

MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE STUDIES

Marist College

Volume 1, Number 1 — Spring 2012

FACULTY AND BOARD APPROVE MINOR IN MEDIEVAL & RENAISSANCE STUDIES

Last December the Marist College faculty voted overwhelmingly to approve a minor program in Medieval and Renaissance Studies (MARS). Recently, the Board of Trustees gave final approval to the minor, and it will be included in the undergraduate catalogue in fall 2012.

The minor is an interdisciplinary program in the culture, philosophy, history, literature, religious practices, art and music of the medieval and Renaissance periods. Students enrolled in the program will take five courses in three of the following disciplines: Philosophy & Religious Studies, History, English, Modern Languages and Cultures, and Fine Arts (Art History and Music).

In addition, to minor in MARS students must satisfy a language

requirement with an intermediate class in French, Italian, or German, or an introductory course in Latin or Arabic.

There are many full-time faculty members at Marist that have primary research interests in the medieval and Renaissance periods, or who teach courses that are relevant to the minor. While MARS faculty are drawn primarily from liberal arts (History, Philosophy & Religious Studies, English, Modern Languages), there are also faculty from the School of Communications and the Arts.

Prof. James G. Snyder of Philosophy and Religious Studies will coordinate the program for the first three years. If you are considering MARS as a minor, stop by his Fontaine 330 office or email him at james.snyder@marist.edu.

WHY NOT MARS?

Many undergraduates choose a major and minor because they think it is practical. While this is not entirely unreasonable, it is worth noting that we value knowledge for many reasons. These reasons generally fall into two broad categories: either we value knowledge for its consequences, or because knowledge is its own reward.

On the surface of things, MARS may seem to be impractical and have little to do with an undergraduate's career aspirations. However, there is both an extrinsic and intrinsic value to MARS. The extrinsic value is not hard to find: as a student in this program you will be challenged to think and develop your critical reasoning skills; you will write research papers, and analyze texts and timeless works of art; finally, you will learn a language. All of these skills are necessary to your success in any chosen vocation.

This leaves us with the intrinsic value to MARS. The study of medieval and Renaissance periods in all their glory is its own reward. It provides us with a privileged insight into a period that, in many ways, is different from our own, and in this way represents an "untimely meditation" upon the present. Finally, the works of literature, art, philosophy, and music of this period represent some of the greatest human achievements.

MINOR REQUIREMENTS

Five courses selected from three of the following disciplines:

Philosophy & Religious Studies;
History; English;
Modern Languages & Culture;
Art History & Music

An intermediate language course in the following:

French, German, Spanish, or Italian
Or an introductory course in the following:
Latin & Arabic

FALL 2012 COURSES

ART HISTORY

ART 380; Renaissance Art (M 11:00 a.m., W 9:30 a.m.)

Prof. Jan Manzier

This course will study the art of the Renaissance in the Lowlands and Italy. Beginning with an examination of the sources of the Renaissance in the late medieval period, the course will explore the technical innovations, formal characteristics, and iconography characterizing art from Giotto and Claus Sluter to Hugo VanderGoes and Raphael. Some of the major artists include Masaccio, Donatello, and Jan van Eyck. This course will examine in depth the intellectual sources and context of the Renaissance.

ENGLISH

ENG 320: English Drama I (T/F 2:00 p.m.)

Prof. Richard Grinnell

A survey of drama in England, excluding Shakespeare, from its origins in the liturgy of the Medieval Church, through the English Renaissance, up to the closing of the theatres under the Puritans in 1642. Class discussions will focus not only on drama as literature but also on social history as it relates to theatre history. Works studied will represent such playwrights as Kyd, Marlowe, Jonson, and Webster.

ENG 330: Medieval Literature (T/F 9:30 a.m.)

Prof. Moira Fitzgibbons

A study of literature written in the British Isles from the earliest records through the Old- and Middle-English periods up to the Renaissance, exploring the influences of history, politics, national cultures, literary traditions, and social classes upon the development of that literature. Offered in alternate years.

HISTORY

HIST 249: Early Modern Europe (W 2:00 p.m., F 3:30 p.m.)

Prof. Janine Larmon Peterson

The early modern era is placed between the waning of the Middle Ages and the rise of the modern industrial world. This course focuses on how Europe expanded its borders and knowledge of the world and at the same time underwent a series of political, religious, and intellectual revolutions. Attention will be paid to the question of what makes early modern Europe unique, rather than merely a time of transition.

MODERN LANGUAGES

SPAN 420: Medieval Spanish Literature (M 6:30 p.m.)

Prof. Irma Casey

From the earliest works of Spanish literature up to and including the literature of the Renaissance period.

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES

REST 203: Christianity (M 6:30 p.m.)

Prof. John Knight

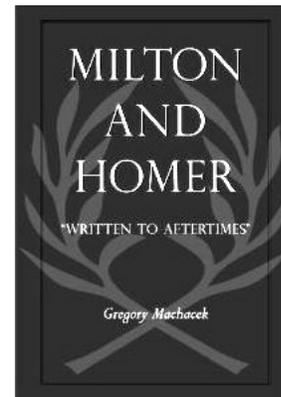
A contemporary approach to the study of Christian principles and history. Special areas of interest include the person of Jesus, the development of Christian doctrines, and the interrelationships among various Christian denominations.

PHIL 322: 17th & 18th Century Philosophy

Prof. James G. Snyder (T/F 9:30 a.m.)

Modern philosophy is generally thought to have started with Francis Bacon in England and Rene Descartes in France. Both philosophers were convinced that their philosophies departed in profound ways from both Medieval and Renaissance thought. This course will deal with some of the central metaphysical and epistemological theories of several modern philosophers. We will read selections from Bacon, Descartes, Locke, Leibniz, Berkeley and Hume. We will also read selections from Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Ficino and Pomponazzi.

MARS FACULTY BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT



Last Fall Dr. Gregory Machacek published *Milton and Homer: "Written to Aftertimes"* (Duchesne, 2011). The book is the first full-length study of the relation between Milton and Homer.