

Undergraduate Academic Assessment Plan 2012 2013

Program Name

IDS Concentration in
Medieval and Early
Modern Studies

College of

Liberal Arts and Sciences

Will Hasty

hasty@ufl.edu

Interdisciplinary Studies Concentration

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Medieval and Early Modern Studies (MEMS)

Mission Statement

The IDS concentration in Medieval and Early Modern Studies (MEMS) at UF focuses on medieval and early modern culture and its influences on the modern world. Students develop an advanced knowledge – demonstrated by coursework in MEMS-related courses and a senior thesis -- of the distinctive forms of cultural organization in the Middle Ages and Early Modern periods, the study of which necessarily crosses departmental boundaries. The IDS concentration in MEMS enables students to obtain knowledge about the values, interests, world views, and technologies of medieval and early modern communities (e.g., monastic, chivalric, peasant, early urban), and to familiarize themselves with some of the world's greatest epic and lyric poetry, drama, and romances. In their coursework and their thesis research, students in the IDS concentration in Medieval and Early Modern Studies draw on their knowledge for historical perspectives that can contribute to current discussions on such issues as ethnicity and nationality, colonialism, technologies and their effects, constructions of gender and sexuality, the characteristics of historical and fictional narratives, etc. The IDS concentration in MEMS involves textual analysis, critical thinking, and creativity, and students must take an active role in shaping their curriculum. The faculty involved in the IDS concentration in MEMS consists of award-winning teachers and internationally recognized scholars. The Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies at UF sponsors symposia on a regular basis, in which students in Medieval and Early Modern Studies are encouraged to participate.

The IDS concentration in MEMS at UF, with its transnational approach to medieval and early modern culture (including Medieval and Early Modern Studies in Africa, Asia, and Europe), is consistent with the University of Florida's stated goal "to make significant contributions to an increasingly global community." The diversity of possible interdisciplinary approaches within the MEMS concentration come down to the circumstances of lives of people throughout the world in the medieval and early modern periods, and thus help the University of Florida to "honor the human component of our mission." The IDS concentration in MEMS, which includes interdisciplinary studies of the literature, art, and science that formed the foundation for the birth of the modern age, helps the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences accomplish its stated goal to "expand knowledge and practice in the most fundamental questions in the arts, humanities, social sciences, and natural and mathematical sciences."

Students must apply for admission to the IDS major in MEMS by the end of the sophomore year at the latest, in consultation with two faculty sponsors (one of whom must be in CLAS). A 3.0 GPA is required for admission to the major, which consists of:

1. 6 hours of introductory course work at the 2000 level, and two years of a foreign language at UF (or the equivalent).

2. 20 hours of upper-division course work, of which ideally no more than 9 hours should be taken in any single department. At least three hours of this requirement involves work with a medieval vernacular language or Latin.
3. 7 hours of IDS 4906 during work on the senior thesis under the supervision of the two faculty sponsors.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Identify, describe and explain the key issues, figures, social and cultural trends and basic chronology of the period or field studied.
2. Evaluate the significance, quality and veracity of information gathered in the literature and apply it effectively.
3. Articulate research results clearly and effectively in speech and in writing in an accepted style of presentation.

Curriculum Map

Curriculum Map for:

Program: IDS Major in Medieval and Early Modern Studies College: Liberal Arts and Sciences

Courses SLOs	IDS4906	IDS4906
Content Knowledge	I, R, A Thesis	I, R, A Thesis
Critical Thinking	I, R, A Thesis	I, R, A Thesis
Communication	I, R, A Thesis	I, R, A Thesis

Assessment Cycle

Assessment Cycle Chart

Assessment Cycle for: IDS Concentration in Medieval and Early Modern Studies

College: Liberal Arts and Sciences

Analysis and Interpretation: April 30

Improvement Actions: May 15

Dissemination: May 31

SLOs	Year	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16
Content Knowledge		X			X		
Critical Thinking			X			X	
Communication				X			X

Methods and Procedures

SLO Assessment Matrix

The SLO Assessment Matrix is new for the 2012-13 Academic Assessment Plans. We have populated the matrix to the extent possible with the information we have available. Please complete the matrix.

Assessment Method - For each SLO, please enter the assessment method you are using – exam (course, internal, or external), project, paper, presentation, performance, etc.

Measurement – list the measurement procedure you use for this outcome. It can be a faculty-developed rubric with the minimum acceptable level identified, an exam score and the minimum passing score, or other measurement. **Required for 2012-13: Include at least one example of a rubric used to assess an SLO.**

SLO Assessment Matrix for 2012-13

2012-13 Student Learning Outcome	Assessment Method	Measurement Procedure
Knowledge of the key issues, figures, social and cultural trends and basic chronology of the period or field studied.	Thesis	Rubric
Evaluate the significance, quality and veracity of information gathered in the literature and apply it effectively.	Thesis	Rubric
Articulate research results clearly and effectively in speech and in writing in an accepted style of presentation.	Thesis	Rubric

The principal measurement tool used for the IDS concentration in Medieval and Early Modern Studies is the IDS thesis, an original contribution to scholarship in Medieval and Early Modern Studies. The thesis is the product of the two semester long sequence of IDS 4906.

Rubric for the evaluation of the IDS thesis:

A-level

The thesis demonstrates that the author fully understands and has applied concepts learned during his/her research. Concepts are integrated into the writer's own insights. The writer provides concluding remarks that show analysis and synthesis of ideas.

The topic is focused narrowly enough for the scope of this assignment.

In-depth discussion & elaboration in all sections of the thesis.

Ties together information from all sources. Author's writing demonstrates an understanding of the relationship among material obtained from all sources.

No spelling &/or grammar mistakes.

A substantial number of sources reflecting a broad range of research, including articles from peer-review journal articles or scholarly books. All web sites utilized are authoritative. Cites all data obtained from other sources.

B-level

The thesis demonstrates that the author, for the most part, understands and has applied concepts learned during his/her research. Some of the conclusions, however, are not supported in the body of the thesis.

The topic is focused but lacks direction. The thesis is about a specific topic but the writer has not established a position.

In-depth discussion & elaboration in most sections of the thesis.

For the most part, ties together information from all sources. Thesis flows with only some disjointedness. Author's writing demonstrates an understanding of the relationship among material obtained from all sources.

Minimal spelling &/or grammar mistakes.

The number and variety of sources is adequate to the task, but does not necessarily reflect a superlative range of research. All web sites utilized are authoritative.

Cites most data obtained from other sources.

C-level

The thesis demonstrates that the author, to a certain extent, understands and has applied concepts learned in the course.

The topic is too broad or vague.

The writer has omitted pertinent content or content runs-on excessively. Quotations from others outweigh the writer's own ideas excessively.

Sometimes ties together information from all sources. Thesis does not flow - disjointedness is apparent. Author's writing does not demonstrate an understanding of the relationship among material obtained from all sources.

Noticeable spelling & grammar mistakes.

The number and variety of sources is in adequate for the writer's purposes. All web sites utilized are credible.

Cites some data obtained from other sources. Citation style is either inconsistent or incorrect.

D-level

The thesis does not demonstrate that the author has fully understood and applied concepts learned in his/her research.

The topic is confusing and lacks definition.

Cursory discussion in all the sections of the thesis or brief discussion in only a few sections.

Does not tie together information. Thesis does not flow and appears to be created from disparate issues. Writing does not demonstrate understanding any relationships

Unacceptable number of spelling and/or grammar mistakes.

Few sources, not reflective of the best and most current research on the topic. Not all web sites utilized are credible, and/or sources are not current.

Does not cite sources.

Indirect assessments include trending the number of applicants and successful graduates of the program at the end of each spring term.

Additional Considerations:

The concentration in Medieval and Early Modern Studies forms part of the Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) program in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. As such, its guidelines regarding minimum requirements, coursework, etc. match those of the IDS program. For more information, see: <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/ids/>. Definitive of MEMS as an IDS major is the MEMS-specific coursework, which is worked out by the student in consultation with the MEMS program coordinator and her/his primary faculty advisor. Also definitive of the IDS concentration in MEMS is the research for and composition of the senior thesis referenced in the mission statement above, work the student does under the IDS 4906 course rubric. Assessment oversight of the IDS concentration in MEMS is built into the prerequisites of the IDS program: the minimum GPA in coursework for undertaking and completing the IDS major in MEMS, and the interdisciplinary thesis work with faculty advisors in two different departments. Consultations between MEMS faculty members in different departments (corresponding to the parameters of the IDS program), and the program coordinator (Will Hasty – hasty@ufl.edu).

Assessment Oversight

Name	Department Affiliation	Email Address	Phone Number
Will Hasty	LLC	hasty@ufl.edu	352 2733780
Mary Watt	LLC	marywatt@ufl.edu	352 2733770
Florin Curta	History	fcurta@ufl.edu	352 2733367