M.Phil.
in Medieval Studies Handbook 2020-21
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Welcome
Welcome to Trinity College Dublin and the M. Phil in Medieval Studies. Trinity is built on the site of a medieval abbey and Dublin is a Viking city, so you are in a very appropriate place to study the medieval period. The Library has over five hundred medieval manuscripts, giving you ample room to explore primary research materials hands on. A short journey from Dublin are other major medieval sites, including the monastic city of Glendalough and Trim Castle.

This handbook provides an introduction to the programme, including its formal requirements as well as advice on transitioning to studying at master’s level at Trinity.

We hope you will have a exciting, intellectually stimulating and productive time on the M. Phil. The programme is as much made by you as us, so do let us know at any stage if there is anything we can do to improve your experience.

Mark Faulkner, Director of the M. Phil and Co-ordinator of Language and Literature Strand
Simon Egan, Co-ordinator of History Strand
Ruth Mazo Karras, Co-ordinator of Culture and Civilisation Strand

TCD MS 92 (Latin psalter), fol. 22v (detail)
People
The M. Phil in Medieval Studies is run by three people: the Director, Dr Mark Faulkner, from the School of English (who also co-ordinates the Language and Literature strand), the co-ordinator of the History strand, Dr Simon Egan, from the Department of History in the School of Histories and Humanities, and the co-ordinator of the Culture and Civilisation strand, Prof Ruth Mazo Karras, also from the Department of History. You are welcome to consult either your strand co-ordinator or the programme director about any issues you want to raise about the programme.

Though an interdisciplinary programme with contributions from four Schools and six departments, the M. Phil in Medieval Studies is based in the School of Histories and Humanities.

Address: School of Histories and Humanities, Trinity College, Dublin 2
Telephone: +353 (0) 1 896 1791
Web: https://histories-humanities.tcd.ie/postgraduate/mphil/medieval-studies/index.php
Email: pghishum@tcd.ie

The administrator for the programme is Eilís Dunne, Senior Executive Officer in the School of Histories and Humanities. She can be reached on pghishum@tcd.ie.

Ultimate oversight of the programme is with Dr Ashley Clements (clementa@tcd.ie), Director of Postgraduate Teaching & Learning in the School of Histories and Humanities. Any issues you feel have not been satisfactorily resolved by the programme team may be addressed to him. He is available to meet by appointment or by email.

Trinity currently has over twenty medievalists on its staff, many of whom teach on the programme and particularly its core course, as well as contribute to the research seminar. Their contact details and main research interests are given below. All are delighted to hear from students with similar interests to theirs and (depending on demand and other commitments) will be available to supervise dissertations in their areas of expertise. A good way to meet them informally is at the Research Seminar, held every week at 5:15pm.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Email address</th>
<th>Phone number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr Sarah Alyn Stacey</td>
<td>French</td>
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<td>+353 (0) 1 896 2686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>+353 (0) 1 896 1984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>History</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Hazel Dodge</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof Seán Duffy</td>
<td>History</td>
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<td>+353 (0) 1 896 1801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eilís Dunne</td>
<td>Histories and Humanities</td>
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<td>+353 (0) 1 896 1791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Simon Egan</td>
<td>History</td>
<td><a href="mailto:segan1@tcd.ie">segan1@tcd.ie</a></td>
<td>+353 (0) 1 896 3133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Mark Faulkner</td>
<td>English</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mark.faulkner@tcd.ie">mark.faulkner@tcd.ie</a></td>
<td>+353 (0) 1 896 1515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Alice Jorgensen</td>
<td>English</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jorgena@tcd.ie">jorgena@tcd.ie</a></td>
<td>+353 (0) 1 896 2475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Catherine Lawless</td>
<td>Gender and Women's Studies</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lawlessc@tcd.ie">lawlessc@tcd.ie</a></td>
<td>+353 (0) 1 896 2225</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dr Sarah Alyn Stacey, Associate Professor in French

French Language

Dr Igor Candido, Associate Professor in Italian

Dante; Petrarch; Boccaccio and the Latin Classics; Italian Renaissance humanism; Philology; Comparative Literature; the reception of Dante in the Anglophone world

Professor Anna Chahoud, Head of Department of Classics, Professor of Latin

Latin language; transmission and reception of Latin texts

Dr Peter Crooks, Assistant Professor in Medieval History

Late medieval Ireland - especially politics, government, relations with England

Dr David Ditchburn, Associate Professor in Medieval History

Later Medieval Scotland and its links with other countries. Commercial connections and migration, religious and cultural interactions.

Dr Hazel Dodge, Louis Claude Purser Senior Lecturer in Classical Archaeology

City of Rome; ancient spectacles, constructions and technology

Prof Seán Duffy, Professor of Medieval Irish and Insular History

History of Medieval Ireland; Political history of Ireland from the Viking Age to the Bruce Invasion; Irish relations with England, Scotland, and Wales during same period; history and archaeology of medieval Dublin.
Ms Eilís Dunne, Senior Executive Officer, School of Histories & Humanities
Administration for postgraduate students – submission of coursework, transcripts, course queries.

Dr Simon Egan, Assistant Professor in Medieval Irish and British History, Co-ordinator of the History strand
Late Medieval Irish and British history; Gaelic Ireland and Gaelic Scotland; warfare; politics and society.

Dr Mark Faulkner, Ussher Assistant Professor in Medieval Literature, Director of the M. Phil in Medieval Studies and Co-ordinator of the Language and Literature strand
Old English, early Middle English, manuscript studies and historical linguistics.

Dr Alice Jorgensen, Assistant Professor in Old English
Literatures of Anglo-Saxon England; Middle English literature; representations of violence; Vikings; women in medieval literature; historiography

Professor Ruth Mazo Karras, Lecky Professor in Medieval History, Head of Department of History, Co-ordinator of the Culture and Civilisation strand
History of women, gender, and sexuality; social and cultural history; medieval religions (Christianity and Judaism)

Dr Catherine Lawless, Director of the Centre for Gender and Women’s Studies, Assistant Professor in Gender and Women’s Studies
Gender, religious devotion and representation in late medieval and Renaissance Italian art, with a particular emphasis on the representation of the holy gendered body, the relationships between religious belief and representation, text and image, hagiography and iconography, and representation and gender.

Dr Francis Ludlow, Assistant Professor in Environmental History
Climate and the Irish Annals; the interdependency of violence and extreme weather

Prof Damian Mc Manus, Chair of Early Irish
Primitive Irish, Ogam alphabet, Classical Modern Irish
Dr Eoin Mac Cárthaigh, Head of Department of Irish and Celtic Languages, Associate Professor in Irish and Celtic Studies
Irish and Scottish Gaelic language and literature. Dán Díreach

Dr Rachel Moss, Head of Department of History of Art, Associate Professor in Art History
Art and architecture of medieval Ireland

Dr Brendan O’Connell, Assistant Professor in Medieval Literature
Middle English Literature, especially Chaucer and his early modern reception; beast literature.

Dr Fáinche Ryan, Director of Loyola Institute, Assistant Professor in Systematic Theology
New thinking in the theology of leadership and ordination, Medieval theology and the theology of Thomas Aquinas, Eucharistic theology

Dr Benjamin Savill, Assistant Professor in Early Medieval History
Late antique and early medieval Christianity; Rome and the papacy; diplomatics and documentary culture; the cult of saints.

Dr Jürgen Uhlich, Assistant Professor
Old and Middle Irish Language and texts, Comparative Celtic Linguistics and Comparative Indo-European philology.

Dr Rebecca Usherwood, Assistant Professor in Late Antique and Early Byzantine Studies
Roman Imperial or Late Antique history

Dr Immo Warntjes, Ussher Assistant Professor in Early Medieval Irish History
Early medieval scientific thought; the use of the vernacular in monastic teaching and intellectual debate in medieval times; central and late medieval burial practices
Adjusting to Studying at Trinity

Studying at Trinity may be different from what you’re used to, particularly if you are an international student. The biggest difference is likely to be the independent nature of the work. You will be assigned a relatively small amount of required reading for your modules each week. You are expected to have read that carefully. But you are also expected to do other reading on your own. The module coordinator will probably give you a list of recommended reading. You are not expected to do all of it, but you should do some of it, at your choice, in order to be able to contribute productively to class discussion. Your essays will also be pieces of independent work—you will not be given assigned titles—as will, of course, your dissertation.

Another major difference you may find between studying for a master’s degree and your work as an undergraduate is that seminars exist not so much to convey a particular body of knowledge about a particular topic but to help you interrogate that knowledge, understand where it came from and the extent to which it is contingent, and explore the kinds of arguments that can soundly be built on it. As a consequence, the strongest written work will not just rehearse discussion from seminars but develop it, interrogate it and make it your own. Independent reading and thinking are key to this.

That does not mean that you are on your own. The staff listed above are available to help you. Due to Covid-19 they may be working from home where possible so you may not be able to drop into their office, but you can and should email them if you are working on an essay relevant to their interests. This is especially true of those teaching on the core modules, whom you will meet, but also holds for others. Your module coordinators will inform you of their availability whether through regular virtual office hours or by appointment, and you should not hesitate to make an appointment to speak with other members of staff.

Many resources are available to you at Trinity. Independent work means that you are the one who must take the initiative to access them, but the strand Coordinators and others are here to help.

TCD MS. 592 (Middle English translation of Gerald of Wales, *Expugnatio Hibernica*), fol. 25v (detail)
The Strands
The course offers students the choice of three strands: History, Language and Literature and Culture and Civilisation. All students take four core modules of 5 ECTS – Sources for Medieval Studies I and II, Introduction to Medieval Books and Documents and Reading Medieval Books and Documents – and write a dissertation worth 30 ECTS. The core modules are taught in the same slot each week, with each module meeting in alternate weeks. While you will primarily write your dissertation over the summer, preparation begins in Michaelmas Term, with an informational meeting, discussions with the Course Director and possible supervisors, and the submission of a brief proposal before Christmas.

Further requirements depend on the choice of strand:

**History:** students study Latin at an appropriate level in Michaelmas (10 ECTS), then choose 30 ECTS of optional modules, including, if they wish, another, more advanced, Latin module.

**Language and Literature:** students study a medieval language in Michaelmas (10 ECTS), then choose 30 ECTS of optional modules, including, if they wish, a second medieval language.

**Culture and Civilisation:** students choose 40 ECTS of optional modules, including, if they wish, a medieval language.

TCD MS 50 (Psalter), fol. 35r
Core Modules

MVP12001 - Sources for Medieval Studies I (5 ECTS, MT)
Module Coordinator: Dr. Benjamin Savill

Aims

This module has the following key aims:

- To introduce students to the some of the sources available to medievalists
- To introduce students to the some of the key manuscripts in Trinity’s holdings
- To encourage critical thinking through source analysis
- To help students begin to formulate research questions in medieval studies, preparatory to their choosing a suitable topic for their dissertations

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Identify and describe characteristics of a wide range of historical genres
- Assess the way in which a medieval source is transmitted (external source criticism)
- Evaluate the reliability of a source by analysis of author and content (internal source criticism)
- Formulate research questions for the purposes of essay writing and oral presentations
- Complete an intensive, self-motivated study of a relevant text or artefact, with good research organization and presentation

Module Content

This module introduces students to five different genres of medieval sources. Each session will discuss one or more key representative of the respective genre. If the source under discussion is textual, the analysis will include an assessment of one of its medieval copies, in many cases from the Trinity Library’s holdings. Some sessions may be co-taught by lecturers from different disciplines in order to introduce the students to a variety of approaches to the respective source. The focus of this module will be on source criticism, i.e. on testing the reliability and assessing the importance of the respective source.

Assessment

Extended commentary or systematic critical analysis of a single source, addressing its potential to answer a particular research questions (2,000-2,500 words)

MVP12004 - Reading Medieval Books and Documents (5 ECTS, MT)
Module Coordinator: Dr. Mark Faulkner

Aims

This module has the following key aims:

- To introduce the range of scripts used during the medieval period
- To provide, through a wide range of examples, a grounding in the working practices of medieval scribes and readers and how a knowledge of these helps understand medieval textuality.
• To give students extensive practice in the recognition, transcription and dating of medieval hands

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

• Identify the script(s) used in previously-unseen medieval manuscripts
• Recognise the abbreviations most frequently used in writing medieval texts and correctly expand, with appropriate aids, those less frequently used.
• Transcribe accurately a wide range of medieval hands, according to appropriate conventions
• Date, within a century, a range of examples of medieval script

Module Content

This module introduces students to the range of scripts used to write medieval manuscripts, making especial use of Trinity’s world-class holdings of medieval books and documents, both in their surviving form and in electronic surrogate. Students learn how to read the major scripts used during the medieval period and transcribe them according to appropriate conventions. They are also introduced to the ways in which scribal hands may be dated.

Assessment

End-of-term library paper comprising transcriptions from three manuscripts or documents of different periods and dating exercise, requiring students to place a range of previously-unseen scribal hands in chronological sequence and justify their ordering.

MVP12002 - Sources for Medieval Studies II (5 ECTS, HT)
Module Coordinator: Dr. Benjamin Savill

Aims

This module has the following key aims:

• To introduce students to a wider variety of sources available to medievalists
• To introduce students to more of the key manuscripts in the Trinity Library’s holdings
• To encourage deeper critical thinking through detailed source analysis
• To help students develop research questions in medieval studies, preparatory to their choosing a suitable topic for their dissertations.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

• Identify and describe, in detail, characteristics of a wide range of historical genres
• Critically assess the way in which a medieval source is transmitted (external source criticism)
• Critically evaluate the reliability of a source by analysis of author and content (internal source criticism)
• Refine research questions for the purposes of essay writing and oral presentations
• Complete an intensive, self-motivated study of a relevant text or artefact, with high quality research organization and presentation
Module Content

This module introduces students to a further six different genres of medieval sources. Each session will discuss one or more key representatives of the respective genre. If the source under discussion is textual, the analysis will include an assessment of one of its medieval copies, in many cases from the Trinity Library's holdings. Some sessions may be co-taught by lecturers from different disciplines in order to introduce the students to a variety of approaches to the respective source. The focus of this module will be on source criticism, i.e. on testing the reliability and assessing the importance of the respective source.

Assessment

Extended commentary or systematic critical analysis of a single source, addressing its potential to answer a particular research question (2,000-2,500 words)

MVP12003 - Introduction to Medieval Books and Documents (5 ECTS, HT)
Module Coordinator: Dr. Mark Faulkner

Aims

This module has the following key aims:

- To introduce students to the variety of formats in which medieval texts are preserved
- To show students some of the main types of evidence manuscripts and documents offer for their production, use and preservation
- To explore some of the deductions that can be made from this evidence about manuscripts and documents
- To encourage students to reflect critically on the editorial methods underlying the primary texts they use in their research

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Identify and describe, according to appropriate descriptive protocols, a range of features of medieval books and documents
- Use photographs and descriptions of manuscripts to make deductions about the likely production history of medieval books and documents
- Critically evaluate the reliability of editions of manuscript texts for use in a range of research projects

Module Content

This module introduces students to medieval writing in its material form, making especial use of Trinity’s world-class holdings of medieval books and documents, both in their surviving form and in electronic surrogate. Students learn how to describe, date and analyse the production, use and preservation of medieval texts. Students are also introduced to the processes by which texts are edited and the extent to which edited texts may be relied upon in various kinds of research.

Assessment

MVP12005 – Dissertation (30 ECTS, TT)
Module Coordinator: Dr. Mark Faulkner

Students will be assigned a member of TCD staff to supervise their research. Supervisors
will be selected as appropriate to the subject of the dissertation.

Aims

The aim of the dissertation is to enable students to devise, develop and complete an original
research project in a defined time frame which draws on the insights, skills and knowledge
acquired during their study on the M.Phil. programme. While the dissertation process serves
both developmental and scholarly purposes, the completed work will be assessed in terms of
its scholarly rigour and its contribution to knowledge. Students must satisfy all of the
requirements of their programme to proceed to the dissertation module. Dissertations
should be between 15,000 and 20,000 words in length and must be submitted by 5pm on 31
August.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the module students should be able to:

- Devise, develop and complete a substantial, intellectually challenging and
  independent research project relating to their field of study
- Identify, access and interpret appropriate source materials, methods,
  concepts and terminology in the light of existing scholarship
- Develop a coherent and clearly structured argument that engages with
  original sources and interpretative issues in a critically informed and
  constructive manner
- Relate the specifics of their research topic to wider issues and debates within their
  discipline
- Demonstrate project management skills

Assessment

Dissertation of 15,000 – 20,000 words on a topic of the student’s choice.

Additional Information

1. Proposal

Students will be required to develop and refine proposals by the end of Michaelmas term
(Semester 1). Preliminary guidance on formulating an appropriate dissertation topic will be
offered as part of Sources for Medieval Studies I; subsequently we will arrange a meeting
with past M. Phil students and current PhD students who can offer advice on choosing and
refining a topic. Students are required to discuss their ideas with their strand convenor or the
course director prior to submitting their proposal; they are also encouraged to consult other
staff with appropriate interests.
Each student is required to submit a 500-word proposal to the School Office by Friday 4 December. This should include a statement of the problem to be studied and methodological approach, an outline structure, a description of the primary sources to be used, and a brief description of the secondary literature to be consulted.

2. Supervision

Supervisors will be assigned in early January according to the area of research selected by the student. They will be assigned from across the Schools and disciplines involved in the teaching of this programme, according to available expertise.

Supervisors will give subject-specific guidance both on subject matter and on the process of completing a research project in a timely and scholarly manner appropriate to the discipline. They will discuss ideas with you at the outset of your project and read and offer feedback on written work (i.e. complete draft chapters) but your thesis is not a collaborative project and must represent your own work. A timetable for the submission of draft chapters should be established with the supervisor and students will be expected to meet the deadlines they have agreed.

Remember that a supervisor cannot be expected to offer meaningful comment on work that he or she has just received. Supervisors will not generally give feedback on written work in the last two weeks before the due date.

It is usual for staff to be away from College and unavailable at some (possibly extended) times during the summer session (i.e. 1st July-1st Sept). Students will be expected to work independently on their dissertations during this time and to liaise with their supervisors ahead of time by email in order to establish their supervisor’s availability.

3. Presentation

The text of the dissertation should be word-processed, and printed on good quality A4 white paper. The type must be black and at least 12 point. Line spacing must be double spacing, though single spacing may be used for notes and quotations, bibliography etc. Images should be used as appropriate to the thesis topic. There should be margins of at least 4cm on the left and 3cm on the right of the page. Printing must be on one side only and the printed copies of the dissertation should be soft bound.

The presentation of the dissertation should follow a recognized style sheet, appropriate to the discipline(s) in which the dissertation situates itself. Your supervisor will be able to advise on an appropriate choice.

The dissertation should start with a title page, followed by an abstract, and a table of contents, in that order. The table of contents should list the numbers and titles of chapters and appendices, and the relevant page numbers.

The title of the dissertation must be written in full on the title page of the dissertation. The degree for which the dissertation has been submitted, the year, and the name of the candidate should be specified.

An additional abstract must be submitted loose with each copy of the dissertation. This should contain the title of the dissertation and the author’s name, and a succinct summary of
the aims and findings of the dissertation. It should be contained on one side of a single A4 page.

4. References, footnotes and bibliography

Students should choose a referencing style appropriate to the subdiscipline of Medieval Studies in which their dissertation is situated in consultation with their supervisor. Once chosen, it should be used consistently throughout the dissertation. In general, a reference must include the author’s name, title of text, year of publication, location of publication, and may also include publisher. Articles (book chapters) must include the title of the article (chapter) and the journal (book), and the relevant page numbers of the article (chapter).

Students should use footnotes briefly to qualify or elaborate a point made in the text, and to identify sources of facts/opinions referred to that originate in other material. The latter must be fully referenced, including page number of the text from which it came. Footnotes must be numbered consecutively, and should appear at the bottom of the page.

All references must be appear in a bibliography at the end of the dissertation, in strict alphabetical order by author.

Neither footnotes nor bibliography contribute to the word count of the dissertation.

5. Appendices

Appendices should be used for material that the student feels is essential to the dissertation, but which would interrupt the flow of the analysis if placed in the body of the text. Appendices can be identified numerically or alphabetically. These should follow the list of references, at the end of the dissertation.

If you have any queries about the appropriate form of footnotes or questions about presentation of bibliographies and any appendices, please direct those to your supervisor in the first instance.

Appendices will generally be considered as part of the word count of the thesis, unless prior permission has been obtained from the Course Director.

6. Declaration

The dissertation must contain the following signed declaration immediately after the title page:

'This thesis is entirely my own work and has not been submitted as an exercise for a degree at this or any other university. Trinity College may lend or copy the dissertation upon request. This permission covers only single copies made for study purposes, subject to normal conditions of acknowledgement. Signed: [insert signature]'
a. Module title = Dissertation
b. Module code = MVP12005
c. Module co-ordinator = your dissertation supervisor

(ii) 1 x hardbound copy of dissertation
(iii) 2 x softbound copies of dissertation
(iv) 3 x loose abstracts
(v) Electronic submission via Turnitin via Blackboard

Students are required to submit one electronic copy using Turnitin via Blackboard and to bring their full submission to Room 3133, Arts Building by 5pm on 31st August (please note this date remains provisional).
Optional Modules
Along with your compulsory modules, you will also be able to enrol in the following optional modules across the Schools of Histories & Humanities, English, Languages, Literature and Culture and Religion. These modules vary from year to year and are subject to demand. Fuller descriptions of these may be obtained from the module co-ordinators. The administration of these modules is generally based in the Schools or Departments to which the co-ordinators belong, so be aware procedures (regarding assessment for instance) may differ from that of the programme as a whole.

Michaelmas Term

**Language Options**

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<th>Module Code &amp; Title</th>
<th>Module Coordinator</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CL7071 PG Elementary Latin</td>
<td>Prof. Anna Chahoud</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENP77138 Old English</td>
<td>Dr Alice Jorgensen</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENPXXXXX Middle English</td>
<td>Dr Mark Faulkner</td>
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**Thematic Options**

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<tr>
<td>HA7030 Medieval Monastic Ireland</td>
<td>Dr Rachel Moss</td>
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<tr>
<td>IR7013 Early Irish Saga</td>
<td>Prof. Damian McManus</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>IR7014 History of Irish Personal Names</td>
<td>Prof. Damian McManus</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIPXXXXX Making and Breaking of Britain and Ireland, c. 1150-c.1550</td>
<td>Dr Simon Egan</td>
<td>10</td>
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## Hilary Term

### Language Options

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<td>CL7072 PG Reading Latin</td>
<td>Prof. Anna Chahoud</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>CL7073 PG Latin Language</td>
<td>Prof. Anna Chahoud</td>
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<tr>
<td>HI7068 Parchment To Pixel: World History Through Historical Maps And GIS</td>
<td>Dr Francis Ludlow</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENPXXXXX Old English Philology</td>
<td>Dr Mark Faulkner</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FR7188 Medieval Translation: Theory and Practice</td>
<td>Dr James Hadley</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID7004 Medieval and Renaissance Foundations of Europe</td>
<td>Dr Igor Candido</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIPXXXXX Medieval Sexualities, Gender and Race</td>
<td>Dr Lucy Allen Goss</td>
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<td>LY7005 Christianity of the Celtic World</td>
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*TCD MS 502 (John of Worcester, Chronicle), fol. 14v (detail)*
Assessment Advice

For many of the modules on the programme, you will be asked to devise an appropriate topic and title for the essay which comprises its assessment. Devising appropriate, answerable research questions is one of the key learning outcomes of Sources for Medieval Studies, so this module will be particularly invaluable to you in developing this skill.

A key expectation is that your essay will contain an argument that responds to the question you have set yourself. The essay needs to be more than a survey of received opinions or ‘facts’: rather it needs to advance a particular idea of its own and situate this idea with reference to existing scholarship on the topic. This can be a difficult skill to learn, but feedback on your early assessments as well as weekly discussion on Sources should help you develop it.

Most essays you will write for the programme will be expected to conform to a particular word count (e.g. 2000-2500 words for Sources for Medieval Studies). These word counts are guides and can be exceeded, but do note that one of the criteria for a good essay is focus and relevance, so be sure that any material in excess of the word count is germane to what your are arguing.

Footnotes should generally appear at the bottom of each page. These are a vital part of an essay rather than an adornment and are a place where you can demonstrate a deep knowledge of previous research and your awareness of how your own ideas fit within it. For this reason, these do not count towards the word count. When a marker reads footnotes, she is not just looking to see that you have followed citation conventions correctly but seeing whether you are aware of the most relevant reading on a particular point and are able to trace claims in the secondary literature back to their origin in scholarship or to a relevant primary text. Footnotes in published work are a good model here for what you should be trying to achieve.

Every essay should have a bibliography. This is not included in the word count of your essay. You may include items that you think are relevant but which you have not read. Do however be aware that markers will compare your bibliography to what you actually cite, and notice if you claim to be familiar with a lot more scholarship than you can actually demonstrate mastery of.

Please study the advice below concerning plagiarism carefully. There were several instances of inadvertant plagiarism last year. Students wanting further advice on what is and is not plagiarism may consult the course director.

All coursework should be typed or word-processed. Pages should be single-sided and numbered consecutively, double-spaced with generous left- and right-hand margins. Font type should be sans-serif with Calibri preferred. Font size should be 12 point with 10 point footnotes. Quotations longer than three lines should be separated from the text and indented. An M.Phil. Coursework Submission Form must be attached to all essays submitted.

All students must submit their module essays (for MVP, HA, HH & HI modules) in electronic form to the using Turnitin in Blackboard by the deadlines specified by module lecturers for each module. Please check your module handbook for procedures for modules with other codes (e.g. CL and EN).

Extensions can be granted only by the Course Director. Please email him and your strand co-ordinator with details of your request, copying in Eilis Dunne (pghishum@tcd.ie).

Once submitted, essays are marked twice, once by the module convenor, and once by a second marker with a knowledge of the subject matter. A mark is then finalised between these two
markers, with disputes referred to the Director of the M. Phil. All marks are also subject to the scrutiny of the external examiner, Prof. Joanna Story.

Essays are marked against the marking criteria of the School of Histories and Humanities, reproduced overleaf.

TCD MS 53 (Psalter), fol. 151r (detail)
Grade Descriptors

**70+ – Distinction**

Excellent work in every respect

- Understanding: authoritative, original, persuasive, showing mastery of methods or techniques used and clear knowledge of their limitations
- Selection and coverage: appropriate method or methods applied, with a discussion covering all significant aspects of the subject
- Analysis: coherent, logically developed and compelling discussion, with thoroughly detailed account of any practical work
- Presentation: flawless, or near flawless, language and syntax; professionally presented; references and bibliography consistently formatted using a recognized style

Marks Range:

- 85+ = marks above 85 are only awarded in exceptional circumstances
- 80-85 = of publishable quality
- 75-79 = insightful, of publishable quality with revisions
- 70-74 = excellent grasp of the subject, high quality in all areas

**50-69 – Pass**

Coherent, logical argument and use of methods that shows understanding of key principles

- Understanding: a developed capacity to reason critically
- Selection and coverage: sound basis of knowledge in sources, scholarship and techniques
- Analysis: developed argument and account of practical work
- Presentation: adequate use of language and syntax; references and bibliography consistently formatted using a recognized style

Marks Range:

- 65-69 = approaching excellence in some areas; analysis and argument demonstrate a high level of critical reasoning and independent evaluation; may contain elements of originality; appropriate range of theoretical approaches and solid command of relevant methods and techniques; complex work and ideas clearly presented; effective use of language and syntax with few or no errors;
- 60-64 = well developed relevant argument and good use of methods but weaker in some areas; key terms used effectively; most important methods and techniques applied; concise and explicit argument, with coherent account of practical work
- 55-59 = approaching merit; satisfactory, appropriate and accurate but exhibiting significant shortcomings in one or more areas
- 50-54 = for the most part satisfactory, appropriate and accurate; argument may lack evidence of originality or full insight; analysis may demonstrate weaknesses in fluency, depth or persuasiveness
0-49 – Fail

Work exhibiting insufficient knowledge or understanding, superficial analysis and/or significant methodological weaknesses, unsatisfactory focus or scope

➢ Understanding: thinly-developed knowledge, understanding and/or methods
➢ Selection and coverage: scope may be too narrow or too broad, discussion unfocussed; omission of significant examples; limited success in applying relevant methods
➢ Analysis: argument not fully developed; account of practical work lacks analysis
➢ Presentation: may contain errors in use of language and syntax; formatting of references and bibliography may lack consistency

TCD MS 212 (Piers Plowman), fol. 1r (detail)
Other Essential Information

Covid 19
The most up-to-date information on Trinity’s response to the evolving situation with Covid 19 may be found at https://www.tcd.ie/about/coronavirus/.

Attendance
Students are expected to attend all elements of the M.Phil. programme, either in person or remotely (students wishing to attend all teaching remotely in MT 2020 will need permission from the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) and should consult the Course Director). Attendance at the weekly Research Seminar held on Thursday evenings at 17:15hrs (in Michaelmas term, at least, via Zoom) is strongly recommended.

To qualify for the award of the M.Phil., a student must achieve a credit-weighted average mark of at least 50% across the taught modules, and either pass taught modules amounting to 60 credits, or pass taught modules amounting to 50 credits achieving a minimum mark of 40% in any failed modules; and achieve a mark of at least 50% in the dissertation.

Plagiarism
The University considers plagiarism to be a major offence, and subject to the disciplinary procedures of the University. A central repository of information about Plagiarism and how to avoid it is hosted by the Library and is located at http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism

It is a University requirement that all TCD students must complete the Online Tutorial on avoiding plagiarism ‘Ready, Steady, Write’, located at http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism/ready-steady-write. Please do this thoughtfully and carefully – there were several instances of inadvertant plagiarism last year. Students wanting further advice on what is and is not plagiarism may consult the course director.

The University’s full statement on Plagiarism for Postgraduates can be found in the University Calendar, Part III 1.32: http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism/calendar

Calendar Statement on Plagiarism for Postgraduates - Part III, §§66-73

66. General
It is clearly understood that all members of the academic community use and build on the work and ideas of others. It is commonly accepted also, however, that we build on the work and ideas of others in an open and explicit manner, and with due acknowledgement.

Plagiarism is the act of presenting the work or ideas of others as one’s own, without due acknowledgement.

Plagiarism can arise from deliberate actions and also through careless thinking and/or methodology. The offence lies not in the attitude or intention of the perpetrator, but in the action and in its consequences.

It is the responsibility of the author of any work to ensure that he/she does not commit plagiarism.
Plagiarism is considered to be academically fraudulent, and an offence against academic integrity that is subject to the disciplinary procedures of the University.

67. Examples of Plagiarism

Plagiarism can arise from actions such as:

a) Copying another student’s work;
b) Enlisting another person or persons to complete an assignment on the student’s behalf;
c) Procuring, whether with payment or otherwise, the work or ideas of another;
d) Quoting directly, without acknowledgement, from books, articles or other sources, either in printed, recorded or electronic format, including websites and social media;
e) Paraphrasing, without acknowledgement, the writings of other authors.

Examples (d) and (e) in particular can arise through careless thinking and/or methodology where students:

i. Fail to distinguish between their own ideas and those of others;
ii. Fail to take proper notes during preliminary research and therefore lose track of the sources from which the notes were drawn;
iii. Fail to distinguish between information which needs no acknowledgement because it is firmly in the public domain, and information which might be widely known, but which nevertheless requires some sort of acknowledgement;
iv. Come across a distinctive methodology or idea and fail to record its source.

All the above serve only as examples and are not exhaustive.

68. Plagiarism in the context of group work

Students should normally submit work done in co-operation with other students only when it is done with the full knowledge and permission of the lecturer concerned. Without this, submitting work which is the product of collusion with other students may be considered to be plagiarism.

When work is submitted as the result of a Group Project, it is the responsibility of all students in the Group to ensure, so far as is possible, that no work submitted by the group is plagiarised.

69. Self-Plagiarism

No work can normally be submitted for more than one assessment for credit. Resubmitting the same work for more than one assessment for credit is normally considered self-plagiarism.

70. Avoiding Plagiarism

Students should ensure the integrity of their work by seeking advice from their lecturers, tutor or supervisor on avoiding plagiarism. All schools and departments must include, in their handbooks or other literature given to students, guidelines on the appropriate methodology for the kind of work that students will be expected to undertake. In addition, a general set of guidelines for students on avoiding plagiarism is available at http://tcd.ie.libguides.com/plagiarism.
If plagiarism as referred to in paragraph (1) above is suspected, the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) will arrange an informal meeting with the student, the student’s Supervisor and/or the academic staff member concerned, to put their suspicions to the student and give the student the opportunity to respond. Students may nominate a Graduate Students’ Union representative or PG advisor to accompany them to the meeting.

If the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) forms the view that plagiarism has taken place, he/she must decide if the offence can be dealt with under the summary procedure set out below. In order for this summary procedure to be followed, all parties noted above must be in agreement. If the facts of the case are in dispute, or if the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) feels that the penalties provided for under the summary procedure below are inappropriate given the circumstances of the case, he/she will refer the case directly to the Junior Dean, who will interview the student and may implement the procedures set out in Section 5 (Other General Regulations).

If the offence can be dealt with under the summary procedure, the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) will recommend one of the following penalties:

a) Level 1: Student receives an informal verbal warning. The piece of work in question is inadmissible. The student is required to rephrase and correctly reference all plagiarised elements. Other content should not be altered. The resubmitted work will be assessed and marked without penalty;

b) Level 2: Student receives a formal written warning. The piece of work in question is inadmissible. The student is required to rephrase and correctly reference all plagiarised elements. Other content should not be altered. The resubmitted work will receive a reduced or capped mark depending on the seriousness/extent of plagiarism;

c) Level 3: Student receives a formal written warning. The piece of work in question is inadmissible. There is no opportunity for resubmission.

Provided that the appropriate procedure has been followed and all parties in above are in agreement with the proposed penalty, the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) should in the case of a Level 1 offence, inform the Course Director and, where appropriate, the Course Office. In the case of a Level 2 or Level 3 offence, the Dean of Graduate Studies must be notified and requested to approve the recommended penalty. The Dean of Graduate Studies will inform the Junior Dean accordingly. The Junior Dean may nevertheless implement the procedures as set out in Section 5 (Other General Regulations).

If the case cannot normally be dealt with under summary procedures, it is deemed to be a Level 4 offence and will be referred directly to the Junior Dean. Nothing provided for under the summary procedure diminishes or prejudices the disciplinary powers of the Junior Dean under the 2010 Consolidated Statutes.

Late Submission of Work

Late submission of assignments, without permission from the Programme Coordinator, or without a medical certificate in the event of illness, will also be graded as 0 (zero). This is to
ensure fairness to those who do not avail of extra time to complete their work. We recognize that from time to time there are unforeseen circumstances and genuine cases will be considered sympathetically if contact is maintained with the module convenor, strand coordinator or programme director. Exemptions will be granted only in exceptional circumstances, and only with the agreement of the Executive Committee of the School of Histories and Humanities and the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Resubmission of Failed Work

Students who fail to pass taught modules may present for re-examination or resubmit work for re-assessment as instructed by the Course Director within the duration of the course. Re-assessment for modules failed in semester 1 (MT) must be completed by 1st June; for modules failed in Semester 2 (HT) by 31st August. Students who do not pass the taught modules on re-assessment will be deemed to have failed overall and may apply to repeat the course. Any assignment that is not submitted will be graded as 0 (zero).

Degree Classification

The pass mark in all modules is 50%. To qualify for the award of the M.Phil., a student must (1) achieve a credit-weighted average mark of at least 50% across the taught modules, and (2) either (a) pass taught modules amounting to 60 credits or (b) pass taught modules amounting to 50 credits and achieve a minimum mark of 40% in any failed modules, and (3) achieve a mark of at least 50% in the dissertation.

Students who fail to pass taught modules may present for re-examination or resubmit work for re-assessment as instructed by the Course Director within the duration of the course. Re-assessment for modules failed in semester 1 (MT) must be completed by 1st June; for modules failed in Semester 2 (HT), by 31st August. Students who do not pass the taught modules on re-assessment will be deemed to have failed overall and may apply to repeat the course. Any assignment that is not submitted will be graded as 0 (zero).

In the calculation of the overall M.Phil. mark, the weighted average mark for the taught components carries 40% and the mark for the dissertation carries 60%.

To qualify for the award of the M.Phil. with Distinction, students must achieve a final overall mark for the course of at least 70% and a mark of at least 70% in the dissertation. A distinction cannot be awarded if a candidate has failed any credit during the period of study.

A student who successfully completes all other requirements but does not proceed to the dissertation stage or fails to achieve the required mark of 50% in the dissertation will be recommended for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma. The Postgraduate Diploma will be awarded with Distinction if the student achieves at least 70% in the overall average mark for the taught modules.

Oral Examination

Where failure of a dissertation is contemplated, graduate students are entitled to an oral examination. The candidate must be informed that the reason for the oral examination is that the examiners are contemplating failure of the dissertation. The following guidelines apply:

1. The process should begin with the student being informed by the Course Director that the examiners are contemplating failure of the dissertation and that the student may choose to defend it at an oral examination. There may be three potential outcomes: (i)
pass on the basis of the student’s defence of the work (ii) pass on the basis of revisions or (iii) the dissertation fails.

2. The oral examination should be held prior to or during the examination board meeting.

3. Both markers of the thesis should be present and ideally also the external examiner if he/she is available.

4. The oral examination is chaired by the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) or their nominee.

If it appears in the oral examination that the student can defend the thesis, and the examiners believe that it could be revised to the satisfaction of the examiners, the student may be given a period of 2 or 3 months to revise the dissertation, for which they will be allowed to re-register free of fees.

**Part-time Pathway**

Part-time students must pass taught modules carrying 40 credits in their first year in order to progress to the second year, pass taught modules carrying 20 credits in the second year and submit the dissertation by 31st August of the second year.

Part-time students should discuss their pathway through the course with the course director or strand co-ordinator.

**Travel Bursaries**

Information on travel bursaries can be requested from the M.Phil. Co-ordinator.

**Transcripts**

If you need a copy of your transcript, please email pghishum@tcd.ie with your student number, full course title, year of graduation and whether you need a paper or electronic copy. Please allow 3 weeks to generate this transcript (note that we are unable to courier transcripts so please allow enough time for the transcript to reach its destination by ordinary post).

**Regulatory notification**

Please note that in the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the general academic regulations for graduate studies and higher degrees in the University of Dublin Calendar (http://www.tcd.ie/calendar/) and this handbook, the provisions of the general regulations shall prevail.
### Important dates

<table>
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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>22 Sept 2020, 2-3pm</td>
<td>School of Histories and Humanities Postgraduate Induction (via Zoom)</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 Sept 2020</td>
<td>Michaelmas Term (Semester 1) teaching begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Sept 2020</td>
<td>Michaelmas Term (Semester 1) teaching ends</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Nov – 13 Nov 2020</td>
<td>Reading Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 Dec 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Feb 2021</td>
<td>Hilary Term (Semester 2) teaching begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 March – 19 March 2021</td>
<td>Reading Week</td>
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<td>25 April 2021</td>
<td>Hilary Term (Semester 2) teaching ends</td>
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<td>6 June 2021</td>
<td>End of statutory term</td>
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<td>17th August 2021</td>
<td>Last day to submit written work to dissertation supervisors (TBC)</td>
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<td>31st August 2021</td>
<td>Submission of dissertation (TBC)</td>
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**Note that College is closed on the following dates 2020 - 2021:**

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<td>24 Dec 2020 – 3 January 2020</td>
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<td>17 March 2021</td>
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<td>2 April 2021</td>
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Appendix 1 – M.Phil. coursework submission sheet

M.Phil. Coursework Submission Form

Student name: ______________________________________

Student number: ______________________________________

M.Phil. programme: ______________________________________

Module code: ______________________________________

Module title: ______________________________________

Module co-ordinator: ______________________________________

Assignment/essay title: ______________________________________

I have read and I understand the plagiarism provisions in the General Regulations of the University Calendar for the current year -http://www.tcd.ie/calendar.

I have also completed the ‘Ready, Steady, Write’ online tutorial on avoiding plagiarism - http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism/ready-steady-write.

I declare that the assignment being submitted represents my own work and has not been taken from the work of others save where appropriately referenced in the body of the assignment.

I have submitted an electronic copy via Turnitin Blackboard

Signed: ______________________________________

Date: ______________________________________