

**MEDIEVAL STUDIES PROGRAM  
ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**

**PROPOSED COURSE OFFERINGS 2026-2027**

Fall/Winter 2026-2027 Preliminary Timetable subject to change.

All courses will be offered In Person except where noted.

For the most up-to-date day and time information, please review the [Timetable Builder](#).

**MST110H1F: ROBIN HOOD: LEGEND AND LEGACY**

**Instructor:** TBA

This course examines the legend of Robin Hood as originally depicted in medieval folklore and ballads – and as transmitted and developed in scholarship, communal rituals, and various literary and artistic forms from the fifteenth century to the present day. Exploring works as diverse as dramas, historical novels, paintings, children's storybooks, scholarly histories, television scripts written by blacklisted Communists, and contemporary reworkings, this course explores such themes as legend-making and definitions of subversion, rebellion, and communal identity across centuries, cultures, and art forms.

**Exclusions:** None

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Society and Its Institutions (3)

**MST201H1F: GETTING MEDIEVAL: MYTHS AND MONSTERS**

**Instructor:** Alexandra Bolintineanu

Introduction to the sound, sight, and touch of the distant past, telling the story of the Middle Ages through objects from animal skin parchment to enameled icon. Lectures are complemented by hands-on learning in weekly tutorials featuring text- and narrative-oriented digital methods, along with medieval drama and music performance.

**Exclusions:** MST200Y1

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

**MST202H1S: GETTING MEDIEVAL: PLACE AND SPACE**

**Instructor:** Alexandra Bolintineanu

From world maps to tales of pilgrimage, trade, and exploration, from imagined other worlds to historical cityscapes, this course tells the story of the Middle Ages through the places and spaces that defined medieval culture. Lectures are complemented by hands-on learning in weekly tutorials featuring network visualization and digital mapping.

**Exclusions:** MST200Y1

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

### **MST210H1F: THE EARLY MEDIAEVAL TRADITION**

**Instructor:** Giulio Silano

An introduction to the thought and culture of early mediaeval Europe. Students are introduced to important monuments of early mediaeval History, Thought, Literature, and Art. They follow some of the common threads that run through these disciplines and explore chief expressions of early mediaeval life and thought.

**Exclusions:** SMC210H1

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)

### **MST212H1S: THE LATER MEDIAEVAL TRADITION**

**Instructor:** Alison More

An introduction to the thought and culture of later mediaeval Europe. Students are introduced to important monuments of later mediaeval History, Thought, Literature, and Art. They follow some of the common threads that run through these disciplines and explore chief expressions of later mediaeval life and thought.

**Exclusions:** SMC212H1

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)

### **MST222H1F: MEDIAEVAL LATIN LITERATURE**

**Instructor:** Riccardo Macchioro

This course studies a selection of Mediaeval Latin prose and poetry. Emphasis is on the linguistic differences between Mediaeval Latin and its classical antecedent, especially in regard to vocabulary, grammar and orthography. A review of Latin grammar is part of the course.

**Exclusions:** SMC222H1

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

### **MST231H1S: ON THE MOVE IN MEDIEVAL EURASIA**

**Instructor:** TBA

In this age of constant global travel, it is easy both to forget how much more complicated travel was in earlier periods, and to assume that there was very little of it. In the Medieval world, people travelled for work as traders, craftsmen and warriors; they travelled for their spirit as pilgrims; they travelled as migrants and refugees. This course will introduce students to the variety of people on the move in Medieval Eurasia, their motives, and the means they used to travel.

**Exclusions:** None

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

**MST232H1F: HOW TO BE A BARBARIAN: BEARD, BATTLES AND BELIEF AT THE DAWN OF THE MIDDLE AGES**

**Instructor:** TBA

Barbarians have caught the modern popular imagination, and they appear to be much the same: hairy warriors who destroyed civilization. The late antique period (c.300–c.600) was a time of transition and the meetings of several cultures. This course examines the so-called barbarians who entered and soon came to rule the former Roman provinces of western Europe in this period. Our particular focus is the cultural, religious, artistic, and socio-economic aspects of barbarian peoples, and how these intersected with the civilization of Rome.

**Exclusions:** None

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Society and Its Institutions (3)

**MST242H1S: MEDIEVAL MYTHOLOGIES AND METHODOLOGIES**

**Instructor:** Alison More

The idea of the ‘middle ages’ is pervasive in Western thought, but only some of what is ‘traditional’ actually happened. This course introduces various interpretations, constrictions, and re-creations. Our analysis will draw on literary texts and their various interdisciplinary interpretations and applications.

**Exclusions:** None

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

**MST301H1F LEC 0101: SPECIAL TOPICS IN MEDIAEVAL STUDIES: MYSTERY, FORGERY, AND FAKE NEWS IN MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN BOOKS**

**Instructor:** Riccardo Macchioro

The history of bookmaking, from antiquity to relatively recent times, is riddled with enigmatic and mesmerizing artifacts—objects that have ignited endless debates and spilled rivers of ink. In some cases, scholars have yet to reach a universally accepted conclusion about their authenticity, their origins, or their meaning. Since control over written culture has always been a powerful tool for advancing political, ideological, and economic interests, it is hardly surprising that forgers in every age have sought to exploit it. In this course, we will come face to face with some of these extraordinary objects and figures: manuscripts, papyri, and maps that have left an indelible mark on the cultural history of Europe—and far beyond. Among them are the Donation of Constantine, a medieval parchment of enormous political consequence—tragically, and spectacularly, a forgery; the Voynich Manuscript, a book shrouded in the mystery of an undeciphered script and an unknown language that has defied every attempt at interpretation; the Vinland Map, a medieval vision of the world astonishingly ahead of its time, on which even the most advanced scientific methods have stumbled (though not philology...); the Artemidorus

Papyrus, a precious document whose authenticity continues to spark fierce scholarly battles; and Constantine Simonides, a Greek forger who claimed to possess original manuscripts of Homer and the Bible. We will examine the challenges these haunting artifacts pose to scholars, explore the methods used to unravel—or fail to unravel—their secrets, and reflect more broadly on their significance for the eras in which they were (or were not) created. Ultimately, we will ask what these objects can still teach us about the world we inhabit today.

**Exclusions:** None

**Prerequisites:** Completion of 9.0 credits

**Recommended Preparation:** MST210H1, MST212H1

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities

### **MST301H1S LEC 0101: SPECIAL TOPICS IN MEDIAEVAL STUDIES: GOD AND GEOMETRY**

**Instructor:** Jean-Olivier Richard

This course engages controversial issues in the natural sciences of importance to Christian faith, with particular emphases on their ancient and the medieval origins and enactments. Examples include: Harmony vs. Chaos, Creation vs. Evolution, Free Will vs. Determinism, Reason vs. Revelation, Miraculous vs. Natural Causation. *LEC0101 is cross-listed with CHC383H1.*

**Exclusions:** None

**Prerequisites:** Completion of 9.0 credits

**Recommended Preparation:** MST210H1, MST212H1

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities

### **MST301H1S LEC 0201: SPECIAL TOPICS IN MEDIAEVAL STUDIES: THE GLOBAL MIDDLE AGES**

**Instructor:** Renee Trilling

The premodern world was an interconnected network of merchandise, luxury goods, religious beliefs, philosophies, and artistic production that celebrated the staples of narrative storytelling, from brave warriors and courtly lovers to tragic histories and comedies of daily life. In this course, we will explore a broad range of medieval literature (all in modern English translation) from around the world: Europe, the Mediterranean world, Africa, and Asia. We will encounter a variety of genres, including epics, sagas, romances, fabliaux, riddles, drama, lyrics, and saints' lives, and we will work to situate each work in its social and historical contexts with materials from libraries, museums, and art galleries both at home and abroad.

**Exclusions:** None

**Prerequisites:** Completion of 9.0 credits

**Recommended Preparation:** MST210H1, MST212H1

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities

### **MST301H1S LEC 0301: SPECIAL TOPICS IN MEDIAEVAL STUDIES: IMAGINING THE WORLD: MAPS IN THE MIDDLE AGES**

**Instructor:** Jim Ginther

The history of map making, or cartography, often makes a strong distinction between the fantastical accounts of the world in pre-modern maps and the apparently accurate and technical maps of the modern era. Maps, regardless of what period they are from, are primarily representations of how people regard the world in terms of their cultural and religious values. In this course, we will explore how people in the Middle Ages mapped out their understanding of reality. We will start with how they mapped the universe as a whole and then we will move to how the physical world around them was captured in illustrations and literary accounts. We will extract from these representations the core cultural and religious values that were the engines of map design. The course will conclude with world maps that were created for trade but also for identifying who was a friend and who was a stranger.

**Exclusions:** None

**Prerequisites:** Completion of 9.0 credits

**Recommended Preparation:** MST210H1, MST212H1

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities

### **MST324H1S: THE STUDY OF THE BIBLE IN THE MIDDLE AGES**

**Instructor:** Riccardo Macchioro

This course explores mediaeval biblical commentary and the various approaches taken by the exegetes to uncover the secrets of the sacred page, for instance through the four senses of Scripture: history, allegory, tropology, and anagogy.

**Prerequisites:** Completion of 6.0 credits including LAT202H1/MST222H1

**Exclusions:** None

**Recommended Preparation:** MST210H1, MST212H1

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)

### **MST328H1F: MEDIAEVAL LATIN POETRY**

**Instructor:** TBA

This course studies selections from the rich variety of Medieval Latin poetry, rhymed as well as rhythmic, and provides a survey of prosody and metrics. A solid foundation in basic Latin morphology, syntax and vocabulary is assumed.

**Prerequisites:** Completion of 6.0 credits including LAT202H1/MST222H1

**Exclusions:** None

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

### **MST340H1F: MEDIEVAL GENDERS AND SEXUALITIES**

**Instructor:** Alison More

This course explores ideas of gender and sexuality in the medieval world. In particular it examines the links between the two throughout history, the social religious, and literary ideas of marriage and reproduction. Through close readings of primary sources including literature, canon law, penitentials, sermons, and medical treatises, students will explore the boundaries between

the worlds of biology and culture.

**Prerequisites:** Completion of 6.0 credits

**Exclusions:** None

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Thought, Belief and Behaviour

### **MST361H1S: MEDIEVAL LAW**

**Instructor:** Giulio Silano

Medieval jurisprudence combines the high technical quality of Roman law with the requirements of Christianity. The seminar provides an overview of the development of medieval learned jurisprudence; select texts from Roman and canon law, with their glosses, are read in order to explore more specifically the methods and concerns of medieval jurists.

**Prerequisites:** Completion of 6.0 credits

**Exclusions:** None

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

### **MST400Y1: LANGUAGES AND METHODS FOR MEDIEVAL STUDIES**

**Instructor:** TBA

In this course, students will have an opportunity to take a graduate Latin seminar at the Centre for Medieval Studies, one of the world's premier research institutions in the field. The instructor, the SMC program coordinator, and the student will determine a method of assessment appropriate for an undergraduate student while still pushing the student's boundaries to be able to participate in a graduate seminar along with MA and PhD students. Course forms are available from the SMC Principal's Office at [smc.programs@utoronto.ca](mailto:smc.programs@utoronto.ca). Completed forms should be submitted by the first day of classes in September.

**Prerequisites:** Completion of 10.0 credits including 1.0 LAT credit at the 300-level or 1.0 credit from MST222H1, MST323H1, MST328H1. Students must be enrolled in MST Major or Specialist program.

**Exclusions:** None

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

### **MST401H1S LEC0101: ADVANCED TOPICS IN MEDIAEVAL STUDIES: OLD SAXON**

**Instructor:** TBA

Old Saxon is the language spoken by the Continental Saxons--those who did not migrate to Britain in the fifth and sixth centuries. It is closely related to Old English and Old High German, and is one of the oldest surviving Germanic languages. The principal literary monument is the Heliand, a narrative of the life of Christ based on the four gospels of the New Testament, composed in alliterative Germanic metre. This course provides an introduction to the language through reading selections of the Heliand.

**Prerequisites:** Completion of 10.0 credits including MST210H1, MST212H1. Students must be

enrolled in the MST Major or Specialist Program.

**Exclusions:** None

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Society and Its Institutions  
(3)

**MST401H1S LEC0201: ADVANCED TOPICS IN MEDIAEVAL STUDIES: TBC**

**Instructor:** TBA

TBC

**Prerequisites:** Completion of 10.0 credits including MST210H1, MST212H1. Students must be enrolled in the MST Major or Specialist Program.

**Exclusions:** None

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Society and Its Institutions  
(3)

**MST406H1S LEC0101: MEDIAEVAL SEMINAR II: MEDIEVAL DEATHS AND AFTERLIVES**

**Instructor:** Alison More

TBC

**Prerequisites:** Completion of 10.0 credits including 1.0 credit in MST courses

**Exclusions:** None

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities

**MST435H1F/S: INDEPENDENT STUDY IN MEDIAEVAL STUDIES**

**Instructor:** TBA

**Class:** NA

A research project chosen by the student in consultation with a faculty supervisor and approved by the Program Coordinator. A full proposal including a course description, working bibliography, marking scheme, and approval from your academic supervisor must be submitted for approval by the Program Coordinator and Director. More information and application forms are available at <https://stmikes.utoronto.ca/academic-forms> or from the SMC Principal's Office, [smc.programs@utoronto.ca](mailto:smc.programs@utoronto.ca). Completed forms must be submitted to the Principal's Office by the first day of classes in September/May for F courses, or January/July for S courses. Meeting times are determined in consultation with your supervisor, and may be in person or online as appropriate. Not eligible for CR/NCR option.

**Prerequisites:** Completion of 10.0 credits including at least 2.0 MST credits with at least a B+ grade

**Exclusions:** None

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities

**MST490Y1: SENIOR ESSAY IN MEDIAEVAL STUDIES**

**Instructor:** TBA

**Class:** NA

A scholarly project chosen by the student in consultation with a faculty member and approved by the Program Coordinator. A full proposal including a course description, working bibliography, marking scheme, and approval from your academic supervisor must be submitted for approval by the Program Coordinator and Director. More information and application forms are available at <https://stmikes.utoronto.ca/academic-forms> or from the SMC Principal's Office, [smc.programs@utoronto.ca](mailto:smc.programs@utoronto.ca). Completed forms must be submitted to the Principal's Office by the first day of classes in September/May for F courses, or January/July for S courses. Meeting times are determined in consultation with your supervisor, and may be in person or online as appropriate. The project will be accompanied by a research seminar component. Not eligible for CR/NCR option.

**Prerequisites:** Completion of 10.0 credits. Students must be enrolled in the MST Specialist, Major, or Minor program.

**Exclusions:** None

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities

### **SMC165H1F: SMC ONE: THE BOYLE SEMINAR IN SCRIPTS AND STORIES**

**Instructor:** Alison More

This seminar introduces students to university-level studies through an interdisciplinary exploration of Celtic influences in the medieval world, with a particular focus on early books and historical artefacts as physical objects and bearers of meaning. Students will learn how to read and analyse these books and artefacts. Subjects discussed will include intercultural encounter and dialogue, research methods with historical sources, and the relationship between the written word and lived experience, then and now. A co-curricular, optional travel opportunity to Ireland may be associated with this course. If the trip is offered and you choose to go, an ancillary fee is required to help cover a portion of the travel costs. Not eligible for CR/NCR option.

<https://stmikes.utoronto.ca/program/smc-one-boyle-seminar>

**Prerequisites:** None

**Exclusions:** None

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representation (1)



