Unit Profile Summary

Director: Sara Butler

Advisory Board: Sara Butler (History), Alice Clark (Music), Mark Gossiaux (Philosophy), John Sebastian (English)

Relationship between IDP & University Mission or Strategic Plan

The Middle Ages was a highly Catholic era, devoted to the ideals of charity and the apostolic life. Learning about the medieval world is an excellent way for students to discover Catholic heroes who dedicated their lives to social justice, as well as the foundations of the Catholic church. A strong program in Medieval Studies is fundamental to any Catholic university. Moreover, in terms of strengthening the University’s reputation (a key component of the 2012 Strategic Plan), Medieval Studies is a flagship department at the country’s best Catholic institutions: Georgetown and Fordham (which boast two of the strongest Medieval Studies programs in the country) are two of the best examples.

Major Relationships to Departments, Offices, Centers, Programs

The program has strong relationships with English, History and Philosophy.

Courses offered this Year in the Minor:

Fall 2014
ENGL-A217, “Reading Historically I,” J. Sebastian, MW 3:00-4:45
HIST-T121, “Creating Medieval Monsters,” S. Butler, MWF 11:30-12:20
HIST-A288, “Mid East & Islam 600-1650,” B. Moazami, TR 11:00-12:15
HIST-A394, “Common Law in the Making,” S. Butler, TR 9:30-10:45
POLS-A230, “History Political Thought I,” S. Illing, TR 8:00-9:15
RELS U285, “Heresies & Heretics,” E. Goodine, MWF 12:30-1:20
RELS U285, “Heresies & Heretics,” E. Goodine, MWF 1:30-2:20

Spring 2014
CLHU-U265, “Pagans and Christians,” Dr. Ranner, M 6:20-9:05 pm
CLHU-U270, “The Later Roman Empire,” Dr. Rupp, T 6:20-9:05 pm
ENGL-A217, “Reading Historically I,” Dr. Eklund, TR 11:00-1215
ENGL-U288, “The World of the Vikings,” Dr. Sebastian, T 3:30-6:10 pm
HIST-A307, “Saints & Demons in Medieval Europe,” Dr. Butler, TR 11:00-12:15
HIST-W240, “Women in the Middle Ages,” Dr. Butler, MWF 9:30-10:20 am
PHIL-A405, “History of Medieval Philosophy,” Dr. Gossiaux, TR 3:30-4:45 pm
PHIL-U270, “Philosophy & Religion in the Middle Ages,” Dr. Rombeiro, MWF 10:30-11:20 am
Goals for Academic Year 2012/2013:

Our goals were quite modest. We wanted to continue our highly successful programs (GNOMeS and Medieval Film Fest!) but make them even more successful by advertising more widely and drawing a large community of people. We did – our film fest events attracted at least fifty students and faculty also from Tulane University and others from the New Orleans community.

In addition, we restructured our program. In the past few years, we have discovered that because students often join the program as juniors, our required courses (usually taught on two-year rotations) were not scheduled often enough for students to be able to complete the minor. As a result, we decided to work harder to make the program more flexible.

The requirements changed as follows:

**Before**
HIST A306 “The Middle Ages”
ENGL A316 “Medieval Survey”
A Medieval Thought course (PHIL A405, PHIL U194, RELS A210, RELS U186
3 medieval elective courses

**After**
one Medieval History course
one Medieval Literature course (from either the English Dept. or L&C Dept.)
one Medieval Thought course (from either PHIL or RELS)
3 medieval elective courses

We are very happy with these changes and believe it will make the program much more flexible (but equally rigorous!) than it was before.

Operating Budget & Expenditures for 2013/2014

Our budget was $1100. Our expenditures were:

1) Sept. 13: “How Castles Work,” a presentation by Dr. Matthew Johnson, an anthropology professor at Northwestern University, relating to the inner-workings of castles in Southeast England. This extremely well-attended event (people were sitting on the floor and standing at the back of filled Whitney Presentation Room) was an excellent way to begin our Medieval Studies events for the year. This event was preceded by a dinner
with the speaker, attended by the Medieval Studies Advisory Board and our resident archaeologists from the Classic Department. Dinner cost $410.

2) We had two Greater New Orleans Medieval Studies meetings this year. This book discussion group, involving faculty from Loyola, Tulane, and Southeastern Universities is an excellent opportunity to foster intellectual debate among the faculty and keep them abreast of new research in their fields. This year we examined two books: Ruth Mazo Karras’s *Unmarriages: Women, Men, and Sexual Unions in the Middle Ages* (U of Penn P, 2012) and Barbara Newman’s *Medieval Crossover: Reading the Secular against the Sacred* (Notre Dame, 2013). Between books and refreshments, the total expense was $369.39.

3) Medieval Film Fest!: This year we had two Medieval Film Fest events. In the fall, we showed the movie “The Way,” starring Martin Sheen, and exploring the experience of pilgrimage through one man’s journey on the road to Santiago. Tom Ryan from Loyola’s Institute for Ministry, an expert on St Thomas Aquinas, presented the introductory lecture. This event was attended by over 60 people. In the spring, in celebration of Pope Francis, we showed the movie “Francesco.” Starring Mickey Rourke and Helena Bonham Carter, this docu-drama brought Saint Francis of Assisi’s life to the big screen, attempting to explain how Saint Francis became inspired to lead the apostolic life, and detail his relationship with Saint Clare of Assisi. Dr. Denis Janz from Religious Studies presented the introductory lecture. This event was also very well attended with 55 people from the community. The cost for this event (DVDs, pizza, and soft drinks) was $387.63.

Our final expenditure was not an event, but a celebration. We awarded Chad Aubert the Venerable Bede award for Outstanding Medieval Studies student. The cost of his award (two books on the subject of medieval pilgrimage) was $75.10.

Total: $1242.20. As you can see we outspent our budget, and so we drew on our gift account to make up the rest.

Assessment Report / Program Outcomes

The Medieval Studies program took a terrible hit in terms of faculty losses this year. Beginning in the fall of 2013, John Sebastian (English) took up the position of director of the Common Curriculum. While he is still at Loyola (and will hopefully return to the English department at the end of his tenure!), his teaching duties are dramatically reduced and will be for the next three years. At the end of the academic year 2013/14, the program was hit with more losses with the departure of Michael Rombeiro (Philosophy) and Lori Ranner (Classics/History), two long-time and popular teachers. We have also been informed that both Oliver Ranner (Philosophy) and Elizabeth Goodine (Religious Studies) have only one year left to their contracts and those contracts will not be renewed. Our goal for next year is to try our best to keep the program viable despite these losses, although we recognize that the goal may well be impossible.
Summary of Achievements

Sara Butler
- Along with Wendy Turner of Georgia Regents University, Sara Butler co-edited *Medicine and the Law in the Middle Ages*, published with Brill in March, 2014.

Mark Gossiaux:
- “Giles of Rome, Thomas Aquinas, and the Reification of Esse.” Center for Thomistic Studies Colloquium Series, University of St. Thomas (Houston, TX), November 2013.

Chad Landrum
- Loyola 2012 graduate in History (major), Medieval Studies (minor) was accepted into a Master’s program in Medieval History at Boston College, beginning in Fall 2014.

John Sebastian: