

History Major Field

GLOBAL MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN

Field Description

Ranging chronologically from the Fall of the Roman Empire to the Age of Atlantic Revolutions, and geographically from East Asia to the Americas, this field invites students to pose historical questions across the long term, through the deep history of social, cultural, and economic structures that have lasted for centuries and even millennia. It also aims to sensitize students to problems of change and continuity across the *longue durée* through courses that are often explicitly comparative or include chronological and geographical frames that reach beyond the history of modern nation-states. In the broadest sense, GMEM offers students the opportunity to historicize and denaturalize some of the most essential features of modern life.

Using textual as well as visual and material sources, GMEM courses approach early globalization in the economic, cultural, and religious senses of the term. They track the spread of world religions and the attendant dialogue — and conflicts — between their respective adherents; they explore the fluctuating dynamics of long-distance trade, from the Silk Road of medieval Eurasia to the emergent Atlantic economies of the early modern period; they track scientific, technological, and medical knowledge as it circulated between cultures through complex webs of exchange, translation and appropriation; and they track the rise and fall of empires and regimes of production, ranging from feudalism to plantation slavery to industrial capitalism.

Studying the Middle Ages and the Early Modern period on a global scale offer us “distant mirrors” that make us think in new ways about our own twenty-first century world. They also offer us the opportunity to explore the ways in which their impact on our lives remains deep and pervasive: the medieval and early modern legacy to the present day includes the institutions of the modern state; adaptable cultures of higher learning; persistent structures of economic and political inequality; national and international legal systems; not to mention the formation and development of many of the world's largest religious denominations. Students come away from GMEM classes with widened horizons in both chronological and geographical terms, and a view of how the deeper past laid the foundation for the modern world.

Courses

HIST 120 – Early Latin America
HIST 126 – Early Middle Ages
HIST 127 – Later Middle Ages
HIST 131 – Early Modern Europe
HIST 1xx – Intro to the Global Hist. of Sci., Med., Tech
HIST 145 – Early Africa
HIST 156 – History of India
HIST 161 – East Asia to 1800
HIST 161 – History of the Islamic World
HIST 175 – Early Black History
HIST 209 – History of North American Indians
HIST 227 – British History 1485 to Present
HIST 230 – Renaissance and Reformation
HIST 235 – Modern France
HIST 258 – Ottoman Empire
HIST 260 – Medieval Islamic Empires
HIST 261 – Mongol Empire
HIST 328 – The Crusades
HIST 330 – Medieval Travelers
HIST 3xx – Alchemy, Astrology, and Magic
HIST 345 – History of the Indian Ocean
HIST 347 – 12th Century Renaissance
HIST 374 – Atlantic World
HIST 426 – Fight for the Great Lakes
HIST 428 – French Revolution
HIST 438 – Medieval Iberia