



Medieval and Renaissance Studies Certificate

www.MedRen.Pitt.edu

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Overview

An intellectual interest in a historical time period far removed from our own brings many rewards: the pleasures of pursuing historical difference, of seeing how similar cultural questions received quite different answers, and, perhaps most importantly, of gaining the ability to project oneself imaginatively into another person's way of life. The Medieval and Renaissance Studies Certificate is designed to give students the freedom to undertake interdisciplinary work in several departments, which in turn will provide the tools necessary for viewing clearly not only a distant society, but also, in its reflection, our own. The certificate is an added credential that demonstrates a student's substantive grasp of complex cultural formations as well as a specialized intellectual challenge pursued in addition to the major.

Student work for the certificate will include coursework from at least three different departments, an important requirement given the interdisciplinary nature of the program. Students should not choose courses at random, but consult the program advisor in one of the participating departments or with the Director of Medieval and Renaissance Studies to select courses that follow a pattern of interrelated studies. Students interested in this certificate should acquire a reading knowledge of a modern European language as early as possible. Latin is suggested for those who plan to do graduate work in the field.

The certificate program requires 15 credits, described as follows. Satisfactory completion of the certificate satisfies the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences requirement of a related area.

Required courses

Students pursuing this certificate must complete five courses that meet the following criteria.

- At least three of these courses must be at the 1000-level.
- One course must focus on the medieval period.
- One course must focus on the Renaissance period.
- No more than two courses may be from any one department.

Other requirements

Before the middle of their final term of enrollment, students pursuing this certificate must submit the following materials to the program coordinator.

- An essay written for the course used to satisfy either the Medieval or the Renaissance requirement for our certificate. Please note that you do not have to write a separate essay or revise the old essay: simply turn in a copy of the paper you already wrote (with the instructor's comments on it if possible).
- A one-page cover letter attached to the writing sample. The letter should be addressed to the Program Director

and should use direct language and specific examples. This letter should reflect on what the student has learned during the pursuit of this certificate. It should also address the following questions.

- What were the benefits and challenges of doing an interdisciplinary certificate?
- Did ideas from one course relate to and/or enhance work for a course in a different department?
- Can the student compare or combine the different ways in which two or more disciplines taught the student to approach texts, objects, or ideas?
- What did the student learn from investigating cultures that are temporally, geographically, and culturally different from his or her own?
- Did the student feel that the courses he or she took for the certificate provided him or her with tools helpful for viewing more clearly not only a distant society but also our own?
- These documents should be submitted by mid-semester to the program's office in 454 Cathedral of Learning.

Grade Requirements

A minimum GPA of 2.0 is required in each course that counts toward the certificate.

Satisfactory/No Credit Option

There is no limit to the number of courses that may be taken on the S/NC basis for this certificate.