MEDIEVAL STUDIES

53 Wall Street, Rm. 310, 203.432.0672
http://medieval.yale.edu
M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.

Chair and Director of Graduate Studies
Ardis Butterfield

Acting Chair and Director of Graduate Studies (2018–2019)
Jessica Brantley

Executive Committee R. Howard Bloch, Jessica Brantley, Ardis Butterfield, Stephen Davis, Paul Freedman, Dimitri Gutas (Emeritus), Jacqueline Jung, Ivan Marcus, Giuseppe Mazzotta, Robert Nelson, Emily Thornberry, Shawkat Toorawa, Anders Winroth

Faculty associated with the program R. Howard Bloch, Gerhard Böwering, Jessica Brantley, Ardis Butterfield, Walter Cahn (Emeritus), Marcia Colish (Emerita), Stephen Davis, Paul Freedman, Johanna Fridriksdottir, Creighton Gilbert (Emeritus), Walter Goffart (Emeritus), Harvey Goldblatt, Frank Griffel, Dimitri Gutas (Emeritus), Valerie Hansen, Peter Hawkins, Jacqueline Jung, Traugott Lawler (Emeritus), Ivan Marcus, Vasileios Marinis, Giuseppe Mazzotta, Mary Miller, Robert Nelson, Henry Parkes, Fred Robinson (Emeritus), Barbara Shailor, Emily Thornberry, Shawkat Toorawa, Anders Winroth, Mimi Hall Yengpruksawan, Anna Zayaruznaya

Lecturer Raymond Clemens

FIELDS OF STUDY

Fields in this interdisciplinary program include history, history of art, history of music, religious studies, languages and literatures, linguistics, and philosophy.

SPECIAL ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

The General Test of the GRE is required. A writing sample of ten to twenty pages should be included with the application.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PH.D. DEGREE

Languages required are Latin, French, and German. Latin may be replaced with Arabic, Greek, or Hebrew when appropriate. Proficiency in Latin, Arabic, Greek, and Hebrew is tested with an examination administered and evaluated by the program during the first term. Proficiency in French and German is demonstrated by passing the departmental examinations and should be achieved by the third term. Students will design their programs in close contact with the director of graduate studies (DGS). During the first two years students take fourteen term courses, and must receive an Honors grade in at least four term courses the first year. Students take an oral examination, usually in the fifth term, on a set of three topics worked out in consultation with the DGS. Then, having nurtured a topic of particular interest, the student submits a dissertation prospectus that must be approved by the end of the third year. Upon completion of all predissertation requirements, including the prospectus, students are admitted to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree. What remains, then, is the writing, submission, and approval of the dissertation during the final two years.

Students in Medieval Studies participate in the Teaching Fellows Program in the third and fourth years.

MASTER’S DEGREES

M.Phil. See degree requirements under Policies and Regulations. The M.Phil. degree may be requested after all requirements but the dissertation are met.

M.A. (en route to the Ph.D.) Students enrolled in the Ph.D. program may qualify for the M.A. degree upon satisfactory completion of three terms of course work. Minimum requirements include a High Pass average in courses and passing the examination in Latin, Arabic, Greek, or Hebrew.

COURSES

MDVL 550a or b, Directed Reading  Staff
By arrangement with faculty.

MDVL 555a, Law in Medieval Europe  Anders Winroth
This seminar explores the creation in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries of a sophisticated system of law, the European Common Law (ius commune). All late medieval and much modern legislation is based on this legal system. The course focuses on its roots in the Roman law of Emperor Justinian and in ecclesiastical legislation. We also study the influence of the ius commune on national and local medieval law. The emphasis is on using law in historical research and in learning the technical skills necessary. Prerequisite: facility with Latin or another relevant medieval language.

MDVL 563b / CLSS 602b, Advanced Latin Paleography  Barbara Shailor
The challenges of using hand-produced Latin manuscripts in research, with an emphasis on texts from the late Middle Ages. Gothic cursive scripts and book hands ca. 1200–ca. 1500; fragments of unidentified codices; complex or composite codices with heavy interlinear
and marginal annotations. Manuscripts and fragments selected largely from collections in the Beinecke Library. Prerequisite: CLSS 601 or permission of the instructor.

**MDVL 578b / GMAN 577b, The Crusades in Medieval German Literature**  Mary Paddock
Introduction to the impact of the Crusades on the courtly literary culture of the German High Middle Ages (twelfth through thirteenth centuries). Study focuses on the evolution of attitudes toward the Crusades and the "enemy" in the works of major artists of the era in epic, romance, and poetry. Attention to the language and formal conventions of these literary genres. All readings in English.

**MDVL 580a / NELC 548a, Ancient and Medieval Astronomy: From Babylonian to Greek to Arabic to Latin**  Kevin Van Bladel
Astronomy was one of the seven classical liberal arts. This course introduces the history and methods of classical astronomy as practiced by ancient and medieval astronomers of Assyria and Babylonia, Greece, Rome, and Persia; and by medieval scholars in Latin, Arabic, and Sanskrit, down to the time of Copernicus and Kepler.

**MDVL 581b / NELC 549b, Reading Classical Arabic Scholarship**  Kevin Van Bladel
This course studies a tenth-century overview of the sciences in classical Arabic and meaningful excerpts of additional texts representing each science covered. Students acquire a large vocabulary of scholarly and technical terms of art as used in classical Arabic, facilitating further research in traditional Arabic scholarship.

**MDVL 610b, Medieval Latin: The Calamitous Life of Peter Abelard**  John Dillon
This is an introductory reading course in Medieval Latin that is intended to help students improve their reading ability by working directly with a medieval text. In this course, we will read Peter Abelard’s Historia calamitatum, “A History of My Calamities,” in which the foremost scholar and theologian of the twelfth century gives a candid account of his life. Abelard was a celebrity professor at the dawn of the university, only to spectacularly fall into disgrace for a secret love affair with Heloise that resulted in his castration at the hands of his father-in-law. As we read Abelard’s fascinating account of his life, we will focus on reinforcing our knowledge of Latin grammar and syntax and pay special attention to the features of Abelard’s language that are typical of Medieval Latin.

**MDVL 611a, Medieval Latin for Sinners and Saints**  John Dillon
This is an introductory reading course in Late Antique and Medieval Latin that is intended to help students interested in Christian Latin sources improve their reading ability. The primary objective is to familiarize students with Medieval Latin and improve their proficiency in reading and translating Medieval Latin texts. Students come to recognize the features (grammatical and syntactical) that make Medieval Latin distinct, improve their overall command of Latin by reviewing grammar and syntax, and gain an appreciation of the immense variety of texts written in Medieval Latin. Prerequisite: basic knowledge of Latin grammar and syntax, equivalent to the elementary Latin grammar courses offered by the Classics department (LATN 110, LATN 120).

**MDVL 612b, The Mediterranean in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages**  Paul Freedman
This course looks at the Mediterranean in late antiquity and the Middle Ages. How unified or diverse was this area in terms of climate, cultures, and populations? Historiography of the Mediterranean includes works by Braudel, Abulafia, McNeil, Horden, and Purcell.