**Class Schedule - Spring 2020**

**Medieval Studies**

Medieval Studies, Program in  
Director: Eleonora Stoppino  
Program Office: 4080 Foreign Languages Building, 707 South Mathews, Urbana  
Phone: 217-333-5572  
www.medieval.illinois.edu

**MDVL 201  Medieval Literature and Culture  credit: 3 hours.**

Same as CWL 253 and ENGL 202. See ENGL 202.

This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for a:

Cultural Studies - Western  
Humanities – Lit & Arts

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<th>CRN</th>
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<th>Location</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>43185</td>
<td>Lecture-Discussion</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>11:00 AM - 11:50 AM</td>
<td>MWF</td>
<td>119 - English Building</td>
<td>Matresse, E</td>
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Credit Hours: 3 hours  
Humanities - Lit & Arts, and Cultural Studies - Western course.

In this class we’ll traverse the medieval globe, with layovers in Ireland, England, and Germany; China and Japan; and Persia and West Africa, sampling as we go great literary works (all in English translation) from each civilization during the period corresponding to the European “Middle Ages.” Starting out in Ireland we’ll read the outrageous epic The Táin, about a cattle-raid led by the warrior-queen Medb of Connacht against the Ulstermen and their boy-hero Cuchulainn (whose weirdest super-power is his grotesque “warp-spasm”). We’ll then cross the Irish Sea to read the Lais of Marie de France (who lived in England, actually), in which desperate housewives and courtly lovers inhabit a medieval fantasy world at once naïve and sophisticated. On our tour of East Asia we’ll take up Chinese Tang Dynasty poems, exquisitely concise observations of nature, culture, and human emotion; the Tale of Genji, a leisurely narrative about the affairs (and marriages) of the “shining prince” of the Japanese imperial court; and The Confessions of Lady Nijo, a scandalous memoir of the affairs (and travels) of an imperial concubine who became a Buddhist nun and whose favorite book was—the Tale of Genji! Passing through medieval Iran on our way back to Europe, we’ll read Vis and Ramin, a Persian romance about a queen’s affair with her husband’s brother. Then we’ll make for Germany to compare Vis and Ramin with Tristan and Isolde, a European variation on the same basic story, but in a very different setting and with a very different ending. And finally we’ll venture south into medieval and modern Africa to attend a recitation of The Epic of Sunjata (preserved in twentieth-century oral versions but with roots reaching back to the thirteenth century), whose hero overcomes a physical disability as well as the enmity of the queen stepmother and her own son. Our fifteen-week mission: to explore strange old worlds—to seek out medieval life and medieval civilizations!

**MDVL 216  Legends of King Arthur  credit: 3 hours.**

Same as CWL 216 and ENGL 216. See ENGL 216.

This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for a:

Cultural Studies - Western  
Humanities – Lit & Arts

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<tr>
<td>70296</td>
<td>Lecture-Discussion</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>10:00 AM - 10:50 AM</td>
<td>MWF</td>
<td>119 - English Building</td>
<td>Brassell, C</td>
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Humanities - Lit & Arts, and Cultural Studies - Western course.

**MDVL 245  Wives, Workers and Witches in Pre-Modern Europe  credit: 3 hours.**
Same as GWS 245 and HIST 245. See HIST 245.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for a:
Humanities – Hist & Phil
Cultural Studies - Western

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<tr>
<td>43546</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>01:00 PM - 02:20 PM</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>327 - Gregory Hall</td>
<td>Koslofsky, C</td>
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Humanities - Hist & Phil, and Cultural Studies - Western course.

MDVL 413  **Dante**  credit: 3 OR 4 hours.
Same as CWL 413 and ITAL 413. See ITAL 413.

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<tr>
<td>59975</td>
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<td>TR</td>
<td>125 - David Kinley Hall</td>
<td>Stoppino, E</td>
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Credit Hours: 4 hours
Restricted to Graduate - Urbana-Champaign.
This section for Graduate students

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<tr>
<td>34723</td>
<td>Lecture-Discussion</td>
<td>U3</td>
<td>11:00 AM - 12:20 PM</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>125 - David Kinley Hall</td>
<td>Stoppino, E</td>
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Credit Hours: 3 hours
Restricted to Undergrad - Urbana-Champaign.
This section is for Undergraduate students.

MDVL 440  **Early Christian Thought**  credit: 3 OR 4 hours.
Same as REL 440. See REL 440.

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<td>TR</td>
<td>G30 - Foreign Languages Building</td>
<td>Layton, R</td>
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Credit Hours: 4 hours
Restricted to Graduate - Urbana-Champaign.
This section is for GRADUATE students only.

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<tr>
<td>40401</td>
<td>Lecture-Discussion</td>
<td>U3</td>
<td>12:30 PM - 01:50 PM</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>G30 - Foreign Languages Building</td>
<td>Layton, R</td>
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Credit Hours: 3 hours
Restricted to Undergrad - Urbana-Champaign.
This section for UNDERGRADUATES only.

MDVL 500  **Seminar in Medieval Studies**  credit: 4 hours.
Team-taught, interdisciplinary seminar on varying topics in Medieval Studies drawing on faculty from UIUC and invited scholars from other universities. Approved for letter and S/U grading. May be repeated to a maximum of 12 hours.
The Global Middle Ages
Not intended for Undergrad - Urbana-Champaign.
The “Middle Ages” is a designation drawn from the periodization of Western history, but the medieval world extended far beyond the borders of Europe. This seminar will explore comparative and cross-disciplinary analysis of cultural production across the globe during the premodern period, roughly 100-1500 CE. We will study the individual cultures of Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas as well as the trade and travel that enabled contact and cultural exchange from China to West Africa to Newfoundland. We will welcome a series of guest speakers from the University of Illinois and elsewhere throughout the semester.

**MDVL 505  Old Norse-Icelandic I  credit: 4 hours.**
Same as SCAN 505. See SCAN 505.

**MDVL 514  Seminar in Medieval Literature  credit: 4 hours.**
Same as ENGL 514. See ENGL 514.

Beowulf
Restricted to Graduate - Urbana-Champaign.
Beowulf has been a foundational text of the English literary canon since J.R.R. Tolkien’s 1936 lecture on “The Monsters and the Critics,” and it formed the bedrock of philological studies long before that. Although most students will have encountered Beowulf in at least one undergraduate literature course, this course offers an opportunity to work with the text in its original language of composition. During the semester, students will work through Beowulf in Old English while also working through the poem’s critical history. Beginning with the landmark Tolkien essay, students will survey a range of Beowulf criticism, from its philological origins to the most recent theoretical reappropriations of the text. We will consider major critical issues such as the dating of Beowulf, its manuscript context, Christian and pagan influences, sources and analogues, historical background, orality and literacy, gender, empire, and canonicity. We will make use of digital tools to bring the manuscript into the classroom, and we may even have time to discuss modern reflexes of the poem, such as the Julie Taymor opera Grendel and Maria Dahvana Headley’s The Mere Wife.