

# Interdisciplinary Programs of Study

The College offers a variety of programs of study that are informed by more than one disciplinary field. They include the college's Honors Program, the major in Latin American and Latino Studies, and several minors, including Community Service Learning (CSL); Core Texts and Enduring Questions (CTEQ); Law, Ethics, and Constitutional Studies (LEX); Medieval and Early Modern Studies (MEMS); and Women's Studies (WMS).

## MINOR IN MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN STUDIES (MEMS)

The Minor in Medieval and Early Modern Studies (MEMS) offers students the opportunity to explore the richness of Medieval and Early Modern culture within a coherent inter-disciplinary structure. Because pre-modern societies have so much to teach the modern world, students can combine history, literature, languages, the arts, philosophy, politics, and religion along with a range of interpretive methodologies. Students expand on their area of specialization within their primary discipline (their major) by incorporating perspectives from other disciplines that broaden their understanding of Medieval and Early Modern civilizations. Given that the mission of Assumption College is "grounded in the liberal arts," and "enlivened by the Catholic affirmation of the harmony of faith and reason," it is fitting to study the periods that defined the liberal arts and affirmed the harmony of faith and reason. Indeed, these periods provided us the concept of the "*Uomo Universale*," the "Renaissance Man or Woman," who combines expertise in many fields of human expression.

Beyond the intrinsic value of this course material, students will gain in instrumental ways from the MEMS minor at Assumption College. The MEMS minor perfectly complements participation in the Rome Program, or a study abroad program in Europe or Latin America. Furthermore, students graduating with a Medieval and Early Modern Studies Minor will enhance their competitiveness for many professional degrees. Students considering pursuing Medieval or Early Modern Studies as a specialty in graduate school are strongly encouraged to obtain proficiency in one or more foreign languages, especially Latin, and may wish to take part in regional and national conferences relating to Medieval and Early Modern Studies, such as the national undergraduate conference in Medieval and Early Modern Studies in Moravian College in Bethlehem, PA each December.

Students earning a MEMS minor may also be particularly well-suited candidates for internships and similar opportunities that become available on a regular basis at local institutions like the American Antiquarian Society and the Worcester Art Museum. MEMS affiliation can also increase students' competitiveness for selection for archaeological digs and other international study opportunities (for instance, an on-going investigation of a medieval castle outside Louvain, Belgium). Students graduating with a MEMS minor will further distinguish their applications to graduate school, whether or not they pursue a graduate specialization in MEMS. Specializations related to MEMS are found in the finest graduate programs in all the related disciplines (including Art, Music, English, History, Languages, Latin American Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Theology/Religious Studies, etc.).

## Requirements (6)

Students must complete a total of six courses, including an upper-level history course, from the following list:

Gateway Courses (at least one of the following):

- HIS 208 Early Medieval Europe
- HIS 209 Late Medieval Europe
- HIS 230 Renaissance Europe
- HIS 231 European Reformations
- HIS 332 Baroque Europe

The remaining five courses must come from at least two separate disciplines chosen from the following list, although no more than three courses from any one discipline can count in the MEMS minor. Versions of the following courses on the Rome Campus (usually designated with an 'R' following the course number), also count for MEMS.

Art and Architectural History

ARH 222 Medieval Art and Architecture  
ARH 223 Renaissance Art and Architecture  
ARH 224 Baroque Art  
ARH 350 Special Topics in Art History (when appropriate)

#### English Literature

ENG 221 British Literature Survey I (beginnings to 1800)  
ENG 237 Film and Literature (when appropriate)  
ENG 253 Arthurian Literature  
ENG 320 Medieval Literature  
ENG 325 Chaucer  
ENG 327 English Drama 900–1642  
ENG 328 Medieval and Renaissance Tales  
ENG 329 Special Topics in Medieval Literature  
ENG 330 Renaissance Literature  
ENG 331 Shakespeare's Comedies  
ENG 332 Shakespeare's Tragedies  
ENG 333 Shakespeare's History Plays  
ENG 339 Special Topics in Renaissance Literature  
ENG 342 Donne and his Contemporaries  
ENG 343 Milton  
ENG 349 Special Topics in Seventeenth Century Literature  
ENG 350 18th Century English Literature  
ENG 351 Restoration and 18th Century Comic Drama  
ENG 352 18th Century English Novel  
ENG 359 Special Topics in 18th Century Literature  
ENG 411 History Seminar (when appropriate)

#### History

HIS 208 Early Medieval Europe  
HIS 209 Late Medieval Europe  
HIS 230 Renaissance Europe  
HIS 231 European Reformations  
HIS 241 Russia: Pre-Revolutionary Period  
HIS 250 Colonial Latin American History  
HIS 254 North American Indians  
HIS 255 From Contact to Casinos: Interactions with Native Americans  
HIS 258 Colonial America  
HIS 280 Asia to 1800  
HIS 290 The Islamic Middle East I (to 1800)  
HIS 332 Baroque Europe  
HIS 337 Women and Mysticism  
HIS 338 Classics of Spiritual Direction  
HIS 359 Revolutionary America, 1763–1815  
HIS 389 Special Topics (when appropriate)  
HIS 400 Historical Methods (when appropriate)  
HIS 401 Pro-Seminar (when appropriate)  
HIS 402 Seminar (when appropriate)  
AAS 350 American Studies Seminar at the American Antiquarian Society (when appropriate)

#### Latin American and Latino Studies

LAS 200 Introduction to Latin American Studies (when appropriate)  
LAS 395 Special Topics (when appropriate)  
LAS 400 Latin American Studies Seminar (when appropriate)

### Modern and Classical Languages

- CLT 225 Dante's Comedy
- CLT 234 Cervantes' Don Quixote
- FRE 251 Main Currents in French Literature I
- FRE332 Molière, Racine, and Corneille: Masterpieces of French Theatre
- SPA 251 Main Currents in Spanish Literature I
- SPA 253 Main Currents in Spanish American Literature I
- SPA 310 Spanish Culture and Civilization I
- SPA 312 Spanish American Culture and Civilization I
- SPA 320 Medieval Spanish Literature
- SPA 331 Spanish Drama of the Golden Age
- SPA 333 Spanish Mysticism
- SPA 334 Cervantes: *El Quijote*
- SPA 336 Spanish Picaresque
- Also Special Topics Courses in Languages (when appropriate)

### Music History

- MUS 122 History of Music I
- MUS 221 Music of the Middle Ages and Renaissance
- MUS 223 Bach to Beethoven
- MUS 229 Music and Worship
- MUS 231 History of Opera
- MUS 234 Music of France (when appropriate)
- MUS 400 Special Topics in Music (when appropriate)

### Philosophy

- PHI 355 Augustine and Aquinas
- PHI 357 Crossroads: Islamic, Jewish, and Christian Philosophy
- PHI 359 Special Topics (when appropriate)
- PHI 360 Early Modern Philosophy
- PHI 390 Special Topics in the History of Philosophy (when appropriate)

### Political Science

- POL 352 Early Modern Political Philosophy
- POL 354 Classical Utopias (when appropriate)
- POL 359 Medieval Political Philosophy
- POL 377 The Politics of Just Wars (when appropriate)
- POL 381 Shakespeare's Politics
- POL 399 Special Topics (when appropriate)

### Theology

- THE 285 Augustine's *City of God*
- THE 352 Medieval Christian Writers
- THE 391 Special Topics (when appropriate)

Students are encouraged, but not required, to mix their primary (major) discipline with their MEMS minor, although not more than three courses can be double-counted or combined with any other major or minor. Because no more than three courses can come from any one discipline, therefore, a minimum of two disciplines is also required. Students are also able to include up to two courses from another institution as a transfer student or during a Study Abroad program, subject to the approval of the chair of the relevant department at Assumption. Similarly, each respective department chair determines which special topics or other courses outside the above listing have a predominant focus on Medieval and Early Modern issues, thereby meriting inclusion in the minor. While there are no specific pre-requisites for the MEMS minor, students should be aware that many upper-level courses in many disciplines may require a 100-level introductory course or courses prior to enrollment in the upper-level course. Generally, only upper-level courses focusing on the Medieval or Early Modern periods within each discipline qualify for the MEMS minor. For further information, contact Dr. Lance Lazar, Director of the Medieval and Early Modern Studies Program, 508-767-7054; email: [llazar@assumption.edu](mailto:llazar@assumption.edu).