

University of Lethbridge

Daniel Paul O'Donnell

The University of Lethbridge is a primarily undergraduate university in Lethbridge, Southern Alberta. Founded in 1967 with a student body of 638, the University has grown considerably in recent years, and now has an undergraduate population of approximately seven thousand students. There are about three hundred full-time faculty members.

The University of Lethbridge has three faculty members with primary research and teaching interests in medieval studies: Assistant Dean Cheryl Calver, David Hay, and Daniel Paul O'Donnell. Calver (PhD McMaster) is a specialist in late medieval and early renaissance literature, especially writings by women. Hay (PhD Toronto) is a medieval historian with highly interdisciplinary interests in violence, gender and warfare. O'Donnell (PhD Yale) is an Anglo-Saxonist with interests in textual criticism (particularly reception-oriented approaches), book history, and computer applications in the humanities. Hay and O'Donnell frequently accept students pursuing independent research projects or interested in working as research assistants. Calver's duties as Assistant Dean mean that she is only able to teach and research in the department on a part-time basis. The University of Lethbridge has a number of active internal research colloquia in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Medieval topics are frequently covered.

There is no specialised interdisciplinary major in medieval. Students with an interest in medieval subjects generally take their courses as part of a departmental or program major (most commonly in English, History, or one of our interdisciplinary Liberal Arts Programs), or as part of their large general education requirement. English and History, the departments with the largest number of medieval courses, have flexible programs that allow students to develop a strong concentration in medieval

topics while completing the requirements of their departmental majors. As the general education requirement at the University requires students to take as many as half their courses outside their majors, we also enrol large numbers of quite enthusiastic social and natural science students. These students are as commonly enrolled in our senior level seminars as our introductory courses.

Students interested in medieval studies at the University of Lethbridge have between eight and ten regularly-scheduled courses on medieval topics available to them on an annual or biennial basis. These include courses in Old English (annual), medieval society, the crusades, and Chaucer, Middle English literature, and outcasts in medieval and Christian society. We also offer a rotating series of senior level special topics courses in medieval subjects, subject to instructor availability and interest. Many other courses at the University touch on medieval culture, language or literature, or help students acquire the basic skills required for serious study of the middle ages. Basic skills courses include courses in Latin (two offered annually), Greek, bibliography and research methods, and biblical Hebrew. Of course, students can also find a large number of other courses at the University that may touch to a lesser or greater extent on medieval topics.

The University of Lethbridge places a strong emphasis on undergraduate involvement in faculty research. In addition to the regularly-scheduled courses discussed above, faculty members with an interest in medieval studies also frequently direct senior students in independent research projects. Many students also work as paid faculty research assistants; several have used this experience to author or coauthor refereed articles before graduation. A newly-established graduate school has also recently begun admitting students interested in pursuing a thesis-based masters' degree. Students admitted to this program design their own course of study with the help of faculty advisors. The School encourages graduate students to take advisors from different departments or faculties, and highly interdisciplinary programs are the norm.