

Interdisciplinary Major Proposal: Medieval Studies

Victoria Garrett, Class of 2012

My passion for the Middle Ages began when I became fascinated with the architecture of that time. As a typical young girl, I was entranced by castles and the ideas put forth by fairytales of happily ever afters that took place in these almost mythical buildings. As I continued my interest in castles, I discovered the other stone structures that dominated the medieval landscape: religious buildings. Learning more and more about these different forms of architecture, I naturally wanted to learn more about the people who built them. Who were these people? What were they like? Why did they build these structures in the form that they did? And why did those forms change over time? This process led me to focus more on the Middle Ages in high school, and solidified my determination to examine the Middle Ages from multiple perspectives.

With this focus in mind, the interdisciplinary major I wish to propose draws the majority of its courses from the history department, but also allows me to incorporate the literature, religion, and art of this time into my major. I will take historiography as a theory course. Since Latin was the language used for the written documents in the Middle Ages, I will also add multiple Latin courses to my major that will better help me understand the medieval world. I will also undertake an independent study to learn Old English.

The Anglo-Saxon world is what fascinates me the most. After participating in an archaeological dig this past summer at Bamburgh Castle in Northern England, I have discovered the richness of this world and would like to explore it in more depth. With the recent discovery of new finds dating from this time, the Anglo-Saxon world continues to escape from the confinement of its Victorian label of a “dark age”. Since Hendrix College does not offer a course specifically dedicated to the Anglo-Saxons, I will take two classes through the British Studies at Oxford program that will specifically focus on Anglo-Saxon history and literature. Alongside my proposed major, I will also have a minor in anthropology. Dealing with the

archaeology aspect of anthropology, I will participate in digs that have relation to the Anglo-Saxon world. My senior capstone will incorporate this focus on medieval archaeology with the culture and history of the medieval world through a thesis-length research paper.

Completed Courses

LATI 110-Fundamentals of Latin I
HIST 221-England to 1688
LATI 120-Fundamentals of Latin II
ENGL 238-Chaucer's Canterbury Tales
RELI 230-History of Christianity to 1500
HIST 225-Medieval Europe

Proposed courses (I will be selecting 4 out of the proposed 300/400 level group of courses and at least 7 overall)

HIST 317-Crusades and Contact
HIST 300-Historiography
ARTH 170-Western Art History Survey 1
RELI 233-Jesus Through the Centuries
HIST 228-The Medieval Islamic World
HIST 227-Medicine and Disease in Premodern Europe
HIST 338-Crime and Punishment in Medieval Europe
ARTH 391-History of Architecture
MUSI 401-Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque Music

British Studies at Oxford: Translating the Anglo-Saxons, Anglo-Saxon England: Politics, Economy and Society, c.400-1066

Senior Capstone: A substantial length thesis that focuses on a subject related to the Anglo-Saxons that incorporates historical research with archaeological evidence. This capstone will be graded by the committee I have selected for my major.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victoria Garrett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Victoria Garrett, student

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aleksandra Pfau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Aleksandra Pfau, major advisor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol West". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Carol West, committee member

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brett Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Brett Hill, committee member