

Dr. Brian N. Becker
Assistant Professor of History



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[Curriculum Vitae](#)

Office Hours

MWF 11:00 – 1:00

TTh 1:30 – 3:30

Joined Delta State in 2011

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Ph.D., Western Michigan University, Medieval History (2010)
- M.A., Western Michigan University, Medieval History (2002)
- B.S., University of Missouri-Columbia, History (Related-Field: Geography) (1999)

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Medieval Mediterranean (Especially Italy)
- Byzantium (Subfield)
- Latin Language and Paleography (Subfield)

COURSES TAUGHT

Undergraduate:

- Western Civilization to 1648
- Western Civilization from 1648 to Present
- World History to 1500
- World History 1500 to Present
- The Medieval World
- The Early Middle Ages: c. 300-c. 1100
- The Later Middle Ages: c. 1100-c. 1400
- Medieval Heroes and Villains
- Medieval Conquest and Colonization
- The History and Meaning of the Crusades
- The Great Plague and Late Medieval Society
- The Renaissance and Reformation
- Historians, Historiography and the Philosophy of History

- A variety of independent-study research courses with individual students (The Early Christian Church and Church Fathers, The Carolingian World, The Islamic World), Latin Language I, Latin Language II

Graduate:

- Topics in Medieval Mediterranean History,
- An Age of Adversity: Europe in the 14th Century

RESEARCH INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES

Dr. Becker's primary training is in medieval European history, with a specific focus on the Mediterranean world, while his research revolves around cultural interaction, exchange, and colonization in the eastern Mediterranean. He has articles, published, forthcoming and accepted, in *The Ottomans and Europe: Travel, Encounter and Interaction from the Early Classical Period until the End of the 18th Century*, ed. Seyfi Kenan (Istanbul: ISAM Yayınları, 2010); *Encyclopedia of the Medieval Chronicle*, ed. R.G. Dunphy (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2010); *Texts in Transit*, eds. Tzvi Langermann & Robert Morrison (Pennsylvania State University Press, forthcoming); *The Sea in World History: Exploration, Travel, and Trade*, ed. Stephen Stein (ABC-CLIO, forthcoming); and *The Medieval Globe*. He has published book reviews in *Comitatus*, *The Medieval Review*, and the websites *H-Holy Roman Empire* and *H-Italy*. He has assisted colleagues in translation of their own work from Italian for the purpose of publication in English.

He has presented his research at nearly 20 conferences on three continents, including nationally at annual meetings of the American Historical Association, Medieval Academy of America, Renaissance Society of America, International Congress on Medieval Studies, Sewanee Medieval Colloquium, Mid-America Medieval Association, and internationally at conferences in Turkey, Portugal, Sardinia, and Sweden. He has also been an invited presenter at an "Interdisciplinary Workshop on Boundary Crossing & Cultural Exchange," hosted by the Rackham Graduate School of the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. He has completed a monograph on *Life and Local Administration on Genoese Chios*, and his current and future projects include the foreign perception and self-image of Genoa and the Genoese in the Middle Ages, medieval Genoa's relationship with piracy, and the role of translators and interpreters in the Italian colonies of the medieval eastern Mediterranean.

Other

Dr. Becker has received recognition for his teaching and research on numerous occasions, both as a graduate student at Western Michigan University and as a tenure-track professor at Delta State University. At WMU, the Department of History awarded him a summer research grant on five occasions and elected him Graduate Student Coordinator during the 2004-2005 academic year. He gained membership in the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society for academic excellence in graduate school, and the Department of Foreign Languages awarded him the Mathilde Steckelberg Scholarship for Excellence in Latin. Beyond this, in 2005, he received an external fellowship from the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board to conduct yearlong research in Genoa, Italy. Finally, in 2008, he received the Department of History's Doctoral Teaching Effectiveness Award, the All-University Graduate Teaching Effectiveness Award, as well as a Graduate College Dissertation Completion Fellowship.

At DSU, he has received research travel grants on numerous occasions from the Department of Social Sciences and History, College of Arts and Sciences, and University. Externally, the National Endowment for the Humanities selected him to participate in its summer institute entitled "Networks and Knowledge: Synthesis and Innovation in the Muslim-Christian-Jewish Medieval Mediterranean," which took place in Barcelona, Spain, 2-27 July, 2012.