Major Requirements**

**Grade Rules**

**C- and D Grades**

A grade of C or better must be earned in all courses in the major or minor.
Pass/No Pass
No course taken Pass/No Pass will be counted toward the major or minor.

Course Level Requirement
Twelve (12) hours must be taken at the 300 level or above.

Requirements for Minor Offered by Department
Eighteen (18) hours of study, with at least 6 credits at the 300 level or above.

History
Select one of the following:

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Credit Hours Subtotal: 3

Literature and Humanities
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Credit Hours Subtotal: 3

Electives
Select 9 hours in Medieval & Renaissance Studies

Credit Hours Subtotal: 9

Total Credit Hours 18

Grade Rules
C- and D Grades
A grade of C or better must be earned in all courses in the major or minor.

Pass/No Pass
No course taken Pass/No Pass will be counted toward the major or minor.

MRST 211 History of the Middle Ages
Crosslisted with: HIST 211
Description: Transition from ancient to Medieval civilization; the so-called Dark Ages; the late Medieval Renaissance and the dawn of the modern era.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
ACE: ACE 5 Humanities
Groups: Pre-1800 History

MRST 212 History of Early Modern Europe: Renaissance to the French Revolution
Crosslisted with: HIST 212
Description: Beginning of the modern era, with much attention to the secularization of European society from the Renaissance through the Age of Enlightenment.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Groups: Pre-1800 History

MRST 231 Revolutions and Misbehaving Monarchs in Pre-Modern England
Crosslisted with: HIST 231
Notes: Pre-1800 content.
Description: Examines the interconnections of religion and politics and their influence on people of all social classes. Topics include: hereditary monarchy, the signing of Magna Carta, developing Parliament, medieval peasant revolts, and seventeenth-century revolutions.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
ACE: ACE 5 Humanities
Groups: European History Pre-1800 History

MRST 306 Women in Quran
Crosslisted with: ARAB 306, RELG 306, WMNS 306
Notes: Letter grade only.
Description: A diachronic approach to Quran as a literature. Provides an analytic, linguistic as well as the critical study of both the Qur’anic text and its exegeses.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
ACE: ACE 9 Global/Diversity
MRST 318 The Renaissance
Crosslisted with: HIST 318
Prerequisites: Sophomore standing
Notes: Pre-1800 content.
Description: Examines the intellectual and artistic achievements of the Italian Renaissance, relating them to the political developments and social changes which occurred throughout the Italian peninsula between ca. 1300-1550 and highlighting those elements which would influence the evolution of European culture. Emphasis on the development of humanism and its role in the transition from medieval to modern values.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Groups: Pre-1800 History

MRST 319 The Crusades
Crosslisted with: HIST 319, RELG 319
Prerequisites: Sophomore, junior, or senior standing.
Description: An introduction to the Crusades and the idea of holy war in the middle ages from both the Christian and Islamic perspectives.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Groups: European History Pre-1800 History

MRST 321 Renaissance Humanism
Crosslisted with: HIST 321
Prerequisites: Sophomore standing.
Notes: Pre-1800 content.
Description: Survey of cultural and intellectual developments from the mid-fourteenth through the end of the sixteenth century. Rediscovery of the classical heritage in Italy, the changes to education and the arts, the spread of humanism to northern Europe, and the interaction of humanism and the Protestant Reformation.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Groups: European History Pre-1800 History

MRST 322 The Long Reformation 1550-1700
Crosslisted with: HIST 322
Prerequisites: Sophomore standing
Notes: Pre-1800 content.
Description: Beginning of the modern era, from the Reformation to the dawn of the Enlightenment, focusing on the changing role of the post-reformation churches in European society, the rise of the absolutist state, the development of scientific thought, and their relationship to the development of Baroque art and architecture.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Groups: Pre-1800 History

MRST 329 Women in European History
Crosslisted with: HIST 329, WMNS 329
Prerequisites: Sophomore standing
Description: Survey of women in European history from the Middle Ages to the present. Themes include power relations, work, love and sexuality, marriage, legal issues for women, and growth of feminist consciousness.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Groups: European History

MRST 332 Jews in the Middle Ages
Crosslisted with: RELG 332, JUDS 332, HIST 332
Prerequisites: Sophomore standing
Notes: Pre-1800 content.
Description: Traces the emergence and development of a distinctive Jewish culture and identity in medieval Europe and in the regions bordering the Mediterranean sea from the birth of rabbinc Judaism under the Roman empire until the seventeenth century orthodox synthesis of Talmudic learning, Kabbalah, and custom and Jewish responses to the Enlightenment. Includes interaction of Jews with majority cultures (including the development of anti-Semitism), and the impact of Jews and Jewish learning upon western culture.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Offered: FALL/SPR
Groups: Pre-1800 History

MRST 336 Saints, Witches, and Madwomen
Crosslisted with: HIST 336, WMNS 336
Prerequisites: Sophomore standing
Notes: Pre-1800 content.
Description: Image of the madwoman throughout European and American history. Emphasis on how women on the margins have been labelled in different periods as saintly, as witches, or as insane.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Groups: Pre-1800 History

MRST 382 Storytelling
Crosslisted with: MODL 382, GLST 382, SOCI 382
Description: Close study of stories, in various forms, from around the world. Considers the role of gender, race, and history as lenses through which to approach the production and reception of storytelling. Readings, discussions, and assignments conducted in English.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
MRST 388 Body Language: Love, Politics, and the Self in French Literature
Crosslisted with: FREN 388, ENGL 388, WMNS 388
Description: French texts from the sixteenth to twentieth centuries (drama, prose, poetry, autobiography), all of which use the body as a reference point to explore developments in gender, religion, science, and society in French literature and civilization.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
MRST 398 Special Topics
Description: Special Topics to be determined by the Program
Credit Hours: 1-9
Min credits per semester: 1
Max credits per semester: 9
Max credits per degree: 9
Format: LEC
MRST 414 Medieval Culture
Crosslisted with: HIST 414, HIST 814, MRST 814
Prerequisites: Junior standing
Notes: Pre-1800 content.
Description: Historical context of changes in religion, literature, philosophy, and the arts, 400-1450.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Groups: Pre-1800 History
MRST 421 The German Reformation
Crosslisted with: HIST 421, HIST 821, RELG 421, MRST 821
Prerequisites: Junior standing
Notes: Pre-1800 content.
Description: The cultural and intellectual developments of the German Reformation against its social background. The religious and political events of the first half of the sixteenth century. Transition from medieval to modern Christianity. The transmission and revolutionary nature of evangelical doctrines. The gradual institutionalization of the new churches.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Groups: Pre-1800 History
MRST 426 Reformation Thought
Crosslisted with: HIST 426, HIST 826, MODL 426, MODL 826, MRST 826, RELG 426, RELG 826
Prerequisites: Junior standing
Description: Life and thought of significant figures and schools of thought in the Reformation period
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Groups: Pre-1800 History
MRST 430 Early European History Through Biography
Crosslisted with: HIST 430, HIST 830, MRST 830
Prerequisites: Junior standing
Notes: Pre-1800 content.
Description: Individuals from late medieval/early modern Europe, such as Joan of Arc, Henry V, and Eleanor of Aquitaine. Examines how history can be used to serve social, cultural, and political needs, and the difficulties of determining historic truth about a person or event.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Groups: Pre-1800 History
MRST 432 England: Reformation to Revolution, 1530-1660
Crosslisted with: HIST 432, HIST 832, MRST 832
Prerequisites: Junior standing
Notes: Pre-1800 content.
Description: History of English society, politics, and culture from the time of Henry VIII through that of Elizabeth I, Shakespeare, Donne, Charles I, Cromwell, and Milton.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Groups: Pre-1800 History

PLEASE NOTE
This document represents a sample 4-year plan for degree completion with this major. Actual course selection and sequence may vary and should be discussed individually with your college or department academic advisor. Advisors also can help you plan other experiences to enrich your undergraduate education such as internships, education abroad, undergraduate research, learning communities, and service learning and community-based learning.

Medieval and Renaissance Studies (B.A.)

Career Information
The following represents a sample of the internships, jobs and graduate school programs that current students and recent graduates have reported.

Transferable Skills
• Analyze and interpret difficult texts
• Communicate clearly using different forms of writing to and for a variety of different audiences
• Contextualize political, social, and historical events
• Evaluate human behavior and explain social phenomena
• Express ideas creatively
• Collaborate with a team to develop solutions
• Comprehend and critically evaluate complex information
• Confidently navigate complex, ambiguous projects and environments
• Simplify complex information and present it to others

Jobs of Recent Graduates
• Editor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln - Lincoln NE
• Secondary English Teacher, Lincoln Public Schools - Lincoln NE
• Writer, Sandhills Publishing - Lincoln NE
• World History Teacher, The Intergenerational School - Cleveland OH
• Nonprofit Management Intern, OpenSky - Lincoln NE
• Writing Center Tutor, Southeast Community College - Lincoln NE
• Student Coach, Bellevue University - Bellevue NE
• Rental and Events Coordinator, Joslyn Capital Trust - Omaha NE
• Park Ranger, U.S. Forest Service, Oglala National Grassland - Chadron NE
• Client Service Analyst, Fiserv - Lincoln NE