Track Two. Western Europe in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

**History 834 or Religious Studies 830. History and Religion in Medieval Europe**

Credits: 4.

Degree Requirements: Humanities (History); Life (Religious Studies); F1; F3.

This course covers the history of Europe during the Middle Ages, roughly from 500-1500 CE. It is also intended to introduce students to the rise of Christianity as a world religion within the Roman Empire, leading to its eventual domination in Western Europe, and to its interaction with medieval Judaism and emerging Islam. The course combines the study of religion with that of history, precisely because one of the features of the Middle Ages was the centrality of religion to politics, society, and culture. Common sessions will be followed by individual colloquia.

**History 844. European Life in the late Middle Ages and Renaissance.**

Credits: 2.

This tutorial will examine various aspects of life in the late Middle Ages and Renaissance. Each year will offer a special topic relevant to the period. This course will be taught in the format of an Oxford tutorial with smaller groups of students meeting once a week to discuss assigned readings and present short papers. This course does not count towards credits for the History major.

**English 841. Arthurian Literature, Shakespeare and the Elizabethan Theatre: from Allegory to Inwardness.**

Credits: 4.

Degree Requirements: Humanities (Literature), F4.

This course will begin with the exploration of the history and literary development of the greatest medieval hero – Arthur, king of the Britons – with special concentration on the trials of heroic identity in medieval literature. The study goes from the first story of Arthur in Geoffrey of Monmouth’s *History of the Kings of Britain* through the development of the legend in French courtly and spiritual literature, to Thomas Malory’s *Morte D’Arthur*. The second part of the course will address the representation of the trials of heroic character found in English Renaissance literature. Plays to include Marlowe’s *Dr. Faustus* and *Jew of Malta,* and Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* and *Merchant of Venice*.

**Art 843. Western Europe: Middle Ages and the Renaissance.**

Credits: 4.

Degree Requirements: Fine Arts; F5.

This course, in two parts, provides a broad-based, chronological survey of the art and architecture of Western Europe in the Middle Ages from the fourth century to the Renaissance. It introduces many of the themes and works of art that are explored further on the Continental tour. Slide lectures trace the general developments of styles throughout the period, set within their historical contexts, as well as focusing on individual buildings, manuscripts, pieces of sculpture, metalwork or paintings as case studies of technique or patronage. Visits to the Bodleian Library and Ashmolean Museum enable students to view examples of the objects studied in the course first hand.

**Art 833. Artistic Centers of Western Europe: Their Art and Architecture, Museums and Monuments**

Credits: 4.

Degree Requirements: Fine Arts.

The travel–study portion of Track Two includes a month–long tour of the Continent including Paris, Beaune, Rome, Florence, Venice, Ravenna, Nürnberg, Munich, Bruges, Ghent, and concludes with a week in London. During the tour, each student keeps a daily academic journal. Most students will never have thought seriously about art, architecture and city structure before going on this program, but, by the end of it, each student should have the wherewithal to look at a building or a sculpture and understand its period, its aims, the way it was produced and what the artist intended by it.

F11 is granted for the satisfactory completion of the entire