Handbook

for the

Concurrent PhD in Medieval Studies

2019

The Program in Medieval Studies

Director: Jonas Wellendorf, Scandinavian
Graduate Adviser: Jonas Wellendorf, Scandinavian
Equity officer: Kate Heslop, Scandinavian

Advisory Committee
Asad Ahmed, Near Eastern Studies
Daniel Lee, Political Science
Maureen Miller, History
Ignacio Navarrete, Spanish and Portuguese
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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 the Petition to Add a Degree Goal, available from Miguel Valencia, the Program's Student Affairs Officer, as well as the Registrar's website. The form should be returned to Miguel Valencia for submission to Graduate Division. 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. Those whose work takes them outside the customary geographical or chronological bounds of Medieval Studies are particularly directed to the section on "Exceptions and Substitutions" below. While common exceptions and substitutions can often be approved immediately by the Graduate Adviser, all others are normally brought before the Advisory Committee for approval.

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 (2017, 2019, 2021 etc.), normally Mondays 5–7pm. Students will ordinarily be expected to take the proseminar during the first two years of their study.

2. **A course in medieval history** (most commonly 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. Most often, the course will be chosen from one of the following regularly offered medieval courses: 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 should be Latin 140, Latin 155A or 155B, or Classics 241. Departmental Latin exams may not be substituted, but other courses in which the student makes extensive use of Latin primary sources may be considered by the Advisory Committee. Students wishing to pursue the latter possibility should consult in advance with the Graduate Adviser.

C. **Reading proficiency in at least one medieval vernacular.** Students must have reading knowledge of at least one medieval language besides Latin, one of which must normally be outside the principal field of study (students in the language departments, in other words, must have knowledge of two vernaculars). Ordinarily such knowledge will be demonstrated

through graduate-level or approved upper-division coursework, drawn from the following frequently-offered language courses: 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 101A or B, Scandinavian 201A or B, Scandinavian 220. Other courses offering readings exclusively in a medieval vernacular may be substituted with permission, and coursework completed prior to the PhD will be considered. 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. Most often 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. Common exceptions and substitutions can often be approved immediately by the Graduate Adviser; all others are normally brought before the Advisory Committee for approval.

A. **Fulfilment 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 fulfil 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 fulfilment 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 fulfilment 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 fulfilment 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. (For ways to approach this document, see below, "Planning your time in Medieval Studies," §6.) 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 <u>approved by both the adviser and examiner at least 30 days prior to the oral qualifying examination</u>. 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 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 fulfil 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 fulfil 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.

However, you should remember that your field statement is a preliminary survey, not a prospectus or contract. It is intended to help you get a broad sense of current and classic scholarship in your area; to understand how various methods and disciplines intersect there; and to allow you to identify where your own interventions might lie. The most helpful field statements are usually exploratory, not definitive. The following prompts suggest some ways to think about framing the document:

a. What would constitute a valuable interdisciplinary approach to your topic?

b. Which particular disciplines (beyond your own) intersect most closely with your topic? How do their perspectives or methodologies differ from yours, and which might you consider adopting or adapting?

c. What histories are embedded in the critical response to your topic, and how might you engage with these?

d. What seem to be the natural geographical/chronological/archival (etc.) boundaries to your project, and why?

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.

Further guidance

Students have a number of sources of advice on various facets of the program:

- The **Director**, Jonas Wellendorf (wellendorf@berkeley.edu), who is available to discuss all aspects of the program, including plans for future years and for public engagement.
- The **Graduate Adviser**, Jonas Wellendorf (wellendorf@berkeley.edu), who regularly holds office hours to discuss individual programs of study, the best way of meeting requirements, possible exceptions and substitutions, etc. The Graduate Adviser also signs key forms (e.g. adding the program, advancing to QEs, etc.)
- The **Equity Officer**, Kate Heslop (heslop@berkeley.edu), who is available particularly to discuss issues of inclusion, diversity, and equity. She can also provide guidance on the forms of support that the university provides in this area.
- The CASMA **GSAO Officer**, Miguel Valencia (mvalencia@berkeley.edu), also provides support to students in Medieval Studies, and can be consulted on various practical questions (current status in the program; how to have various forms processed; etc.)
- Students' own **advisers** are in most cases also critically important sources of guidance for their progress in Medieval Studies.

Prizes and funding

UC Berkeley Medieval Studies Graduate Student Prize (also known as the **Kalamazoo Prize).** This prize was established in 2010 through the generosity of then Dean Janet Broughton and of James Murray, Director of the Medieval Institute at Western Michigan University. This funding was initially available to us for a period of five years, and subsequently the support has been renewed. 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 next Kalamazoo Congress.

A selection committee appointed by the Director in consultation with the Advisory Committee of Medieval Studies will act as jurors for the competition. Applications -- which consist in a 20-minute (= 10 pages double spaced) Kalamazoo-style paper with handout (if required) -- are solicited annually in the spring semester with a deadline usually in mid-May. All graduate students registered in the Medieval Studies Program are eligible, and all are encouraged to compete.

Medieval Studies Concurrent PhD Requirements Worksheet

Requirement	Satisfied (course or method; date)
Coursework	
Medieval Studies 200	
Medieval History *(Students in History should have a second external course instead)*	
Course outside home department	
Medieval Latin	
1.	
2.	
Medieval Vernacular(s)	
1.	
(for students in language departments) 2.	
Material sources	

Name: _____Home Dept: _____

Primary adviser: _____

Projected semester of oral exam: _____

Medieval Studies examiner: _____