Handbook

for the

Concurrent PhD in Medieval Studies

2015

The Program in Medieval Studies

**Director:** Katherine O’Brien O’Keeffe, English  
**Graduate Adviser:** Emily Thornbury, English

**Advisory Committee**  
Frank Bezner, Classics and Comparative Literature  
Steven Justice, English  
Niklaus Largier, German  
Maureen C. Miller, History  
Maura Nolan, English  
Elaine C. Tennant, German and Scandinavian
About the Concurrent PhD

The Concurrent PhD in Medieval Studies equips graduate students in a variety of disciplines with wide-ranging, rigorous training in the materials and methods necessary for advanced research in the history, languages, culture, and art of medieval Europe. It also provides a forum in which graduate students and faculty across the disciplines can come together for discussions of new research. The program is open to all Berkeley PhD candidates in good standing whose work involves medieval topics.

Admission

Students interested in Medieval Studies should apply in the first instance to the department that best suits their primary focus (their home department). After admission to their home department, they should contact the Medieval Studies Director and Graduate Adviser, who will guide students through the program. Students should also complete and file the Petition to Add a Degree Goal, available from the Program’s Student Affairs Officer as well as the Registrar’s website. Upon successful completion of all requirements and submission of the dissertation, students will receive a concurrent doctoral degree in their home field and Medieval Studies.

Requirements for the Concurrent PhD

Concurrent PhD students will be engaged with the Program in Medieval Studies at all stages of their graduate career: coursework, orals, and dissertation writing. Requirements at each stage will take different forms; all are intended to assist students in engaging with the field of Medieval Studies in its broadest sense, and with colleagues from across the university and beyond.

Stage I: Pre-Orals

Before taking their oral exams, Concurrent PhD students must complete three specified courses for a satisfactory letter grade, and verify their mastery of fundamental skills in language and work with primary materials. (See the section below on ‘Exceptions and Substitutions for provisions on coursework taken outside of Berkeley.’)

A. Coursework

1. Methods proseminar (Medieval Studies 200). The proseminar introduces students to a broad range of approaches to medieval materials from across multiple subdisciplines, and familiarizes them with specialized research tools and resources. Each iteration is organized around a central theme, which usually engages the work of distinguished visiting scholars.
The proseminar is offered every other year: students in their first year of study will normally be expected to produce the first draft of a publishable article for their final project, while those in their second year typically work toward a draft of their Medieval Studies field statement (for more on which, see below). Medieval Studies 200 is always offered in the spring of odd-numbered years (2015, 2017, 2019, etc.), normally Mondays 4–7pm. Students will ordinarily be expected to take the proseminar during the first two years of their study.

2. **A course in medieval history** (normally History 275, or History 280 on a solely medieval topic). The purpose of this requirement is to ensure all Medieval Studies students have experience with historical enquiry as a method and discipline. Those whose home department is History will be expected instead to complete two courses in A.3, below.

3. **Another course from outside the home department**, on a solely medieval topic. This requirement too is designed to ensure methodological and intellectual breadth. Normally the course will be chosen from one of the following: Comparative Literature 212, English 205B, English 211, English 212, French 210A or B, French 211A, German 201A, German 205, History of Art 258, Italian Studies 212, Medieval Studies 205, Medieval Studies 210, Medieval Studies 250, Scandinavian 201B, Scandinavian 220. Another graduate-level course on a medieval topic may be substituted with the permission of the Graduate Adviser.

B. **Advanced competence in Medieval Latin.** To ensure that students have access to the principal language of intellectual inquiry in medieval Europe, as well as to more recent medieval scholarship, concurrent degree students must have a strong reading knowledge of Latin. This competence will normally be demonstrated through the completion of two upper-division or graduate-level courses in Latin literature, one of which must be Latin 140, Latin 155A or 155B, or Classics 241. Departmental Latin exams may not be substituted.

C. **Reading proficiency in two medieval vernaculars.** Students must have reading knowledge of at least two medieval languages besides Latin, one of which must normally be outside the major field of study. Ordinarily such knowledge will be demonstrated through graduate-level or approved upper-division coursework, drawn from the following: Celtic Studies 105A, Celtic Studies 146A or B, English 104, English 111, English 112, English 205B, English 211, English 212, French 112 A or B, French 114A or B, French 210 A or B, French 211A, German 105, German 201A, German 205, German 273, German 276, German 280, German 282, Italian Studies 109, Italian Studies 110, Italian Studies 212, Scandinavian 201A or B, Scandinavian 220. Other courses offering readings exclusively in a medieval vernacular may be substituted with the permission of the Graduate Adviser. Medieval versions of other relevant languages (such as Arabic, Greek, Hebrew, Old Church Slavonic, etc.) may be accepted in fulfilment of this requirement, again with the permission of the Graduate Adviser.
D. **Working knowledge of the material sources of medieval culture.** Students must show that they can work directly with the primary material objects of their study. Ordinarily this requirement is met through coursework, or approved specialist training, in the study of medieval manuscripts: e.g. palaeography, diplomatics, or codicology. Students may also demonstrate their mastery of primary material sources through an extended essay making substantial and original use of these skills. When appropriate, and with the consent of the Graduate Adviser, training in allied disciplines making use of primary materials (such as epigraphy or medieval archaeology) may be accepted in fulfilment of this requirement.

**Exceptions and substitutions**

The Medieval Studies Concurrent PhD is intended to have enough flexibility to support a wide range of research interests, while ensuring that all students have the skills and breadth of experience necessary for research at the highest level: exceptions will be considered with this goal in mind.

A. **Fulfillment of language requirements by examination.** In unusual circumstances—for instance, when a particular language has not been offered during a student’s pre-orals years—students may request to fulfill the Latin or vernacular requirements by examination. If the request is granted, the examination must be conducted under the supervision of the Program in Medieval Studies; departmental language examinations will not be accepted.

B. **External coursework.** The Program will ordinarily accept graduate-level coursework taken elsewhere in fulfillment of requirements I.A.2–3 and B–D, with the consent of the Graduate Adviser.
   a. All courses satisfying I.A.2–3 and B–C must be taken for a letter grade. (Exceptions in certain cases, e.g. intensive language programs geared toward scholars, may be considered.)
   b. Professional workshops and training programs (e.g. the Virginia Rare Book School) are often accepted in fulfillment of requirement I.D; you should, however, seek the advice of the Director and/or Graduate Adviser before enrolling.

C. **Overlap with home department requirements.** Normally there are no restrictions on overlap. Thus, a course taken in fulfillment of a requirement for the home department may also be counted for the concurrent PhD (e.g. a course from another department counted for I.A.3 may also count for the home department’s requirement for an external course; Latin may also be offered as a language in the home department; etc.).

D. **Proseminar.** No exceptions or substitutions are possible in the case of the proseminar (Medieval Studies 200).
Stage II: Field Statement and Orals

All students’ advancement to candidacy will be primarily governed by the regulations of their home department. However, the Medieval Studies concurrent PhD requires two additional elements as students complete their Qualifying Examinations and move on to the dissertation: the Field Statement, and a Medieval Studies component of the oral examination.

A. Field Statement. The Field Statement is a document of 30–50 pages, which situates the major area of interest in relation to Medieval Studies, conceived as an interdisciplinary field. It is not a prospectus setting out the specific plan of research for a dissertation, but a broader contextualizing essay, placing the present state and resources of the student’s home discipline in relation to those other disciplines of medieval studies that bear upon the student’s planned research. This statement will be evaluated by the student’s primary adviser and the Medieval Studies representative to the examination committee (see II.B, below). The Field Statement must be approved by both the adviser and examiner at least 30 days prior to the oral qualifying examination. It should thus ordinarily be submitted to the relevant faculty members about six weeks prior to the date of the oral examination.

B. Medieval Studies component of the oral qualifying examination. A representative from the Medieval Studies faculty must serve on the PhD orals examining committee; issues arising from the Field Statement in the broader context of Medieval Studies will constitute the primary focus of the Medieval Studies component of the examination. In the event of a failure on either the Field Statement or the Medieval Studies portion of the qualifying exam, the candidate may revise the Field Statement and/or retake the Medieval Studies portion of the orals in accordance with the policies of the Graduate Division, Policies and Procedures F.2.7.

III. Colloquium

The Medieval Studies Colloquium, which meets approximately once a month during the regular semester, is the primary medium for social and intellectual exchange among all members of the Medieval Studies program. One week before each meeting—normally held on Wednesdays from 5–7pm in 310 Dwinelle Hall—a student or faculty member will pre-circulate a working document. The colloquium itself will consist of a brief presentation, followed by 45–50 minutes of Q&A and discussion. Refreshments are always served.

A. Attendance. All concurrent PhD students are required to attend the Colloquium regularly. Contact the Program Director to be added to the Program’s bCourses site and the email list.

B. Presentation. At least once during their time in the program, all students must present a work in progress (normally, a chapter of their dissertation) to the members of the colloquium.
Planning for your Time in Medieval Studies

1. **During the application process.** Prospective students are welcome to contact the Director or Graduate Adviser with inquiries about the program. Because Medieval Studies does not admit graduate students to the university, however, applicants should first concentrate their efforts on their candidacy for study in their planned home department.

2. **After admission.** Recently admitted PhD students are encouraged to contact the Graduate Adviser or Director with questions about the concurrent PhD. Many home departments will endeavor to give prospective Medieval Studies students an opportunity to speak with more advanced medievalists from their program. For those in departments in which the concurrent PhD is rarer, the Graduate Adviser will be happy to arrange contacts with current Medieval Studies graduate students, and to meet to answer questions for those visiting campus.

3. **On arriving at Berkeley.** New students should contact the Director and Graduate Adviser as soon as possible, to ensure that they are included in all the Program’s communication, including special talks, funding opportunities, and notices of the Colloquia. Students should also complete and file the petition to add the Medieval Studies concurrent PhD: this form is available from the Student Affairs Officer as well as the Registrar’s website.

4. **Planning coursework.** Students should begin considering as early as possible how best to fulfill the Medieval Studies requirements in a way that will support their research plans. At all stages, they are encouraged to consult with the Graduate Adviser and with faculty in their fields of interest.
   a. **The Proseminar.** Because Medieval Studies 200 is offered only in the spring of odd-numbered years, students will need to plan ahead to fulfill this requirement.
   b. **Languages.** Those who are contemplating beginning a language de novo should bear in mind that the concurrent PhD’s requirements call for upper-division or graduate-level—i.e. intermediate to advanced—knowledge of medieval languages. Many departments offer funding for summer study, sometimes even before formally beginning the program: taking advantage of such options is an excellent way to acquire the fundamentals early. Although the concurrent PhD does not require a modern language, knowledge of two or more modern European languages is often essential to advanced research in many subdisciplines.
   c. **Contacts within and outside the home department.** Students are reminded that coursework is an excellent opportunity to become acquainted with faculty members who could serve as potential examiners and thesis advisers.
5. **Pre-orals.** No less than a year before your qualifying exams, you should meet with your own adviser and with the Medieval Studies graduate adviser to ensure that all Medieval Studies requirements have been met, and that you have a concrete plan for satisfying any outstanding requirements. (See the attached worksheet for an overview.)

6. **Field statement and oral exams.** Ideally, you should begin researching your field statement early—two semesters before your home department’s date for qualifying examinations. You should also begin considering which Medieval Studies faculty member you would like to read and approve your field statement and conduct the oral portion of the exam. You should begin talking with your own adviser about the content of your field statement, and begin reading towards it as you identify your research questions and the interventions you hope to make in the medieval field. Remember that the field statement must be approved no less than 30 days before the oral exam; you should therefore aim to have drafts to your adviser and MS examiner well before that date.

7. **Dissertation.** You should keep in touch with the Program Director, who will schedule a date for you to present your work to the Medieval Studies colloquium, and will also be able to direct you to medieval-specific funding sources for research.

---

**Prizes and funding**

**Kalamazoo Prize.** This prize was originally established in 2010 through the generosity of then Dean Janet Broughton and of James Murray, Director of the Medieval Institute at Western Michigan University. Local monies cover the cost of transportation to Kalamazoo and registration fees for the winner of the UC Berkeley Medieval Studies Graduate Student Prize. The Medieval Institute at Kalamazoo will provide housing and meal tickets for the prize winner. The prize winner will give her/his paper in a dedicated “slot” denominated “UC Berkeley Medieval Studies Graduate Student Prize winner,” for the Kalamazoo Congress in 2016.

A sub-committee of the Advisory Committee of Medieval Studies will act as jurors for the competition. Here are the details:

1) Submission date: 5 p.m., Friday, 15 May 2015

2) Format: a 20-minute (= 10 pages double spaced), Kalamazoo-style paper with handout (if required)

3) Method of submission: please submit your paper by e-mail attachment to kobok@berkeley.edu.


All graduate students registered in the Medieval Studies Program are eligible to compete.
# Medieval Studies Concurrent PhD Requirements Worksheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Satisfied (course or method; date)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

## Coursework

- Medieval Studies 200
- Medieval History
  *(Students in History should have a second external course instead)*
- Course outside home department

## Medieval Latin

1. 
2. 

## Two Medieval Vernaculars

1. 
2. 

## Material sources

---

Name: ___________________________  Home Dept: ____________________
Primary adviser: ___________________________
Projected semester of oral exam: ___________________________
Medieval Studies examiner: ___________________________