

Program Rationale
Humanities
1440-1

I intend to pursue a degree in Humanities with a focus on European Medieval studies. This program will include a multi-disciplinary approach through courses in History, English, Religious Studies, and Foreign Language. It is my goal to develop an understanding of the literature, cultural and political situations that existed in Europe during the period roughly from 500 CE to 1500 CE. By choosing courses from a number of areas of study, I expect to gain a broad perspective of the European medieval experience from the peasant to the aristocrat. The constant shifts in power and foreign conquests in Europe during the middle ages makes this time period especially interesting. Each group of conquerors left a mark on the people for better or worse. I would like to examine the impact of these invasions on the European population. The best approach is to be able to study as many primary texts as possible. Since so many medieval texts were written in Latin, that is a logical choice as a foreign language. I have taken a year of French and I expect that to be a benefit to my studies as well. My intention is prepare for graduate work in this field. I will also be working toward a major in History to complement further my studies.

Thus far, my major coursework has included the following: Arthurian Literature (ENGL 499), Chaucer (ENGL 443), Medieval History I, European Social History, History of the English Language (ENGL 361), Medieval Jewish-Christian Relations (RELS 492), History of Scotland (HIST 385) and Latin. I plan to include independent studies courses as necessary depending upon the subject matter of the traditional course offerings. By the time of my graduation, I hope to have developed an educated

understanding of the history of Europe during the medieval period as well as an understanding of the social, cultural, and religious impacts of the multiple invasions during the period.