All Medieval Cluster students take the following graduate courses.

- Latin 400 - Medieval Latin
- Medieval Studies 420 - Medieval Doctoral Colloquium
- at least one graduate seminar in Medieval Studies outside the home department
- at least two graduate seminars in Medieval Studies within the home department

Latin 400 explores Medieval Latin texts ranging from the Vulgate (Latin Bible) to a wide selection of literary, historical, and religious writings. All students must take this course for credit, normally in their first year, and must pass the Toronto Medieval Latin Exam (Level 1). This exam is a requirement for candidacy which must be completed before the beginning of the fourth year.

Students who arrive without Latin or transfer into Medieval Studies from another field should take the nine-week Intensive Latin course at the University of Chicago in the summer either before (with explicit permission of the admitting department) or after their first year. Northwestern provides a full tuition scholarship in either case. These students should then take Latin 400 during their second year.

Medieval Studies 420 designates the Medieval Colloquium speaker series.

Certificate in Medieval Studies
Students who wish to receive the Certificate in Medieval Studies (awarded at graduation) must fulfill the preceding requirements, take two additional seminars in medieval subjects, and pass the Toronto Medieval Latin Exam (Level 2) before defending their dissertations. A student working in Jewish or Byzantine studies may substitute a proof of equivalent proficiency in Hebrew or Greek.

A Sample of Recent Courses

**Anthropology:** Material Worlds of the Middle Ages

**Art History:** The Role of the Patron / In the Shadow of Rome, 300-1300; Art and Empire / Cultural Exchange in Medieval Europe

**English:** Canterbury Tales / The Piers Plowman Tradition / Heresy, Rebellion, and the Book / Allegory and Gender / Medieval Autobiography / The Medieval Beast / Sacred and Profane in Medieval Literature

**French:** The Troubadours and the Occitan Tradition

**History:** High Middle Ages / Jewish Life in Medieval Europe / Hagiography / Medieval Marriage / Nature and the Supernatural in Medieval Thought

**Religious Studies:** Late Medieval Religion: Conversations and Controversies / The Consolidation of Christendom / Medieval Liturgy: A Multimedia Experience

The Newberry Library in Chicago offers medieval and early modern lectures, conferences, fellowships, concerts, rare book and manuscript collections, paleography courses, and graduate seminars that may be taken for Northwestern credit. Recent offerings have included “Disability and Marginality in Medieval England and France,” “Lives and Deeds: Writing Biography in the Middle Ages,” and “Gender, Bodies, and the Body Politic in Medieval Europe.”

The Chicago Seminar on Medieval Culture and Intellect meets downtown on three Saturday afternoons each winter, featuring discussion of papers by faculty and graduate students from universities throughout the Midwest.

History of the Book Lectures at the Newberry, offered three times a year, often feature Northwestern faculty.

The International Medieval Congress meets every May in Kalamazoo, Michigan, a three-hour drive from Evanston. Northwestern’s Medieval Colloquium organizes panels, carpools, and an annual dinner.

The Illinois Medieval Association, a national conference, meets in the Chicago area most years and features many graduate students. The IMA publishes an annual volume of proceedings online, Essays in Medieval Studies.

The Art Institute of Chicago and the Loyola University Museum of Art (LUMA) feature significant collections of medieval art.
The Medieval Colloquium follows the interest of Graduate research and travel funding are available to qualified graduate conferences. Editorial assistantships are available to qualified graduate students, who can gain editorial experience as assistants to the scholarly journal Yearbook of Langland Studies. Graduate research and travel funding is generously provided by individual departments and the Medieval Studies Cluster. Graduate/faculty reading groups follow the interest of participants. In recent years, they have existed in Latin, troubadour lyrics, and Dante. Conferences take place as funding and interests permit. In fall 2016 we hosted “Beyond Occitania,” an interdisciplinary conference on medieval poetry.

The Medieval Colloquium brings speakers in various disciplines to lecture on campus every year. Visitors in 2017-18 include Jonathan Hsy (English), Karin Krause (Art History), Sara Poor (German), Samantha Kelly (History), Joel Kaye (History), and Elisha Baumgarten (Jewish Studies). Graduate students have lunch with the speakers, and have opportunities for networking and research assistance.

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Katharine Breen (Ph.D. Berkeley) Associate Professor of English. Medieval English literature; Piers Plowman tradition; vernacularity; allegory; history of the book. Author of Imagining an English Reading Public, 1130-1490 (2010) and co-editor of The Yearbook of Langland Studies (2016-present).

Christopher Davis (Ph.D. U. of Michigan) – Assistant Professor of French and Italian. Medieval French, Occitan and Classical literatures; lyric poetry; medieval theories of poetry and language; textual culture; circulation of medieval Francophone literature in a Mediterranean context.

Dyan Elliott (Ph.D. Toronto) – Professor of History; Peter D. Ritzma Professor of the Humanities. Medieval western European history; intersections of gender, spirituality, and sexuality; heresy and its repression. Author of Spiritual Marriages: Sexual Abstinence in Medieval Wedlock (1993); Fallen Bodies: Pollution, Sexuality, and Denunciation in the Middle Ages (1999); Pruning Woman: Female Spirituality and Inquisitional Culture in the Later Middle Ages (2004); The Brides of Christ Goes to Hell (2012); and A Hole in the Heavens (2017).

Matthew Johnson (Ph.D. Cambridge) – Professor of Anthropology. Medieval and early modern domestic architecture and landscape; castles; archaeological theory; cultural context of archaeology. Author of Housing Culture: Traditional Architecture in an English Landscape (1993); Archaeological Theory: An Introduction (1999); Beyond the Castle Gate: From Medieval to Renaissance (2002); Ideas of Landscape (2006); and English Houses, 1300-1800: Vernacular Architecture, Social Life (2010). Editor of Local Experiences in the Later Middle Ages: Studies of Bodiam and Other Elite Sites in South-East England (2017).

Richard Kieckhefer (Ph.D. U. of Texas) – Sarah Rebecca Rowland Professor of Religious Studies; Professor of History and Art History. Late medieval religious culture, including witchcraft and magic; history of church architecture. Author of European Witch Trials: Their Foundations in Popular and Learned Culture, 1300-1500 (1976); Repression of Heresy in Medieval Germany (1979); Unquiet Souls: Fourteenth-Century Saints and Their Religious Milieu (1984); Magic in the Middle Ages (1989); Forbidden Rites: A Necromancer’s Manual of the Fifteenth Century (1997); and Theology in Stone: Church Architecture from Byzantium to Berkeley (2004); translator, Hazards of the Dark Arts (2017).

In progress: "The Last Medieval Churches" and "The Mystical Life of Christ.


In progress: “The Permeable Self: Medieval Meditations on the Personal.”

Christina Normore (Ph.D. Chicago) – Associate Professor of Art History. Late antique, Byzantine, and medieval art, specializing in French and Flemish art of the late Middle Ages. Author of A Feast for the Eyes: Art, Performance, and the Late Medieval Banquet (2015).

Susan Phillips (Ph.D. Harvard) – Associate Professor of English. Late medieval and early modern book culture; Chaucer; Shakespeare; gossip; sin and confession; heresy; cultures of reading and publication; travel literature; early multilingual dictionaries and phrasebooks. Author of Transforming Talks: The Problem with Gossip in Late Medieval England (2007).


In progress: “Oh Beasty Jew” Jews, Animals, and Jewish Animals in the Middle Ages.”