

To: IPFW Senate

From: Ann Livschiz, Chair  
Curriculum Review Subcommittee

Date: September 28, 2011

Re: Proposal for the Medieval Studies Minor

The Curriculum Review Subcommittee supports the proposal for the Medieval Studies Minor, and finds that the proposal requires no Senate review.

Approving:

Ronald Duchovic

Il-Hee Kim

Carol Lawton

Ann Livschiz

Barbara Resch

Becky Salmon

Susan Skekloff

Lubomir Stanchev

Nichaya Suntornpithug

Not Approving

Absent

Steven Sarratore

**IPFW**  
**Request for a New Minor**

Proposed Title of Minor: Medieval Studies

Department Offering the Minor: College of Arts and Sciences

Projected Date of Implementation: August 22, 2011

**I. Why is this minor needed? (Rationale)**

The Medieval Studies Exploratory Committee has determined that offering a minor in Medieval Studies through the College of Arts and Sciences (COAS) would provide IPFW students with the opportunity to pursue in-depth, interdisciplinary work by utilizing the teaching and research specializations of IPFW faculty from multiple departments.

Envisioned as an interdisciplinary / interdepartmental COAS endeavor, the proposed Medieval Studies Minor takes into account cognate programs at both Indiana University, Bloomington (the undergraduate minor in "Medieval Studies" offered through the Medieval Studies Institute) and Purdue University, West Lafayette (the undergraduate interdisciplinary minor in "Medieval and Renaissance Studies"). As with the programs at both campuses, the Medieval Studies Minor at IPFW would draw upon regular course offerings in the Departments of English and Linguistics, International Language and Culture Studies, History, Philosophy (including courses in Religious Studies), and Fine Arts (Art History). The Committee defines Medieval Studies broadly, with a temporal frame spanning both sides of the 4<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup> century and a multicultural geographic frame extending from the far reaches of northern Europe through the entirety of Southwest Asia.

Students pursuing a minor in Medieval Studies would most likely do so in relation to majors in History, English and Linguistics, Philosophy and Religious Studies, foreign languages (French, German and Spanish), or Fine Arts. The flexibility of the program design enables students to easily integrate the minor in Medieval Studies into a wide variety of disciplinary contexts. Such interdisciplinary is in fact the norm in Medieval Studies, for medievalists often have cross-disciplinary specializations. Students in IPFW's program will receive the benefit of examining a time period through the lenses of diverse disciplines and methodologies. The minor will best serve students wishing to pursue graduate study in some aspect of the Middle Ages, while also aiding those students whose scholarly and professional goals entail research- and analysis-heavy careers. The minor would also serve as a vehicle for students sharing similar interests to become more closely connected academically and socially, thus positively impacting retention and degree completion.

The Committee has identified the following as Medieval Studies Affiliate Faculty, each of whom has active teaching or research interests in the field:

Kirsten Ataoguz (Assistant Professor, Fine Arts);\*  
Ana Benito (Associate Professor, ILCS – Spanish);  
Bernd Buldt (Professor, Philosophy);

Cathleen Carosella (COAS; Lecturer, English and Linguistics);\*  
Damian Fleming (Assistant Professor, English and Linguistics);\*  
Rachel Hile (Assistant Professor, English and Linguistics);  
Suzanne LaVere (Assistant Professor, History);\*  
Jared Lindahl (Visiting Instructor, Religious Studies)  
Duston Moore (Associate Professor, Philosophy);  
Erik S. Ohlander (Associate Professor, Philosophy; Religious Studies)\*  
L. Michael Spath (Continuing Lecturer, Philosophy; Religious Studies)  
Nancy Virtue (Associate Professor, ILCS – French)

\* Medieval Studies Program Committee members

## II. List the major topics and curriculum of the minor.

### **Core Course** (3 credits)

MEST M201, Medieval Encounters, 3cr. (New MEST course to be developed at IPFW; see section VIII)

### **Distribution** (12 credits)

*One course from each of the following four areas.*

#### **Area I (History)**

HIST B351 - Western Europe in the Early Middle Ages 3cr.

HIST B352 - Western Europe in the High/Late Middle Ages 3cr.

HIST C390 - The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire 3cr.

HIST C393 - Ottoman History 3cr.

HIST D402 - Byzantine History and Civilization II 3cr.

\*HIST H225 - Special Topics in History 3cr.

\*HIST J495 – Proseminar for History Majors 3cr.

\*HIST T325 - Topics in History 3cr.

\*HIST T425 - Topics in History 3cr.

\*HIST T426 - Topics in History 3cr.

\*HIST T495 - Undergraduate Reading in History 3cr.

#### **Area II (Literature)**

ENG L304 - Old English Language and Literature 3cr.

ENG L305 - Chaucer 3cr.

ENG L306 - Middle English Literature 3cr.

FREN F410 - French Literature of the Middle Ages 3cr.

FREN F440 - Medieval and Renaissance French Literature 3cr.

SPAN S407 - Survey of Spanish Literature I 3cr.

FREN F463 - Civilisation Francaise I 3cr.

GER G470 - German Folklore 3cr.

\*ENG L232 - Topics in Literature and Culture 3cr.

\*ENG L495 - Individual Reading in English 3cr.

\*ENG L499 - Senior Independent Study for Honors Students 3cr.

\*GER G495 - Individual Readings in Germanic Literatures 3cr.

\*LING L485 - Topics in Linguistics 3cr.

### **Area III (Religion/Philosophy)**

PHIL 302 - History of Medieval Philosophy 3cr.

REL 301 - Islam 3cr.

REL 302 - Christianity 3cr.

REL 402 - Mysticism 3cr.

\*PHIL 493 - Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Seminar 3cr.

\*PHIL 580 - Proseminar in Philosophy 3cr.

\*PHIL 590 - Directed Readings in Philosophy

\*REL 293 - Topics in Religious Studies

\*REL 495 - Individual Readings in Religious Studies 3cr.

### **Area IV (Art/Music/Theatre)**

FINA H312 - Art of the Medieval World 3cr.

\*\*FINA H331 – Early Medieval Art 3cr.

\*\*FINA H332 – Later Medieval Art 3cr.

\*\*FINA H431 – Research Seminar in Medieval Art 3cr.

\*\*FINA H432 – Readings in Medieval Art 3cr.

\*FINA H390 - Topics in Art History

\*FINA H490 - Topics in Art History

\*FINA H495 - Readings and Research in Art History

THTR 36500 - Period Style for the Theatre I

\*\*\*MUS M201 - Music Literature I

\*\*\*MUS M403 - History of Music I

\*\*\*MUS Y110 - Early Instruments, Early Voice

*\* course must receive approval of the Program Coordinator*

*\*\* courses currently under development by FINA*

*\*\*\*courses have prerequisites; primarily intended for Music majors*

### **Language**

Students must complete the last two courses of a four-semester sequence or demonstrate equivalent proficiency in one of the following languages: French, German, Spanish, Latin, or Arabic. Other languages may be substituted upon the approval of the Program Coordinator.

### **III. What are the admission requirements?**

Any IPFW student in good standing may add the minor to any other major course of study.

Residency: at least 9/15 credits for the minor must be completed at IPFW

### **IV. Describe student population to be served.**

The minor will serve undergraduate students who wish to diversify their approaches to primary sources while deepening their knowledge in a particular field of study. This minor will serve students who wish to pursue graduate study in English, history, philosophy, religious studies, foreign languages, or art history particularly well, as well as all students pursuing a baccalaureate degree. This Minor advances the principles of the IPFW's General Education requirements.

- Regardless of a student's future career, scholarly or otherwise, broad exposure to the approach of multiple disciplines to the same material will sharpen and expand critical thinking and problem solving skills.
- The interdisciplinarity of the required core course, MEST M201, Medieval Encounters (see Section VIII) and of other medieval course offerings will expose students to a wide sampling of source materials, research methods, scholarly approaches, and teaching styles.
- The team-teaching of MEST M201 imitates the teamwork and sharing of responsibilities that students will encounter when they enter the professional workforce.

#### **V. How does this minor complement the campus or departmental mission?**

This minor directly complements the core mission of IPFW to “meet the higher education needs of northeast Indiana.”

- Students from northeast Indiana will not have to go to the main campuses of IU or PU or travel out of state to pursue interdisciplinary study of the Middle Ages.
- IPFW has the faculty and resources to provide this special opportunity to undergraduates now.
- An interdisciplinary minor like Medieval Studies reflects the goals of the Baccalaureate Framework, by helping students “acquire and apply knowledge from across disciplines.”
- An interdisciplinary approach is particularly helpful in encouraging life-long learning, in exposing students to a variety of disciplines and methodologies.

The Medieval Studies Minor will facilitate the development of a sense of community among students and professors with a shared interest in the Middle Ages (an especially passionate bunch) from throughout the University, as well as by expanding IPFW's contacts with surrounding universities and scholars through invited lectures and symposia. The societal and cultural context of the medieval period provides important foundational knowledge for understanding modern cultural issues and conflicts, such as the interactions of Christians, Jews, and Muslims, the development medieval Spain, and the political relationship of England and Ireland, to name a few.

#### **VI. Describe any relationship to existing programs within the university.**

The Medieval Studies Minor will draw upon the faculty, students, and courses already present in the Departments of English and Linguistics, History, Philosophy and Religious Studies, International Language and Culture Studies, and Fine Arts. Apart from the core MEST M201 course, the courses that fulfill the minor are already in regular course rotation. The faculty who teach these courses are either directly involved in the creation of this minor or strongly favorable toward its creation. Because of its interdisciplinary requirements, the minor will complement the existing programs by bringing together students and instructors from different departments.

#### **VII. List and indicate the resources required to implement the proposed minor.**

**Indicate sources (e.g., reallocations or any new resources such as personnel, library holdings, equipment, etc.).**

The minor can be implemented without any additional personnel or equipment. Indeed, one of

the sources of inspiration for the minor was acknowledgment of the concentration of scholars whose work focus on the Middle Ages already present at IPFW and from discussions regarding how they might collaborate to create a more enriching learning community for our students. The Medieval Studies Program committee will work with Helmke Library to determine the most feasible way of enriching the current medieval holdings of the library, through regular recommendations by medieval associated faculty within their respective departments as well as seeking a Special Needs request to help the launch of the minor.

The minor would require a budget supplied by the College of Arts and Sciences to provide a reimbursement in the form of professional development funds for faculty who participate in the team-taught core course. Additionally, a programming and S&E budget will be required for marketing the new program as well as its curricular and extra-curricular activities, such as invited guest speakers and partially subsidizing faculty-led, medieval-focused research and conference excursions for students.

**VIII. Describe any innovative features of the program (e.g., involvement with local or regional agencies, or offices, cooperative efforts with other institutions, etc.).**

One of the unique features of the Medieval Studies program will be the creation of a team-taught 200-level course, MEST M201, Medieval Encounters, which will operate on a model similar to INTL I200, Introduction to International Studies.

MEST M201, Medieval Encounters, which will be required of minors, will introduce students to the medieval world broadly conceived and to the manifold ways in which it can be studied. It thus couples the acquisition of substantive knowledge with an introduction to the methodological and theoretical approaches particular to Medieval Studies, but applicable to the humanities in general.

In addition to serving as a starting point for the pursuit of a Medieval Studies minor, the course will simultaneously allow access and generate interest in the fields themselves. The Medieval Studies Programming Committee has recommended that one of the guiding principles in the course design is MEST M201, Medieval Encounters potential to serve as an IPFW General Education course (Area IV). As such, MEST M201 could conceivably serve,

1. A Medieval Studies program-specific need;
2. As a “hook” for students to consider further coursework in English and linguistics, history, philosophy, religious studies, foreign languages, or art history;
3. Terminal or general education interests, and
4. To help foster a culture of faculty collaboration.

The minor also affords regular opportunities for students to extend their learning beyond the classroom by taking advantage of the rich and exceedingly active regional Medieval Studies scholarly community, in particular the many public activities of the Medieval Studies Institute at IUB, the annual MARS Symposium (Fall semester) and Comitatus Conference for Medieval Studies (Spring semester) at PWL, the Medieval Institute at Notre Dame, and the world-renowned International Congress on Medieval Studies held annually at Western Michigan University (WMU) in Kalamazoo. IPFW’s Medieval Studies program will regularly sponsor paper sessions at WMU and other regional, national, and international conferences to raise the

profile of IPFW as an institution devoted to innovative undergraduate teaching and faculty research. The International Congress at WMU regularly organizes sessions of papers for undergraduates; IPFW's medieval studies faculty could help our students take advantage of this opportunity.

In time, we will seek the cooperation of medieval faculty from other regional campuses of the IU and PU systems, none of which currently have a body of medieval faculty as extensive as at IPFW. The Medieval Studies program committee envisions organizing a symposium drawing medievalists from across Indiana, especially from other IU/PU campuses, to enrich the intellectual life of our campus.