

MINOR IN ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL STUDIES

Through a wide variety of subjects drawn from a number of disciplines, this program provides a curricular framework for exploring topics in ancient and medieval studies which range from the history of ideas and institutions to that of material artifacts, literature, and certain of the original languages. The chronological span of the program includes some 6,500 years between 5000 BC and 1500 AD.

The goal of this program is to develop knowledge and understanding of the more distant past both for itself, in its uniqueness, and as an object of specifically modern questions and methods of inquiry. The program has an interest in the structure of institutions and social systems, and in relationships between the social order and learned traditions, values, ideologies, and ideas. Ancient and medieval studies derive a special claim to our interest from the fact that the record is so full and multiform and that much of it is of exceptionally high quality at once in substance and form.

The minor is designed for students who, in addition to the focus of their major program of study, are seeking a fuller understanding of the forces which shaped the ancient and medieval world. The geographical and chronological scope of the minor program is broadly conceived and is intended to be comparative. Subjects range in content from Classical Greece and Rome, and the ancient societies of Asia and South America, to medieval Europe and Japan. Students will be required to demonstrate intermediate level language proficiency in either Greek, Latin, or a medieval vernacular, but they need not concentrate their other subjects on the area associated with that language. Students are also expected to have some distribution across the ancient and medieval time periods. Students are expected to consult closely with the minor advisor in order to devise a coherent program of study.

The minor consists of six subjects (at least three of which must be MIT subjects), arranged in four primary areas of study:

- Area I: Languages
- Area II: Arts and Architecture
- Area III: Literary Studies
- Area IV: Material and Historical Studies

Subjects in Ancient and Medieval Studies are also available from Harvard University and Wellesley College through cross-registration. Students must receive permission from the minor advisor prior to registering for a class at another institution.

Five of the six minor subjects may be counted toward the eight-subject Institute HASS Requirement. Of these five, at most one shall count toward satisfaction of the HASS Distribution Requirement. Of the six subjects required for the minor, at least four cannot be counted toward a major or another minor.

Area I: Language^{1, 2}

Select one of the following for a total of 12 units: 12

21L.601[*J*] Old English and Beowulf³

21L.611 Latin I
& 21L.612 and Latin II

21L.607 Greek I
& 21L.608 and Greek II

21L.613 Latin Readings
& 21L.614 and Advanced Latin Readings³

An intermediate-level subject in Greek, Latin, Italian, Norse, or Arabic⁴

Select five subjects from at least two of the following areas. At least one subject must be taken in both the Ancient and Medieval periods: 60

Area II: Arts and Architecture

Ancient

4.605 A Global History of Architecture⁵

21H.237 The City of Athens in the Age of Pericles

21H.239 The City of Rome in the Age of the Caesars

Medieval

4.614 Building Islam

4.635 Early Modern Architecture and Art

21M.220 Medieval and Renaissance Music

Area III: Literary Studies⁶

Ancient

21L.001 Foundations of Western Literature: Homer to Dante⁵

21L.021 Comedy⁵

21L.455 Ancient Authors

21L.458 The Bible

21L.613 Latin Readings
& 21L.614 and Advanced Latin Readings^{3, 5}

24.200 Ancient Philosophy

Medieval

21L.460 Arthurian Literature

21L.601[*J*] Old English and Beowulf³

Area IV: Material and Historical Studies

Ancient

3.981 Communities of the Living and the Dead: the Archaeology of Ancient Egypt

3.982 The Ancient Andean World

3.983 Ancient Mesoamerican Civilization

3.986 The Human Past: Introduction to Archaeology

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Frampton (sframpton@mit.edu), 14N-434, 617-253-4452, or from the History Office, E51-255, 617-253-4965.

3.987	Human Evolution: Data from Palaeontology, Archaeology, and Materials Science
3.993	Archaeology of the Middle East
21H.007[[J]]	Introduction to Ancient and Medieval Studies ⁵
21H.130	The Ancient World: Greece
21H.132	The Ancient World: Rome
21H.230	Barbarians, Saints, and Emperors ⁵
21H.331	Julius Caesar and the Fall of the Roman Republic
21H.333	Early Christianity ⁵
21H.336	The Making of a Roman Emperor
CC.117[[J]]	Humane Warfare: Ancient and Medieval Perspectives on Ethics in War ⁵
Medieval	
21H.133	The Medieval World
21H.134[[J]]	Medieval Economic History in Comparative Perspective
21H.160	Islam, the Middle East, and the West
21H.238	The Vikings
21H.240	The World of Charlemagne
21H.383	Technology and the Global Economy, 1000-2000
CC.116	How to Rule the World: The Promises and Pitfalls of Politics, War, and Empire ⁵

Total Units **72**

- ¹ Students are required to take at least 12 units in a pre-modern language. Two six-unit subjects in a pre-modern language may be combined to satisfy this requirement (e.g., Latin I and II or, for students who enter with strong Latin from high school, two different iterations of 21L.6xx Latin Readings). Greek, Latin, and Old English are currently offered at MIT, but students may substitute another pre-modern language taken elsewhere.
- ² Students with equivalent proficiency in a pre-modern language may substitute the Area I requirement with one more subject from Areas II–IV.
- ³ Counts as Area I or III, but not both.
- ⁴ MIT does not offer these languages; consult with advisor concerning appropriate coursework at Harvard University or Wellesley College. Arabic is required for students proposing a specialty in the medieval Islamic world.
- ⁵ Counts as either Ancient or Medieval, but not both.
- ⁶ Any seminar-tier subject in Literature with a substantially ancient and/or medieval focus counts toward Area III.

The subject list above is not exhaustive. Additional information can be obtained from the minor advisors, Professor Eric Goldberg (egoldber@mit.edu), E51-290, 617-254-2420, Professor Stephanie