MDST123 Escaping Purgatory: Music and Devotion in Medieval Europe
This course will explore the creative expression of religious belief in the music, poetry, literature, art, and architecture of Medieval Europe. We will begin with the everyday experience of monks, nuns, poets, and street musicians. What role did music play in their lives? Was it limited to religious practice and secular festivals? We may sense that music and the other arts held a variety of possible meanings beyond functional purposes; practitioners used artworks not only as vehicles for devotion, but also to construct monuments of themselves and their beliefs. Comparisons will be drawn between ritual and social practices of this society relative to our own. Although the focus of the course will be located in Christian and Judaic practices, the implications of our inquiry will inform any comparative study of music and religious culture. Accordingly, students will be invited, throughout the seminar, to present materials drawn from other traditions.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-MUSC, HA-MUSC
Identical With: MUSC123, MUSC123
Prereq: None

MDST125 Love, Sex, and Marriage in Renaissance Europe
This writing intensive seminar will compare literary and artistic depictions of love, sex, and marriage during the Renaissance by authors and artists from England, Spain, France, Flanders, Germany, and Italy. We will read both male and female writers in genres ranging from poetry, the short story, and theater, to the essay, the travel narrative, and the sermon. We will also examine other arts such as painting, sculpture, and the decorative arts (e.g., wedding chests). Questions we will explore include, but are not limited to, How were love and marriage related during the Renaissance? What role did sex, gender, and violence play in relationships between couples and within society? How do gender and genre affect the ways in which love, sex, and marriage are depicted? How did cultural differences influence writers’ and artists’ interpretations of love, sex, and marriage? And what about same-sex unions? Other topics will include: virginity and celibacy, erotic literature, family and class structures, and divorce.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN
Identical With: FIST123, COL123, FGSS123, FIST123, COL123, FGSS123, FIST123, COL123, FGSS123, FRST123, COL123, FGSS123, FRST123, COL123, FGSS123, FRST123, COL123, FGSS123, FRST123, COL123, FGSS123, FRST123, COL123, FGSS123, FRST123, COL123, FGSS123, FRST123, COL123, FGSS123, FRST123
Prereq: None

MDST128 Re-imaging East and West: Constantinople between Rome and Istanbul
Constantinople was founded by a Roman Emperor, Constantine the Great, in 330. From there the story gets complicated. Should we account for Constantinople from a Western point of view, and call it Roman? Or, should we label it by its Eastern religion, and call it Christian? Or, should we see Constantinople’s true nature in a transnational Hellenic culture, and call it Byzantine? Then, once we’ve chosen a story to explain the city’s nature, how should it end? With the pillaging fourth crusade in 1204, or the Ottoman sack in 1453, or is Constantinople yet alive in modern Istanbul? This course diverges from such narrative frameworks by accounting for Constantinople as, first and foremost, a city. As we explore the rich, extra-textual, and unevenly distributed relics of this medieval metropolis, students will be pushed to create accounts of past experiences that are trustworthy and analytical, even while imaginatively encompassing the diversity and paradox of life in The City.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL, HA-COL, HA-COL, HA-COL
Prereq: None

MDST134 Magic and Witchcraft in Early Europe
This course will examine the development and diversity of forms of magic and witchcraft in Europe before 1600. We shall ask what magic is and how it relates to Christian and “pagan” religion and science. We shall examine how attitudes toward the magical, including the saintly and the miraculous, constantly shifted in a world consistently committed to the possibility of supernatural and extraordinary powers. The course will examine both documents from the past and some of the fascinating scholarship that historians and others have produced on such things as magic, miracles, relics, witches and witch-hunting, astrology, ghosts, and demonology.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST, SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST134, HIST134
Prereq: None

MDST135 Medicine and Art: Viewing the Medieval Body
How did artists understand the body in the later Middle Ages, and how did this help to shape medical, spiritual, and philosophical views of what it meant to be human? What role did art play in the dissemination of scientific knowledge and religious thought, and were these views necessarily in conflict? This course will explore pre-modern depictions of the human body in works of art, scientific treatises, and visual ephemera produced and circulated in pre-modern period (1150-1550). Topics to be addressed include the visual culture of life, death, and the afterlife; abnormal bodies: saints and monsters; the role of art in illness and healing; and medieval robotics and artificial bodies. Case studies will be drawn from European and Islamic works of art.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ART, HA-ART
Identical With: ARHA135, ARHA135, ARHA135, ARHA135
Prereq: None

MDST148 Thinking with Demons
As the perennial bad boy of Judeo-Christian tradition, the devil has exerted an enduring fascination on Western culture for two millennia and counting. He and his kind remain so compelling in part because they tap into both our most profound anxieties and our deepest desires. This course will explore the myriad of ways humans across the centuries have found demons useful to “think with,” employing them to everything from explaining the existence of evil to justifying violence against others. It will also introduce you to the conventions of college-level writing, and to the perspectives of different academic disciplines, which the many aspects of the demonic provide an ideal opportunity to explore. The first half of the course will focus on the devil and demons in ancient and medieval culture, emphasizing their critical impact on the formation of medieval Christianity. The second half will address the role of the demonic in European culture after 1500, including the great witch trials and the fears of the diabolic that emerged as part of colonial encounter, before considering the ways ideas of the devil continue to function in contemporary society.
to a reading of the Bible. We will combine close readings of the biblical texts in the Hebrew Bible in its complex historical, religious, and literary dimensions and of writings spanning a millennium in time and reflecting the societies, beliefs, and in archival and special collections. Students will undertake a major research questions and the methods for historical research both in the library, online, and in archival and special collections. Students will undertake a major research project into a monarch or a problem in monarchy’s history.

**MDST204 Medieval Europe**

This introductory course includes a sweeping look at one thousand years of tumult, compromise, and development and will address some very complex issues in European history. Topics include state formation in the sub-Roman world, economic expansion during the Commercial Revolution of 1000-1300, the political and cultural transitions of the 13th and 14th centuries, and the emergence of the early modern world. Each class will be comprised of lecture and discussion. Discussion will be based on primary sources (print and online) and the textbook.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST, SBS-HIST, SBS-HIST, SBS-HIST, SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST201, HIST201, HIST201, HIST201, HIST201, HIST201, HIST201, HIST201, HIST201, HIST201, HIST201, HIST201, HIST201
Prereq: None

**MDST207 Chaucer and His World**

In this course, we will read Chaucer’s best-known work, The Canterbury Tales, and we will also read some of his other masterpieces: the dream visions The Book of the Duchess and The House of Fame as well as his short lyrics. We will also read selections from Chaucer’s sources and consider how he adapts these texts in his own literary works. Some of the topics we will explore are the various genres of Chaucer’s poetry (allegory, epic, satire), medieval ideas about psychology and dreams, the ideology of chivalry and medieval romance, Chaucer’s reinvention of the classical world, historiography, and medieval views of gender and sexuality. All readings will be in Middle English, so we will read slowly and carefully, with attention to the language.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST, SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST201, HIST201, HIST201, HIST201, HIST201, HIST201, HIST201, HIST201, HIST201, HIST201, HIST201, HIST201
Prereq: None

**MDST208 Rome Through the Ages**

This course surveys the history of Europe's most resonant urban symbol, the city of Rome, from antiquity to the baroque era (1600s). It focuses both on Rome’s own urban, political, and cultural history and on the city’s changing context as a symbol over 2000 years. This is a lecture and discussion course that emphasizes reading and viewing primary sources, both literary texts and visual images.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST208, COL208
Prereq: None

MDST209 The Art and Archaeology of Anglo-Saxon England, 400-1100
This course will consider the art, architecture, and archaeology of the British Isles from the withdrawal of the Roman legions in the 5th century to the end of the reign of Henry II in the 12th century. It will draw on material from church history to help understand the transition from paganism to Christianity and the struggle between Celtic and Roman Catholicism. It will draw on material from history and archaeology to help understand the complex relations between the waves of invading Saxons and the native English in the early medieval period and the Norman invasion in 1066. Finally, it will focus on the development of towns and on the place and role of both royal commissions and parish architecture in the life of those towns.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ART, HA-ART, HA-ART, HA-ART
Prereq: None

MDST210 Medieval Art and Architecture, ca. 300 to 1500
This course explores the vast cultural developments that took place from the rise of Christianity to the voyages of Columbus. We will study the art, architecture, and visual culture of the people inhabiting Europe and the Mediterranean basin, with comparative forays into Africa and Asia. Monuments and works of art studied will reflect the religious traditions of Christianity in the Western (Latin/Roman) and Eastern (Byzantine/Orthodox) churches, as well as Judaism, Islam, and polytheism.

We will consider major themes such as gender, patronage, monasticism, materials and techniques, and civic and secular life. Close attention will be paid to cultural contact and artistic exchange facilitated by pilgrimage, trade, and the Crusades. Our goal is to develop visual literacy across a broad cultural spectrum, analyze and understand individual works, and be able to integrate them into an appropriate cultural and historical context.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ART, HA-ART, HA-ART
Identical With: ARHA210, COL211, ARHA210, COL211, ARHA210, COL211, ARHA210, COL211, ARHA210, COL211
Prereq: None

MDST212 Wesleyan University Collegium Musicum
The Collegium Musicum is a performance ensemble dedicated to exploring and performing the diverse vocal and instrumental repertories of the medieval, Renaissance, and baroque periods of European music history. Emphasis is given to the study of musical style, performance practice, singing one-on-a-part, and excellence in performance. Various cultural aspects of the societies that produced the music under study are simultaneously explored; participants will work with primary source materials, such as facsimiles of musical manuscripts, as well as literary and historical writings.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-MUSC
Identical With: MUSC4338
Prereq: None

MDST213 Van Eyck to Velazquez: Northern European and Iberian Art, 1400-1700
This course provides a critical and scholarly introduction to visual art of north, central, and southern Europe in the Early Modern period. The lands outside of Italy were linked culturally, economically, and politically--Austria, the Low Countries, and Spain were united under Habsburg rule, for example--and the establishment of overseas empires brought wealth and exotic goods to the continent. Artists thrived as art markets expanded, new genres arose to appeal to diversified audiences, and changes in religious belief and practice invigorated the market for devotional art. Add to this technical innovations such as the development of oil painting and introduction of canvass supports, and the stage was set for the emergence of the great masters whose works we will encounter in this course--including Rogier van der Weyden, Jan van Eyck, Bosch, Dürer, Holbein, Brueghel, Rembrandt, Rubens, Velazquez, and Zurbarán.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ART, HA-ART, HA-ART, HA-ART, HA-ART
Prereq: None

MDST214 Introduction to the New Testament
The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to those writings of the earliest Christians that came to be included in the New Testament. These writings will be examined critically with respect to their social-historical origin, religious content, and place within the development of early Christianities. Interpreting early Christian texts constitutes the most important task in the study of the New Testament. We will, therefore, focus on a close reading of the New Testament in light of historical situations and social contexts in the Greco-Roman world, having as one of the chief aims of the course the acquisition of critical skills in reading and understanding the New Testament.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RELI, HA-RELI
Identical With: RELI212, RELI212, RELI212, RELI212
Prereq: None

MDST215 Politics and Piety in Early Christianities
This course is an introduction to the political, social, and religious world of Christianities during the first three centuries of the Common Era. Through discussion sessions, it will explore the controversy between emerging orthodoxy and heresy and its propagandistic impact upon the development of church organizations, interpretations of sexuality and the roles of women, the rise of gnosticism, and the formation of the Christian Bible.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Prereq: None

MDST216 The Art of Pilgrimage in Medieval Europe, 1100-1500
This course introduces students to the art and architecture of the later Middle Ages in Europe and the Mediterranean region, as experienced by the travelers who traversed the great pilgrimage routes that crisscrossed the continent, from Canterbury to Compostela, Rome, and Jerusalem. Pilgrimage dramatically shaped the medieval landscape, leaving indelible marks on the natural and built environment. From great cathedrals to humble shrines, celebrated paintings...
to cheap souvenirs, lavish illuminated manuscripts to rough traveler’s guides, the visual culture of medieval pilgrimage will be explored from a variety of perspectives and placed into an appropriate social, cultural and historical context. Historical emphasis will be given to the cultural traditions of Christianity, with comparative studies of pilgrimage in Judaism, Islam, and secular culture. Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ART, HA-ART, HA-ART, HA-ART
Identical With: ARHA214, ARHA214, COL222, ARHA214, COL222, ARHA214, COL222, ARHA214, ARHA214, COL222, ARHA214, COL222, ARHA214, COL222, ARHA214, COL222, ARHA214, COL222, ARHA214, COL222, ARHA214, COL222, ARHA214, COL222
Prereq: None

MDST217 Lost Renaissances: Art & Architecture of Medieval Italy and the Mediterranean
This course traces the multiple though now largely forgotten renaissances, or flourishing of cultural and artistic activity fueled largely by the recuperation of the classical past, in Medieval Italy and across the Mediterranean world. We will examine works of art and architecture of Italian centers including Rome, Sicily, Venice, Pisa, Padua, Siena, and Florence. With an emphasis on the art of inter-cultural relations in the medieval Mediterranean, we will explore and discuss how the intensive interactions of Roman (pre-Christian), Islamic, and Christian communities during the medieval period, c. 300-1300, were essentially shaped by works of art.

Together, we will: debate the relevancy of present-day ideas in art and politics for understanding past cultures (and vice versa), witness an Islamic caliph’s gift of an elephant to a Christian king (and consider how “gifts” could also be “art”), discover the art of hydromancy (water magic), and uncover how a French king in Sicily employed Islamic artists to decorate his pleasure palace. This course explores what the great Spanish historian Americo Castro referred to as “convivencia,” the co-existence of medieval cultures, as recorded in intercultural objects of luxury, piety, and beauty. Other themes explored in the course include cultural continuity, the omnipresence of the classical Roman/pagan culture in Christian empire, the power and use associated with art objects, and the sometimes surprising role of women in the medieval Mediterranean. Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ART, HA-ART
Identical With: ARHA212, ARHA212, ARHA212, ARHA212
Prereq: None

MDST221 Medieval and Renaissance Music
The course examines the history of music in Europe from antiquity to the end of the Renaissance (531 BCE to ca.1600 CE). In the process of studying the many changes in musical styles that occurred during these centuries, several broader topics will be addressed. Among these are the social and historical contexts of musicians and musical performance, the relation between words and music in different historical periods, and historically informed approaches to musical analysis. The material will be presented through lectures and discussion, listening assignments, singing, and readings. Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-MUSC, HA-MUSC
Identical With: MUSC241, MUSC241, MUSC241, MUSC241
Prereq: None

MDST222 Renaissance Art and Architecture in Italy
This course surveys key monuments of Italian art and architecture produced between circa 1300 and 1550. Focusing on major centers such as Florence, Rome, and Venice, as well as smaller courts such as Urbino and Mantua, it considers the works and careers of the most important artists and architects of the period, among them Giotto, Brunelleschi, Alberti, Leonardo, and Michelangelo. Monuments are studied in their broader intellectual, political, and religious context, with particular attention paid to issues of patronage, devotion, and gender. Class discussions will focus on topics drawn from primary and secondary source readings and will include the rising status of the artist, the rediscovery of man and nature, the science of painting, and the cult of antiquity. Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ART, HA-ART, HA-ART, HA-ART
Identical With: ARHA221, ARHA221, ARHA221, ARHA221, ARHA221, ARHA221, ARHA221, ARHA221, ARHA221, ARHA221, ARHA221
Prereq: None

MDST223 Foundations of Modernity: The Cultures of the Italian Renaissance
In this course, we will critically explore the intellectual achievements of the Italian Renaissance through a detailed analysis of some of its literary masterpieces. We will inquire into the rediscovery and emulation of classical literatures and civilizations. We will examine the reevaluated notions of beauty, symmetry, proportion, and order. We will analyze the ways in which this rebirth fundamentally changed the languages, literatures, arts, philosophies, and politics of Italy at the dawn of the modern era. We will also approach often-neglected aspects of Renaissance counter culture, such as the aesthetics of ugliness and obscenity, and practices of marginalization (misogyny, homophobia). In a pioneering quest for the fulfillment of body and soul, self-determination, glory, and pleasure, Italian scholars, philologists, poets, playwrights, and prose writers contributed to the development of new and increasingly secular values. Through a close reading of texts by authors such as Francesco Petrarca, Niccolò Machiavelli, and Michelangelo Buonarroti, we will investigate continuities and ruptures between their quest for human identity and ours. Conducted in English. Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN
Identical With: FIST224, COL224, ITAL224, FIST224, COL224, ITAL224, FIST224, COL224, ITAL224, FIST224, COL224, ITAL224, FIST224, COL224, ITAL224, FIST224, COL224, ITAL224
Prereq: None

MDST224 Medieval Drama: Read It and Be in It
This course will examine early English drama in its many forms, from the civic mystery cycles of the 15th century to the morality play Mankind to Tudor plays famously indebted to the conventions of medieval theater, such as Marlowe’s Doctor Faustus (1592). We will cover topics including the role of drama in defining communal identities, dramatic interpretations of gender, and the responses of drama to contemporary social and religious controversies. Most readings will be in modernized and annotated Middle English, so we will pay close attention to language. Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL, HA-ENGL, HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL224, THEA224, ENGL224, MDST224, THEA224, ENGL224, MDST224, THEA224, ENGL224, MDST224, THEA224, ENGL224, MDST224, THEA224, ENGL224, FREN222, COL217, FREN222, COL217, FREN222, COL217, FREN222, COL217
Prereq: None
MDST225 European Intellectual History to the Renaissance
This class will examine some of the major texts in Western thought from ancient Greece to the Renaissance. Emphasis will be placed on close reading and analysis of the texts.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST215
Prereq: None

MDST226 From Exile into Paradise: Dante’s “Divine” Comedy
Where will I go after I die? Is there an afterlife, and if so, will I be saved, damned, or something in between? Just as importantly, who has the power to tell me about the Hereafter, and so to shape my actions in this world? The Church? God himself? Or the makers of art and literature? These are the questions that the Comedy poses and they remain highly relevant today. Dante’s remarkable poem can be read in many ways: as religious praise, as historical commentary, as a journey to self-knowledge, and as philosophical discourse. Our aim is to gain understanding of how these different modes of writing come together both in Dante’s time as well as in the critical reception of the poem.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN
Identical With: FREN226, FREN226, FREN226, FREN226, FREN226
Prereq: None

MDST228 Heroes, Lovers, and Swindlers: Medieval and Renaissance Spanish Literature and History
This course is designed to develop students’ ability to make informed and creative sense of four fascinating, complex, and influential medieval and Renaissance Spanish texts in their multiple (literary, historical) contexts: the “national” epic El CID (12th-13th century); the bawdy and highly theatrical prose dialogue known as La Celestina (1499); the anonymous Lazarillo (1554), the first picaresque novel; and Maria de Zayas’s proto-feminist novella The Wages of Vice (1647). Through these and selected historical readings, the course is also intended to provide students with a basic knowledge of Spanish culture (in its plurality) from the 11th through the 17th centuries, the texture of everyday life, as well as the larger movements of long-term historical change. We will draw on literature and history to imagine the world of chivalry and crusade in the medieval Spain of “the three religions of the book” (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam); of mercantile values, courtly love, and prostitution in the Renaissance city; of social injustice and religious hypocrisy in imperial Spain; and of the exacerbated gender and caste tensions that followed from the political crises of the 1640s. We will reflect on the interplay of literature and history in our efforts to come to grips with a past both familiar and strange; address the crossing of linguistic, artistic, ethnic, religious, caste, and gender boundaries that has long been a conspicuous feature of Spanish society; and consider what texts and lives of the past might still have to say to us today. No prior historical or literary preparation is required, only a willingness to engage the readings closely (textually and historically).
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN
Identical With: SPAN230, COL229, SPAN230, COL229, SPAN230, COL229, IBST230, SPAN230, COL229, SPAN230, COL229, SPAN230, COL229, SPAN230, COL229, SPAN230, COL229, SPAN230, COL229, IBST230
Prereq: None

MDST230 Lancelot, Guinevere, and Grail: Enigma in the Romances of Chretien de Troyes
Chretien de Troyes, the greatest writer of medieval France, was the first to tell the stories of Lancelot and Guinevere’s fatal passion and of the quest for the Holy Grail. Written at the height of the Renaissance of the 12th century, his Arthurian tales became the basis for all future retellings of the legend. We will read these tales in-depth, paying particular attention to their enigmatic quality.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN
Identical With: FREN330, FREN330, FREN330, FREN220
Prereq: None

MDST231 Early Medieval Art: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in the Mediterranean, 300-1000
Beginning with the late Roman Empire, this course will investigate problems of continuity and change in the arts and in society around the Mediterranean basin to the year 1100, emphasizing the cultures of Islam, Judaism, and Western and Byzantine Christianity. Topics for study and discussion include the city, buildings for worship, commemorative spaces, iconoclasm.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ART, HA-ART, HA-ART, HA-ART
Identical With: ARHA211, ARHA211, ARHA211, ARHA211, ARHA211, ARHA211, ARHA211, ARHA211
Prereq: None

MDST232 Obscure Enigma of Desire
Modern readers of medieval texts often find them obscure. Some of this obscurity is accidental, inevitable and due to the historical and cultural distance that separates them from medieval authors. Obscurity, however, had a distinct and established role in the rhetorical and poetic traditions the Middle Ages inherited from Antiquity, and the Bible reaffirmed the place and importance of obscurity in human and divine communication. Many medieval texts that seem quite obscure to modern audiences were thus fully integrated into mainstream medieval culture and their obscurity was not considered striking or unusual. Medieval audiences were simply more ready to tolerate obscurity because it formed an integral part of their world and they did not believe that it could ever be eradicated. They were not scared of the indescribable, undividable, and ungraspable; they accepted reality as complex and ultimately unintelligible. Obscurity was not simply a riddle to be solved. It was a source of wonder, questioning, and a search for meaning.
This course will be co-taught in parallel with a course (in English) on the same subject offered at the Charles University in Prague by Professor Lucie Dolezalova. We plan to conduct about half of the classes together with the class in Prague through teleconferencing and Professor Dolezalova will teach one week of the course at Wesleyan and meet with students while she is here.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: None
Identical With: FIST232
Prereq: None
MDST233 Monastic Utopias: Architecture and Monastic Life to the 13th Century
This course examines architecture and, to a lesser extent, sculpture and painting of the Christian monastic tradition with special focus on such topics as monastic life, ritual, and industry.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ART, HA-ART, HA-ART
Prereq: None

MDST234 Days and Knights of the Round Table
This course will study the evolution of the Arthurian legend from its origins in 6th-century Britain to its development in the 12th-century romances of Chrétien de Troyes. The course will look at the way the various developments of the legend were rooted in specific historical circumstances and yet contributed to the elaboration of a rich and complex narrative that has been appropriated in different ways by each succeeding period of Western European culture.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN
Identical With: FREN334, FREN334, FREN334, FREN334
Prereq: None

MDST235 Days and Knights of the Round Table
This course will study the evolution of the Arthurian legend from its origins in 6th-century Britain to its fullest development in the 13th-century French Lancelot-Grail cycle. The course will look at the way the various developments of the legend were rooted in specific historical circumstances and yet contributed to the elaboration of a rich and complex narrative that has been appropriated in different ways by each succeeding period of Western European culture.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN
Identical With: FIST176, FIST176, FIST276, FRST232, FIST176, FIST176, FIST276, FRST232, FIST176, FIST276, FRST232
Prereq: None

MDST237 Art of Love: Expressions of Eros in Early Modern Italy
Medieval and Renaissance authors believed that God had created the universe "with love," and therefore they considered the role of love in nearly every facet of their lives. Writers, philosophers, and theologians debated what role love played in the relationships between the human and divine, physical and metaphysical, individual and society, and sex and compassion, as well as what role love played in the creation of art itself. In this course, students will examine notions of love and sex in relationship to a variety of cosmological, literary, and existential early-modern issues. Students will first be introduced to the origins of erotic literature, for example the Bible, Latin elegy, and medieval social codes of behavior. Students will then read selections of the Italian lyric tradition, as well as works by Dante, Petrarch, and Boccaccio, the so-called "Three Crowns" of vernacular eloquence. Finally, students will study the Neoplatonic-inspired erotic literature and art of the Renaissance.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN
Prereq: None

MDST238 Mystics and Militants: Medieval Women Writers
In this class we will read a wide range of works written by European women between c. 1100-1500, including courtly, religious, and polemical texts. The course will explore ideologies of gender in the Middle Ages and early modern period and examine the ways in which our authors confronted the misogynist discourses of their eras with learning and imagination. We will consider such topics as constructions of sexuality and the body, "courtly love," mystical experience, heresy, humanism, utopian realms. In short, we'll read works by women who created their own forms of authority and in doing so, both influenced and defied the authorities of their time.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL, HA-ENGL, HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL232, FGSS224, ENGL232, FGSS224, ENGL232, FGSS224, ENGL232, FGSS224, ENGL232, FGSS224, ENGL232, FGSS224, ENGL232, FGSS224
Prereq: None

MDST239 The Gothic Cathedral
Beginning with a basis in the monuments of the Romanesque period, this course will study the evolution of religious and secular buildings during the Gothic period. While primary emphasis will be on the development of architectural forms in relation to function and meaning, consideration will also be given to developments in the figurative arts.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ART, HA-ART, HA-ART
Identical With: ARHA216, ARHA216, ARHA216, ARHA216, ARHA216, ARHA216, ARHA216, ARHA216
Prereq: None

MDST242 Medieval Drama: Read It and Be in It
This course will examine early English drama in its many forms, from the civic mystery cycles of the 15th century to the morality play Mankind to Tudor plays famously indebted to the conventions of medieval theater, such as Marlowe's Doctor Faustus (1592). We will cover topics including the role of drama in defining communal identities, dramatic interpretations of gender, and the responses of drama to contemporary social and religious controversies. Most readings will be in modernized and annotated Middle English, so we will pay close attention to language.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL, HA-ENGL, HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL224, MDST224, THEA224, ENGL224, THEA224, ENGL224, THEA224, ENGL224, MDST224, THEA224, ENGL224, THEA224, ENGL224, THEA224
Prereq: None

MDST245 The Invention of Fiction: Giovanni Boccaccio's Decameron
In this course we read and discuss Giovanni Boccaccio's Decameron (ca. 1353), a collection of 100 short stories traded by an "honest brigade" of 10 Florentine men and women. They tell each other these stories while sheltered in a secluded villa as the plague of 1348 rages in Florence. We study the Decameron as both a product and an interpretation of the world Boccaccio inhabited. We examine the Decameron's tales and narrative frame as a point of entry into the cultural and social environment of medieval Italy. We look at its scurrilous, amusing, and provocative innuendos as traces of erotic, religious, ethnic, and cultural questions. We investigate the sexual exuberance of many
of Boccaccio’s tales and the tension between “high” and “low” culture. We consider the development of mercantilism and literacy in early-modern Europe and its emerging values of wit and self-reliance. We review the dynamics of composition and reception in manuscript culture and the book’s adaptation into different media, from illuminations to film. And by impersonating the 10 Florentines, we will reenact their pastime of telling stories and appreciate Boccaccio’s remarkably modern sensibility and unsurpassed art of writing fiction. This course is conducted in Italian.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: ITAL235, COL255
Prereq: None

MDST247 Jewish History: From Biblical Israel to Diaspora Jews
The survey course on the history of Jews will cover the long period from biblical times to 16th century, a period during which Judaism, Christianity, and Islam formed, shaping the foundation of mutual attitudes among these groups for centuries to come. The course will examine transformations of identity from biblical Israelites to Jews living among Christians and Muslims. We will discuss stereotypes and presuppositions of Jewish life and history, including what the historian Salo W. Baron dubbed the “lachrymose concept of Jewish history”--Jewish history as history of suffering. The course will illuminate the experience of Jews whose lives, deaths, demonstrate that they were active actors rather than just passive victims of historical events. We will discuss the mutual influences of Jews and non-Jews on their cultures and experiences. The readings will consist mostly of primary historical sources on Jewish culture, politics, economic activities, social and legal status, and the Jews’ relations with non-Jews: Christians and Muslims.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST, SBS-HIST, SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

MDST248 Boccaccio: The Black Death & the Birth of Erotica
Boccaccio’s Decameron, a collection of 100 tales narrated by ten young Florentines fleeing the Black Death of 1348, is arguably the first great European novel. While often seen as a representation of Renaissance culture, it is mainly famous due to the amount of overtly erotic-sexual and humorous-comical material. The text’s “low” or “humble” aspects have alternately been celebrated as inherently “modern” but also denigrated as “immoral.” The stories have thus been censured by the Church; provided material for porno-erotic films in the 1970’s and 80’s; and inspired authors such as Chaucer, Shakespeare, Poe, and Pasolini. This interdisciplinary seminar explores why Boccaccio’s erotic text has provoked contrasting responses, as well as why it continues to be relevant today, by drawing on ideas from literary theory to cultural studies and theology. We will read selections of the book in translation (students of Italian will consult the original), and survey its reception in literature, art, and film.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN
Prereq: None

MDST251 Islamic Civilization: The Classical Age
This course surveys the historical development of Islamic civilization from the time of the Prophet Muhammad to the rise of the “gunpowder empires” of the 16th century. Special emphasis will be placed on the unique cultural forms this civilization developed and the emergence of Islam as a world religion. This course primarily deals with the political, intellectual, and social history of the Muslim peoples of the Middle East and only secondarily with Islam as a system of religious belief.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST231, RELI253
Prereq: None

MDST254 Cervantes
Cervantes is known chiefly for DON QUIXOTE, often described as the first modern novel and fountainhead of one of the great modern myths of individualism. DON QUIXOTE also reimagines virtually every fashionable, popular, and disreputable literary genre of its time: chivalric, pastoral, picaresque, sentimental, adventure and Moorish novels; the novella; verse forms; drama; and even the ways these forms of literary entertainment were circulated and consumed, debated, celebrated, and reviled. It is a book about the life-enhancing (and -endangering) power of books and reading and the interplay of fiction and history, truths and lies. Cervantes’ art remains fresh and unsettling, sparing no one and nothing, including itself. Distinguished by its commitment to the serious business of humor, make-believe, and play, the novel is at once a literary tour de force and a fascinating lens through which to examine the political, social, religious, and intellectual debates of its moment. Characteristic themes: social reality as artifact or fiction, the paradoxical character of truths, the irreducible diversity of taste and perception, the call for consent in politics and love, and personal identity (including gender) as a heroic quest. This semester, we will read, discuss, and write about DON QUIXOTE, along with a sampling of critical, philosophical, literary, and artistic responses it has inspired.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN
Identical With: SPAN236, COL327, SPAN236, COL327, SPAN236, COL327, SPAN236, COL327, SPAN236, COL327, SPAN236, COL327, SPAN236, COL327, SPAN236, COL327, SPAN236, COL327, SPAN236, COL327, SPAN236, COL327, SPAN236, COL327, SPAN236, COL327, SPAN236, COL327, SPAN236, COL327, SPAN236, COL327, SPAN236, COL327, SPAN236, COL327, SPAN236, COL327, SPAN236, COL327, SPAN236, COL327, SPAN236
Prereq: None

MDST261 Medieval Latin
This course provides a brief introduction to late and medieval Latin. We will begin with a series of Christian texts from late antiquity that illustrate some of the changes Latin experienced in that period. In the second section of the course, the focus will be on pastoral and love poetry of the late Roman and medieval periods. For the final section of the course, each student will be asked to choose a text they would like to study and make the subject of their final paper. We will read portions of each text in class.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CLAS, HA-CLAS, HA-CLAS
Identical With: LAT261, LAT261, LAT261, LAT261, LAT261, LAT261, LAT261
Prereq: None

MDST275 Romans and Christians: The World of Late Antiquity
The emperor Diocletian’s administrative and financial reforms, closely followed by the conversion of Constantine to Christianity, mark a watershed in the history of the late Roman Empire. From AD 284 (accession of Diocletian) until
the establishment of the Germanic successor kingdoms (roughly in the 6th century)--the period known as late antiquity--the Roman West presents a fascinating picture of cultural change. In this course we will study the period (4th to 6th century) from three different perspectives: the conversion of Romans to Christians and of Christians to "Romans"; the material world of late antiquity--especially the changes to the city of Rome--and the art, architecture, and literature of the period; and the rise of the cult of the saints and of monasticism and the lives of the holy men and women. The course will conclude with an epilogue pursuing these themes in Ostrogothic Italy and Merovingian Gaul.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CLAS, HA-CLAS, HA-CLAS
Identical With: CCIV275, RELI274, HIST250, CCIV275, RELI274, HIST250, CCIV275, RELI274, HIST250, CCIV275, RELI274, HIST250, CCIV275, RELI274, HIST250, CCIV275, RELI274, HIST250
Prereq: None

MDST280 Islamic Art and Architecture
This course is a thematic introduction to the history of Islamic art and architecture from the time of the Prophet Muhammad through its 17th-century culmination in the period of the great Islamic empires of the Ottomans, Safavids, and Mughals. All major genres of Islamic art will be considered including religious and secular architecture, the arts of the book (calligraphy and painting), and decorative arts. Some of the broader issues to be examined include the allegedly anti-iconic nature of Islamic art, relations between Islamic art and preexisting traditions in territories absorbed by Islam (Byzantine, Persian, Central Asian, Indian), and the problem of what makes Islamic art Islamic.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ART
Identical With: ARHA280
Prereq: None

MDST295 Introduction to Medieval Literature
This course covers a selection of French, Italian, and English literature from around 1200 to 1400, with an emphasis on the popular genre of romance and the works of Dante and Chaucer. We will consider various elements of medieval writing--including allegory and satire--within their social and cultural contexts. Some of the topics that we will examine are the politics of chivalry and crusading, medieval views of gender and sexuality, theology and religious controversies, and exploration of the world beyond Europe.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL, HA-ENGL, HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL293, ENGL293, ENGL293, ENGL293, ENGL293, ENGL293
Prereq: None

MDST300 Medieval Gender and Sexuality
When most people think of the Middle Ages, they may envision an era of pious sexual repression and strict gender norms. Over the past few decades, however, scholars of medieval history have begun to uncover both the colorful variation and unexpected complexity of medieval sex and gender, revealing a world at once deeply familiar and profoundly strange. By exploring everything from the idea of Jesus as a nursing mother to transvestite heroines like Joan of Arc, and from private rumors of sodomy to publicly licensed prostitution, they have begun to reconstruct the powerful systems of gender and sexuality that governed the lives of both ordinary and famous people. This research seminar will examine some of their findings, while considering the broader utility of gender and sexuality as categories of historical and social analysis.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RELI, HA-RELI, HA-RELI, HA-RELI
Identical With: RELI304, RELI304, RELI304, RELI304, RELI304, RELI304, RELI304, RELI304, RELI304

MDST301 Jews Under Christianity and Islam: Borders, Boundaries, and Coexistence
This course will focus on the relationship between legal, religious, and real-life interaction among different religious groups. We will explore how mutual attitudes of Jews, Christians, and Muslims have been shaped throughout centuries, from the rise of these religious groups through the premodern period. We will examine how each religious tradition constructed the "other" and sought to create boundaries to prevent intermixing and religious corruption while at the same time dealing with real-life issues of daily contact. We will try to find answers to the following questions: What was the Jews' attitude toward non-Jews? How did Jews fare in Christian and Muslim traditions? We will also discuss the relationship between religious ideals present in sacred texts and prescriptive literature of each tradition and historical reality of everyday life: Were all the laws applied to daily intercourse? Students will be exposed to a wide range of primary sources. Secondary sources will be used to illustrate current scholarly debates on the topics relevant to the course. We will read considerable sections of the Hebrew Bible, New Testament, the Qur'an, the Talmud, the Church fathers, and later works, including rabbinic responsa, polemical works, and legal documents.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST, SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST301, RELI290, HIST301, RELI290
Prereq: None

MDST304 Medieval Archaeology
This course will serve as an introduction to the archaeology of medieval Europe. Emphasis will be on methods and theory and on recent trends in the field. Material will be drawn mainly from North European secular and ecclesiastical sites. Students interested in participating in the Wesleyan summer archaeological program in France are strongly urged to take this course.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ART
Identical With: ARHA218, CCIV304, ARCP304
Prereq: None

MDST305 God After the Death of God: Postmodern Echoes of Premodern Thought
The proclamation is well known: Nietzsche's madman cries throughout the marketplace that "God himself is dead, and we have killed him." This message has appeared on magazine covers, T-shirts, and coffee mugs, but what, exactly, does it mean? Which "God" is it that "we" have killed, and how? Even more puzzlingly, how is it that Christian thought is not entirely disabled by this claim? This advanced seminar will explore various post-Nietzschean attempts to come to terms with the eclipse of the very source of traditional Christian thinking and will track the ways in which these strategies resonate with premodern, mystical theologies.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RELI, HA-RELI, HA-RELI, HA-RELI
Identical With: RELI304, RELI304, RELI304, RELI304, RELI304, RELI304, RELI304, RELI304, RELI304
Medieval Studies (MDST)

MDST308 Medievals on the Move: Pilgrimage, Jihad, Crusade, and Apocalypse

Medieval people moved: they traded and sent emissaries; they invaded and migrated; they wandered, begged, and ascended the heavens; they went on crusade, jihad, and pilgrimage. This course will first analyze the most consistently preserved sources on medieval movement: accounts of pious travel "for God's sake and not for pleasure." We will then contextualize such accounts with two other types of movement: the physical journeys of traders, diplomats, and warriors, as well as the interiorized journeys of the prophet, the mystic, and the storyteller. By encompassing this variety we will be able to pursue a larger question: Can patterns of exchange across the physical and cultural barriers of geography, language, religion, and governance reveal a more global medieval world than we usually envision?

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ART, HA-ART
Identical With: ENGL340, ENGL340, ENGL340, ENGL340, ENGL340
Prereq: None

MDST310 The Culture of Convivencia: Muslims, Jews, and Christians in Medieval Iberia

This class will explore the art and culture of the various cultures of medieval Iberia (modern Spain and Portugal) between 711 and 1492. For eight centuries, Muslims, Jews, and Christians lived side by side as neighbors, enjoying varying degrees of religious freedom, political autonomy, and mutual well-being. This carefully negotiated state of coexistence was known as convivencia, and, while it ultimately failed, for centuries it allowed each community to maintain its integrity, often thriving, and always surviving.

Using visual evidence and primary sources, we will explore the works produced by the pluralistic societies of medieval Iberia from the perspectives of art, architecture, history, archaeology, literature, and music. We will learn to decode elements such as dress and home decor, food and hygiene, gardening and agriculture, to learn how each community influenced the others and formed blended cultural forms. We will carefully and objectively evaluate their shared experience of convivencia and the mutual cultural affinities and appropriations that developed over the long centuries of coexistence. Finally, we will compare the Iberian experience to our own era of religious encounters and uneasy coexistence.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ART, HA-ART
Identical With: ENGL353, ENGL353, ENGL353, ENGL353, ENGL353
Prereq: None

MDST340 Death and Afterlife in the Middle Ages

What happens to us after we die? Medieval authors had a variety of answers to this eternal question, ranging from the shocking to the amusing. We will read about visions, punishments, rewards, martyrdoms, and--that scary place between life and death.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL, HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL340, ENGL340, ENGL340, ENGL340, ENGL340, ENGL340
Prereq: None

MDST351 Jews and Christians in Medieval England: Debate, Dialogue, and Destruction

This course will consider relations between the Jewish minority and their Christian neighbors in England before the Jews' expulsion in 1290 and also the effect of the expulsion on subsequent Christian writing. We will read texts originally written in Hebrew, French, and Latin (in translation) as well as English to get a sense of the conversations that took place between two groups that were both inextricably bound together and set apart by centuries of conflict and persecution. Among the issues we will explore are the Christian study of Hebrew biblical commentary; the popularity of the Jewish-Christian debate as a literary form; the Crusades; competing Jewish and Christian apocalyptic programs; and the curious afterlife of Insular Jews in Middle English literature.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL, HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL353, ENGL353, ENGL353, ENGL353, ENGL353
Prereq: None

MDST373 Beyond the Grail: Medieval Romances

Romance was one of the most popular genres of literature in the Middle Ages. In this course we will begin with texts that date from the romance's origins in 12th-century France and continue with the form's development up to the well-known Middle English texts of the 14th century, including SIR GAWAIN AND THE GREEN KNIGHT. Some of the topics we will consider are Romance's engagement with the religious and ethnic conflicts of the Crusades, theories of good and bad governance, Christian mysticism and the Holy Grail, and, of course, the concept of so-called "courtly love" and medieval sexualities.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL, HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL373, ENGL373, ENGL373, ENGL373, ENGL373
Prereq: None
Prereq: None

MDST401 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

MDST402 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

MDST403 Department/Program Project or Essay
Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

MDST404 Department/Program Project or Essay
Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

MDST407 Senior Tutorial
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

MDST408 Senior Tutorial
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

MDST409 Senior Thesis Tutorial
Topic to be arranged in consultation with tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

MDST410 Senior Thesis Tutorial
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

MDST411 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

MDST412 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

MDST470 Independent Study, Undergraduate
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: None
Prereq: None