Medieval Studies
Program-specific competencies

Competencies are the skills, knowledge and attributes gained through every work, educational, volunteer and life experience. UVic students in the Medieval Studies program develop the following program-specific competencies.

Critical thinking

Critically evaluates the different types of evidence employed in the study of the Medieval world

- Develops skills in analyzing a wide variety of written, visual and archaeological sources
- Understands the importance of historical and cultural context in the interpretation of texts and artifacts
- Determines the critical questions to be asked of a text or artifact
- Formulates original arguments and expresses them succinctly in written and spoken presentations

Historical awareness

Demonstrates an awareness of the history and culture of the Medieval period

- Understands the major civilizations of the Medieval period through the evidence of primary texts, art, architecture, and archaeology
- Describes past issues or events in the Medieval period in historical terms
- Gains a knowledge of the fundamental works of Medieval literature in Medieval Europe and the Islamic Middle East
- Studies the origins and development of the relationship between Islam and Christianity
- Develops an awareness of the continuing relevance of aspects of Medieval culture upon the contemporary world

Historical method

Utilizes a systematic method of enquiry in the interpretation of the Medieval period.

- Employs a wide variety of textual and physical evidence in the reconstruction of Medieval history and culture
- Compares and contrasts the viewpoints of Medieval writers from different geographical regions and/or religious communities
- Appreciates the importance of gender in the study of Medieval culture
- Understands the principal historiographic traditions of the Medieval world
- Evaluates contrasting viewpoints of past events presented by modern scholars of the Medieval period
Social and cultural perspective

*Understands texts, visual culture and material culture in their social and cultural contexts.*

- Understands the means by which knowledge was generated and transmitted in Medieval cultures
- Assesses the enduring importance of classical scholarship upon the intellectual and artistic traditions of the Medieval world
- Critically evaluates the role of religious belief in the formation of Medieval societies
- Analyzes the origins, development and cultural significance of myths in Medieval societies
- Appreciates the cultural interactions between different ethnic, religious, political, and socio-economic communities during the Medieval period

*UVic Co-op and Career worked with the Medieval Studies Program to develop this competency document.*