MEDIEVAL EUROPE

February, 2015

Answer one question from each section below. Discussions of classic and recent historiography are always pertinent.

Section I

A. What are the major turning-points, or main phases, in the thousand-year history of medieval Europe? When, where, how, and why are they discernible?

B. Choose one of the themes or problems with which you are most concerned in your own period of study and discuss it in relation to the period from 1200 to 1500.

Section II

A. To what extent, and in what ways, did women present a problem for the institutional Church of the Middle Ages? How did the Church respond, and how did those responses change over time?

B. What were the relationships among religious institutions and economic trends during the Middle Ages?

Section III

A. Medieval European history is often viewed as one of rigid social boundaries and tight authoritarian control (e.g. the nefarious “feudal triangle,” the Dictatus papae); yet it is also commonly characterized as chaotic, lawless, and violent. How would you construct an upper-level course in medieval history so as to avoid these paradigms and reflect more recent scholarship?

B. In your view, what are the three most promising developments in current medieval historiography, and why?