MASTER OF MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN STUDIES

COURSE INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS 2013
Master of Medieval and Early Modern Studies

Through this interesting and rewarding Masters program you can follow your interests in medieval and early modern studies to gain a valuable postgraduate degree.

You will be able to:

* understand the social, cultural, material and intellectual life of medieval and early modern people
* learn how to read medieval manuscripts, historical documents, artworks, and early forms of English
* explore medieval and early modern literature, history and ideas
* conduct your own research on an aspect of the pre-modern world

The Master of Medieval and Early Modern Studies prepares students for advanced research in medieval and early modern studies by:

* providing or upgrading key skills (bibliographical, archival, linguistic, editorial);
* introducing new theoretical approaches and enhancing your ability to work in an interdisciplinary manner;
* requiring you to read major texts of the period; and
* requiring you to construct a substantial research project.

Two core seminars introduce major skills and themes relating to palaeography, diplomacy, literature and legend, pre-modern ideas of science, medicine and religion, early modern economy and trade. Students follow individual interests (such as history, Latin and vernacular literatures, visual arts) through other specialised seminars, individual reading contracts, and a major research project.
Master of Medieval and Early Modern Studies

Course outline

The course consists of units to a total of 96 points for non-honours graduates and 48 points for honours graduates. Study may be completed full-time or part-time.

International students may only study on a full-time basis. The course is accredited for international students by CRICOS with the code 077552J

The course can be commenced in Semester 1 or 2 of each year.

What are the components of this course?
The Master of MEMS components are as follows:

The core Masters coursework seminars

MEMS5401 Interdisciplinary Core Seminar I (6 points)
Reading the Pre-modern World

MEMS5402 Interdisciplinary Core Seminar 2 (6 points)
Interpreting the Pre-modern World

The elective coursework seminars

MEMS5405 Elective Seminar 1 (6 points)
MEMS5406 Elective Seminar 2 (6 points)
MEMS5407 Elective Seminar 3 (6 points)

The research units

MEMS5403 Research Project (12 points)
MEMS5404 Individual Reading Contract (6 points)
MEMS5408/ MEMS5409/ MEMS5410/ MEMS5411 Masters Dissertation 1, 2, 3 and 4 (48 points)

What are the admission requirements?

Admission to the Master of MEMS is a UWA Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in a related area of study, or an equivalent degree from elsewhere, as recognised by the Faculty of Arts. If you are in doubt about your qualifications, please contact the CMEMS Director.

To be eligible for admission to UWA, including all coursework programmes, you must demonstrate satisfactory performance in a UWA-approved test of English. This is the case even if English is your first language. Please visit the following webpage for full details:


How do I apply?

Prior to applying for admission, make an appointment with the Director of the Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies to discuss your course programme and obtain the necessary approval.

CMEMS Director:
Professor Andrew Lynch
Arts Building, Room 1.09
Ph: 6488 2185
Email: andrew.lynch@uwa.edu.au

If you are interested in applying you should see the Director of CMEMS in the period October-December for first semester entry, or May-June for mid-year entry. Enquiries at any time are welcome.
All applications for Master of MEMS must be approved by both the Centre and the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

**APPLICATION PROCESS**

Current UWA students and recent graduates
Apply online via StudentConnect

External applicants
Apply online via Oasys

International students
Please visit the following webpage for full instructions and an application form:
http://www.studyat.uwa.edu.au/postgrad/international/apply#applications

Applications for 2013 semester 1 close on 8 February, 2013

For full information please access:
http://www.arts.uwa.edu.au/courses/postgrad/coursework/masmedieval

**What does it cost?**

The Master of MEMS is a fee-paying course. Total fees payable for students commencing in 2013 are available from Student Admin:
http://www.studentadmin.uwa.edu.au/welcome/fees

Note: Fee-help is available to students undertaking this course. For further information please contact Student Administration via www.ipoint.uwa.edu.au or phone 6488 3235.
Semester 1

MEMS5401
Interdisciplinary Core Seminar 1
Reading the Pre-Modern World

Co-ordinator:
Prof. Andrew Lynch

This unit consists of three four-week modules, designed to prepare students to understand a variety of medieval and early modern document sources in manuscript and print form. Attention is paid to the construction of medieval and early modern documents in relation to their particular historical contexts and functions.

Semester 2

MEMS5402
Interdisciplinary Core Seminar 2
Interpreting the Pre-Modern World

Co-ordinator: TBA

This unit analyses three key themes of the pre-modern world in order to provide a deeper understanding of this era. Each theme will draw on a diverse range of evidence, from the literary and historical to the artistic, and is examined from different disciplinary perspectives.
Elective Seminars

Elective Seminars cover a range of topics in English and Cultural Studies, History and Visual Arts. Full details of the seminars below can be obtained from the named staff member associated with each.

In 2013, the elective seminars available are:

SEMESTER 1

MEMS4103: Special Topic in Medieval and Early Modern Studies: Introduction to Anglo-Saxon
(Prof. Andrew Lynch, English and Cultural Studies; andrew.lynch@uwa.edu.au)

Pre-Conquest England was settled from the late fifth century onwards by Germanic tribes. Their language, known as 'Anglo-Saxon' or 'Old English' (c.500-1100 AD), is the basis of modern English. Drawing on their oral traditions, and through contact with European Latin culture, the Anglo-Saxons developed a vital vernacular literature ranging from heroic epic, elegy and lyric to historical, legal, educational and religious texts. Works in Old English such as *Beowulf, The Battle of Maldon, The Dream of the Rood, The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, Bede's History* and the *Laws of Alfred* offer unrivalled insights into the culture and mentality of 600 years of English life, and have been major influences on later figures as diverse as William Morris, Ezra Pound, J.R.R. Tolkien and Seamus Heaney.

This seminar unit will introduce students to the reading of select accessible Anglo-Saxon texts in the original, using helpful modern editions to teach grammar and vocabulary. The seminar will also investigate key aspects of Anglo-Saxon culture, society and thought through translations and secondary sources.

VISA 7481 Fine Arts Honours Seminar 1: Secondary Consecration and the Art Market: The Reversed Painting in Commercial Settings from the Italian Renaissance to the Present
(Prof. Richard Read, Art History; richard.read@uwa.edu.au)

This unit explores the conflict of aesthetic and commercial values in representations of places where art is sold. It combines the
opportunity for theoretical reflection on the commodification of art with in-depth analysis of major art works ranging from Watteau’s enigmatic eighteenth-century masterpiece The Shopsign of Gersaint to postmodernist installations. It also raises fundamental questions about what an ‘image’ is.

SEMESTER 2

ENGL4106 Case Studies in Medieval and Early Modern Literature: Performing Revenge: Tragedy, Morality and Wild Justice
(Dr Stephen Chinna, English and Cultural Studies; stephen.chinna@uwa.edu.au)

This seminar unit will explore the ongoing resonance of the revenge motif in performance from the Elizabethan/Jacobean period to the present. This will be through an analysis of the themes, forms and conventions of a selection of Revenge Tragedy play and film/video texts.

The body of works labelled as Revenge Tragedy problematise our often neat divisions between tragedy and comedy, raise questions of authorship and ownership, and produce an ongoing debate over the morality of revenge – how much, how soon, how often, and so forth. Students will explore such topics as:

• What circumstances may lead individual revengers to forego the justice of gods or kings, or whatever powers that be, to enact their own revenge?
• Beyond the world of the Elizabethan and Jacobean stages and political contexts, where does the concept of revenge sit in the contemporary world?
• When is revenge justified?
• Has the concept of tragedy, or the tragic, become diffused through media overuse, and can our contemporary texts still generate the figure of the tragic protagonist?

Throughout, there will be a strong focus on these texts as performed – revenge in action. It should be recognised from the outset that our access to these texts is mediated by very different social, moral, and performance contexts to that of the Elizabethans and Jacobean.
HIST4105 Topics in Medieval and Early Modern European History: Medieval London, 1100-1700
(Dr Stephanie Tarbin, History; stephanie.tarbin@uwa.edu.au)
London’s origins were both older and more glorious than those of Rome, according to the legends recounted by twelfth century writers such as Geoffrey of Monmouth and William Fitz Stephen. Developments in the ensuing centuries confirmed the city’s importance as a centre of government and commerce. The city’s population was significantly larger and wealthier than other British towns: its resident population was further increased by visitors attending parliaments and church synods, seeking legal services or preferment, as well as shopping for luxury goods and entertainment. This thematic seminar examines the society and culture of the city as it made its transition from an aspiring commune into the nation’s capital.

We will address some major themes of urban history including: the idea of the city and its representation; the physical and spatial environment; the importance of trade and industry; forms of civic government; urban culture and public spectacle; urban households and moral regulation; religious and social life, popular protest and rebellion. The expansive time frame allows us to explore long-term developments and consider the question of the continuity or discontinuity in the character of the city. At what point did London cease to be a distinctively ‘medieval’ city?

VISA7483 Honours Seminar 3: Masterpieces
(Dr Susanne Meurer, Art History; susanne.meurer@uwa.edu.au)
What makes a masterpiece? Why and how have some artworks, like Leonardo’s Mona Lisa or van Gogh's Sunflowers, reached such legendary status? Is it a quality inherent from their inception, or an attribute conferred on them at some later stage? Has their critical reception been a steady one, or have their fortunes changed through times? What role do art historiography, reproductions, exhibitions, the art market, tourism, news reports, and even film or TV productions play in transforming a skilled work by a talented artist into universally recognised icons?

Looking at a range of paintings and sculptures from classical antiquity to the 21st century, and placing them within larger contexts of the histories of taste and collecting, we will chart the rise and fall of some of the most famous artworks ever produced.
Research Units

MEMS5404 Individual Reading Contract (6 points)
At an early stage of the course, candidates work with a staff member to learn core research skills by conducting reading in an agreed research area and producing short pieces of written work in response.

MEMS5403 Research Project (12 points)
Under the guidance of a staff member, students work intensively on a research project of their own choice, and produce approximately 5,000 words on their chosen topic. This element of the course further develops research confidence and the skills necessary for the Dissertation.

MEMS5408/ MEMS5409/ MEMS5410/ MEMS5411 Masters Dissertation 1, 2, 3 and 4 (48 points)
In the first semester of the Dissertation, students work to develop a suitable research topic and literature review. In the second semester, they further develop the shape of their thesis and produce the initial stages of the work. In the final two semesters, the research and writing of a 15,000-20,000-word Dissertation is completed. Students will also give an oral presentation of their work to a seminar in this period. Throughout the Dissertation process, students work closely with their supervisor(s), receiving detailed feedback and other research support.