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## Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

**PROPOSAL TITLE:** Revision of the Language Requirement for the Medieval Studies Graduate Concentration

**SPONSOR:** Charles D. Wright, Professor of English, 333-0067, [cdwright@illinois.edu](mailto:cdwright@illinois.edu)

**COLLEGE CONTACT:** Karen Carney, LAS Associate Dean, 333-1350, [kmcarney@illinois.edu](mailto:kmcarney@illinois.edu)

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:** Currently the Concentration requires Latin 460 or (for students researching medieval Islamic or Byzantine fields) Arab 306 or GRK 202 with a minimum grade of B or an equivalent approved by the Medieval Studies Advisory Committee. The proposed revision would instead allow reading knowledge of a major international language essential to the student's field of specialization, with a minimum grade of B, to fulfill the language requirement.

**JUSTIFICATION:** With the redefinition of "Medieval Studies" as a global field encompassing non-Western cultures, the language requirement must be more flexible to accommodate students specializing in fields such as medieval East Asia. What qualifies as an essential international language varies by field and is best determined by students and their faculty advisors. The term "international" is added to clarify the distinction between this requirement and the separate requirement for "reading knowledge of another medieval language," which is typically fulfilled by a regional or national "vernacular" language.

**BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:** *(Please respond to each of the following questions. Place your response right after each item.)*

a. Additional staff and dollars needed:

None; although this change is anticipated to cause a slight increase in the number of students in the concentration, these students will be taking the relevant language courses during their program of study even if they did not add the formal concentration.

b. Internal reallocations (e.g., change in class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratio, etc.)  
None, see above.

c. Effect on course enrollment in other units and explanations of discussions with representatives of those departments

None, see above.

- d. Impact on the University Library (*A letter of acknowledgement from the University Librarian must be included for all new program proposals.*) None, students are already supported by their area libraries.
- e. Impact on computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.

None, as it is not anticipated that units will admit additional students based on the ability of students to complete the concentration.

**DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE:** As soon as approved.

**STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG:** (revision **highlighted** below in chart)

## Medieval Studies

[www.medieval.illinois.edu](http://www.medieval.illinois.edu)

Director: Charles Wright

4080 Foreign Languages Building

707 S. Mathews Avenue

Urbana, Illinois 61801

phone: (217) 265-6254

fax: (217) 244-8430

e-mail: [medievalstudies@illinois.edu](mailto:medievalstudies@illinois.edu)

### **Graduate Concentration: Medieval Studies**

**Participating Programs:** Architecture (MARC and PhD only), Art History (all), Classical Philology (Ph.D.), Classics (M.A.), Communication (all), Comparative Literature (all), **East Asian Languages and Cultures (all)**, English (all), French (all), German (all), History (all), Landscape Architecture (all), Musicology (Ph.D.), Philosophy (all), Spanish, Italian and Portuguese (all)

### **Graduate Degree Program**

The Program in Medieval Studies offers a graduate concentration in Medieval Studies. Students who are admitted to graduate programs in departments with medieval studies faculty may apply to the concentration by meeting to express interest and to discuss the concentration with the Director of the Program in Medieval Studies. The program offers a flexible curriculum requiring a minimum of 24 hours of graduate-level coursework including advanced training both in the various disciplines of medieval studies and in foundational languages and technical skills appropriate to the field. For complete information about the program and its offerings, see the program's web site: [www.medieval.illinois.edu](http://www.medieval.illinois.edu).

### **Admission**

Students who are admitted to graduate programs in departments with medieval studies faculty are eligible to enroll in the graduate concentration in Medieval Studies after meeting to express interest and to discuss the concentration with the Director of the Program in Medieval Studies.

## Degree Requirements

\*For additional details and requirements refer to the department's [graduate concentration program](#) and the [Graduate College Handbook](#).

## Graduate Concentration

<b>Required Courses:</b>	<b>Required Hours</b>
Two graduate courses at the 400- or 500-level in Medieval Studies selected by the student and approved by the Advisory Board of Medieval Studies	6-8
Reading knowledge of a major international medieval language essential to the student's field of specialization, as determined by the student in consultation with a faculty supervisor and with the approval of the Director, as demonstrated by completion of a college-level course with a grade of B or better. Note: Students who fulfill this requirement by taking courses at the 200- or 300-level may be required to take additional coursework at the 400- and 500-level to meet the requirement of 24 hours of graduate-level coursework.	3-4
MDVL 500, Spring Medieval Studies seminar	4
Reading knowledge of another medieval language, as demonstrated by completion of a college-level course with a grade of B or better.	4
<b>Thesis Hours Required (min/max applied toward degree):</b>	6-8
<b>Total Hours</b>	24
<b>Other Requirements:*</b>	
A dissertation or thesis in the area of Medieval Studies. A member of one of the cooperating departments external to the student's home department will be a member of the student's dissertation or thesis committee.	
In addition to the graduate concentration requirements, students must also complete the requirements of their major degree. The major department determines which and how many concentration hours may also be applied to the major degree. Please contact your department for more information.	

## Faculty Research Interests

The research interests of our faculty often overlap disciplinary boundaries. Thus faculty in English and History share interest in medieval drama, performance practices, and the emergence of regional and national identities. Faculty in English, History, and Art History work on the development of historical consciousness and the representation of history in illuminated manuscripts. Faculty in Italian, History, English and French share an interest in gender studies: the history of women and gender; gender and nationalism; the development of gendered subjectivities; conduct literature. Another focus is manuscript studies (Art History, Classics, French, English, History, Library Science): history of the book; illuminated manuscripts of the 13th-15th centuries; late medieval manuscript culture; and reading practices. The program has a strength in Late Antiquity and Early Medieval, which draws together faculty in History, Classics, Religious Studies, Speech Communication; themes of particular interest are the society, culture

and religion of this period; the social and cultural history of the Roman and Byzantine empires; Byzantine rhetoric; the impact of Barbarian settlements on Medieval Europe; and the survival of the Classical tradition. There is also a growing interest in Mediterranean studies shared by faculty in the History of Architecture, History, Italian, and Classics): art and built environment of the Islamic Mediterranean; the Italian baptistry; and medieval civic squares. And we also have considerable strengths in Chinese and Japanese history and culture contemporary with the “medieval” era as conventionally defined (ca. 500-1500). Illinois has the strongest program in medieval English in the Big Ten, with particular strengths in Old English; Old and Middle Irish; the theory, practice and teaching of rhetoric; the oral tradition. In addition, our faculty edit the following major journals: Early Medieval Europe, Illinois Classical Studies, and the Journal of English and Germanic Philology. For more information, visit our faculty listings:

[www.medieval.illinois.edu/people/index.html](http://www.medieval.illinois.edu/people/index.html).

Each Spring we offer an interdisciplinary graduate seminar on a topic of broad interest. These seminars are led by one faculty medievalist but are collaborative, drawing on the expertise of faculty in the Program and also visiting scholars from around the world.

## **Facilities and Resources**

The Program is affiliated with the Worldwide Universities Network ([www.wun.ac.uk](http://www.wun.ac.uk)), which connects us to Medieval Studies programs at six UK universities (Bristol, Leeds, Manchester, Southampton, Sheffield, York), three on the continent (Bergen, Oslo, Utrecht), and three American universities (Wisconsin-Madison, Penn State, UC-San Diego).

The library at the University of Illinois contains world class research collections in Medieval Studies. It is the largest academic library at a public university with more than 10 million volumes.

## **Financial Aid**

The Program awards fellowships to help affiliated units recruit top ranked applicants. In addition, financial aid in the form of fellowships and teaching assistantships are available through the individual units cooperating in the Program in Medieval Studies.

**CLEARANCES:** (Clearances should include signatures and dates of approval. These signatures must appear on a separate sheet. If multiple departments or colleges are sponsoring the proposal, please add the appropriate signature lines below.)

Signatures:



Unit Representative:

5 June 2013

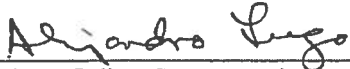
Date:



College Representative:

11 July 2013

Date:



Graduate College Representative:

26 September 2013

Date:

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## Appendix A: Proposed Curriculum Revision

Current Required Courses:	Required Hours	Proposed Revision (highlighted text) Required Courses:	Required Hours:
Two graduate courses at the 400- or 500-level in Medieval Studies selected by the student and approved by the Advisory Board of Medieval Studies	6-8	Two graduate courses at the 400- or 500-level in Medieval Studies selected by the student and approved by the Advisory Board of Medieval Studies	6-8
Latin 460 or (for students researching medieval Islamic or Byzantine fields) Arab 306 or GRK 202 with a minimum grade of B or an equivalent approved by the Medieval Studies Advisory Committee. (Note: Students who fulfill this requirement by taking courses at the 200- or 300-level may be required to take additional coursework at the 400- and 500-level to meet the requirement of 24 hours of graduate-level coursework.)	3-4	Reading knowledge of a major international language essential to the student's field of specialization, as determined by the student in consultation with a faculty supervisor and with the approval of the Director, with a minimum grade of B. (Note: Students who fulfill this requirement by taking courses at the 200- or 300-level may be required to take additional coursework at the 400- and 500-level to meet the requirement of 24 hours of graduate-level coursework.)	3-4
MDVL 500, Spring Medieval Studies seminar	4	MDVL 500, Spring Medieval Studies seminar	4
<b>Language Requirement:</b> Reading knowledge of another medieval language with a minimum grade of B, or completion of a one-semester introductory course in a medieval language (such as FR 531 or ENGL 507) with a minimum grade of B, or an equivalent approved by the Medieval Studies Advisory Committee.	4	<b>Language Requirement:</b> Reading knowledge of a medieval language with a minimum grade of B, or completion of a one-semester introductory course in a medieval language (such as FR 531 or ENGL 507) with a minimum grade of B, or an equivalent approved by the Medieval Studies Advisory Committee.	4
<b>Thesis Hours Required (min/max applied toward degree):</b>	6-8	<b>Thesis Hours Required (min/max applied toward degree):</b>	6-8
<b>Total Hours</b>	24	<b>Total Hours</b>	24
<b>Other Requirements:*</b>		<b>Other Requirements:*</b>	
A dissertation or thesis in the area of Medieval Studies. A member of one of the cooperating departments external to the student's home department will be a		A dissertation or thesis in the area of Medieval Studies. A member of one of the cooperating departments external to the student's home department will be a	

member of the student's dissertation or thesis committee.		member of the student's dissertation or thesis committee.	
In addition to the graduate concentration requirements, students must also complete the requirements of their major degree. The major department determines which and how many concentration hours may also be applied to the major degree. Please contact your department for more information.		In addition to the graduate concentration requirements, students must also complete the requirements of their major degree. The major department determines which and how many concentration hours may also be applied to the major degree. Please contact your department for more information.	

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA - CHAMPAIGN

EP.14.11

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor  
for Academic Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building  
601 East John Street  
Champaign, IL 61820



September 30, 2013

Gay Miller, Chair  
Senate Committee on Educational Policy  
Office of the Senate  
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Miller:

Enclosed is a copy of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College to revise the language requirement in the graduate concentration in Medieval Studies.

The proposal has been reviewed and approved by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences as well as the Graduate College Executive Committee. It now requires Senate review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristi A. Kuntz".

Kristi A. Kuntz  
Assistant Provost

Enclosures

c: K. Carney  
M. Lowry  
C. Wright



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Graduate College

204 Coble Hall  
801 South Wright Street  
Champaign, IL 61820-6210



Executive Committee

September 25, 2013

2012-2013 Members

Debasis Dutta, *Chair*

Kristi Kuntz  
Office of the Provost  
207 Swanlund MC-304

*Members*

Barry Ackerson

Dear Kristi,

David Ceperley

Enclosed please find a proposal to "Revise the Language Requirement for the Medieval Studies Graduate Concentration."

Liu-Peng Chen

The Graduate College Executive Committee has approved this proposal. I send it to you now for further review.

Kent Choquette

Jennifer Cole

Brooke Elliott

Susan Garnsey

Sincerely,

David Hays

Christine Jenkins

Ashleigh Jones

Tina Mattila

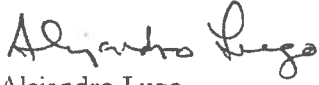
Ramona Oswald

Yoon Pak

Joseph Rosenblatt

Alex Winter-Nelson

Assata Zerai

  
Alejandro Lugo  
Associate Dean, Graduate College

c: A. Kopera  
M. Lowry



Name of existing Illinois (UIUC) degree: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of non-Illinois partnering institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of non-Illinois partnering institution:

State of Illinois     US State: \_\_\_\_\_     Foreign country: \_\_\_\_\_

- B.  Proposal to create a new academic unit (college, school, department, program or other academic unit):

Name of proposed new unit: \_\_\_\_\_

- C.  Proposal to rename an existing academic unit (college, school, department, or other academic unit):

Current name of unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed new name of unit: \_\_\_\_\_

- D.  Proposal to reorganize existing units (colleges, schools, departments, or program):

1.  Proposal to change the status of an existing and approved unit (e.g. change from a program to department)

Name of current unit including status: \_\_\_\_\_

2.  Proposal to transfer an existing unit:

Current unit's name and home: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed new home for the unit: \_\_\_\_\_

3.  Proposal to merge two or more existing units (e.g., merge department A with department B):

Name and college of unit one to be merged: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and college of unit two to be merged: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed name and college of new (merged) unit: \_\_\_\_\_

4.  Proposal to terminate an existing unit:

Current unit's name and status: \_\_\_\_\_

- E.  **Other educational policy proposals** (e.g., academic calendar, grading policies, etc.)

Nature of the proposal: \_\_\_\_\_

Revised 10/2012