

The Graduate Curriculum in History for the MA and Ph.D. Degrees (effective Fall Semester 2010)

I. Purpose of the graduate program in History at UNC-CH

- Prepare students with a firm grounding in the theories and methodologies that guide the discipline of history and introduce them to their development in the past;
- Provide students with a broad historiographical understanding in their major and minor fields, in order to identify and engage with the major debates in those fields;
- Prepare students for their own research and scholarly writing at both the MA and PhD levels;
- Educate graduate students for teaching careers as college or university professors or in other professional fields requiring advanced training in history;
- Familiarize students with scholarly publishing and other ways to disseminate the results of their research;
- Prepare students for careers as professional historians (lectures, job talks, workshop and conference participation, departmental service, etc.)

The MA degree

Overview:

Requirements for the MA shall be finished in three semesters after the completion of 30 credit hours (9 per semester in each of the first 2 semesters, 12 in the third semester), a thesis designed as a research paper of article length (25-35 pages), and an oral defense of the thesis. Only in cases in areas that require additional specialized language training, can students and their advisors petition the DGS for a one-semester extension to complete their M.A. by the end of the fourth semester.

Course of Study

- Hist700 (fall), *Thinking Historically* (required of all entering students without an approved M.A. in hand, optional for others). This course introduces students to the intellectual currents and schools of thought that have shaped the historical profession over time. Emphasis is placed on understanding the major historiographical dilemmas that have (re)shaped the historian's craft. This focus allows students to determine how the various historiographical and methodological issues might inform their own research interests. By examining diverse conceptual frameworks, students will prepare themselves to tackle more confidently the research projects they will design and execute in History 900 and 901. Writing assignments may consist of a series of small projects focused on developing specific skills or a single large project, in accord with the instructor's design for the class.
- Hist900 (spring) *Crafting a Historical Project*. (required of all entering students unless fulfilled through another equivalent 900-level seminar with instructor and DGS approval;

optional for those w. approved M.A. in hand). This course helps students determine what constitutes a viable and significant project and how to go about developing it. Reading and writing assignments during the first half of the semester familiarize students with ways of refining topics and locating critical research tools, reference works, and archives. By the end of the semester, each student will write an approximately 10-12 page prospectus for the master's thesis with accompanying annotated bibliography that: (1) frames the project within the existing scholarly literature and relevant critical theory; (2) identifies the materials and archives to be examined; and (3) presents a feasible tentative plan of research and writing. The student will develop the plan in consultation with her/his advisor and with the instructor and student peers in Hist900; the plan is subject to change as the student undertakes the research.

- Hist901 (fall 3rd semester), *Researching and Writing a Master's Thesis* (required of all entering students unless fulfilled through another equivalent 900-level seminar with instructor and DGS approval; optional for those w. approved M.A. in hand). Hist 901 is the capstone to the three-course sequence, exposes students to primary research and to organizing and writing a lengthy paper, and enables students to earn a master's degree at the end of three semesters of full-time coursework. Drawing upon their work in History 900, students will conduct primary research and write a publishable-quality essay of approximately 25-35 pages in length. This paper will follow proper citation methods and will include a full bibliography which will not be tabulated in the page count. The objectives of this course could also be fulfilled in a thematic or topical 900-level seminar with instructor and DGS approval.

- Hist993 (Fall 3rd semester), Master's Thesis research and writing credit (3 hrs.) under the supervision of the student's advisor.

- Oral defense of the M.A. The Hist901 paper will be submitted as a master's thesis and defended in a one-hour oral defense before a committee of three faculty members, one of whom will be the student's advisor. The student will assemble the committee in consultation with her/his advisor. The MA thesis must be submitted before the end of classes in the fall semester and the defense scheduled for no later than the end of exams in December. Students must receive a passing grade in the oral examination to be awarded a master's degree and to be considered for the PhD program. After passing the oral exam, students must submit the final version of their thesis to the Graduate School no later than January 10 in the new year.

- Six elective courses, of which two should be reading colloquia or the equivalent in the student's major field.

- Certification of reading proficiency in one foreign language as determined by field. Please see appropriate field links. Determining how many language courses can be counted as elective courses will be left to each field.

- The decision to allow students to proceed into the PhD program will be made at the time of the MA paper defense. Note, students who successfully defend their theses and

have completed all requirements for the MA will receive their diplomas the following May. For students who elect or are recommended not to continue in the program, the M.A. defense and submission of the thesis will conclude their course of study at UNC and departmental financial support.

- At the end of the first year (second full semester in the MA program), each student's advisor will submit to the DGS a written report assessing the student's progress and promise for further graduate study.
- Each field will determine how best to incorporate these MA requirements into its requirements and itinerary toward the PhD, considering language proficiency, research abroad, and field-specific funding opportunities.

The Ph.D. degree

Overview

The PhD program seeks to incorporate flexibility in course options and to allow students to fulfill basic requirements in a variety of ways suited to their progress in consultation with their advisors. It is our intention that greater flexibility in the degree requirements related to core courses will allow faculty to offer more thematic or topical research seminars designed to attract students from a variety of fields. Students at the dissertation writing stage are also encouraged to participate in dissertation writing groups with other students with similar interests or approaches.

The Graduate School requires Ph.D. candidates take a minimum of 15 hours beyond the M.A., including 6 hours of dissertation research [Hist994]. The History Department requires students take Hist905 Dissertation Design, or approved equivalent substitute; take an additional 900-level field, topical, or thematic research seminar; complete 6 hours in a second area of specialization or minor field; and demonstrate *high proficiency* in at least one foreign language or by field-determined alternatives explained below. To advance to ABD status, students must pass comprehensive field exams and successfully defend the dissertation prospectus by the end of their 6th semester (4th semester if admitted with an M.A.).

The department strongly urges that all students take H702, Introduction to Historical Education, the teaching practicum, once they have completed the M.A. The Teaching Practicum is an important ingredient in professional development.

At all stages of progress to degree, students are encouraged to seek funding for summer advanced language training and pre-dissertation field research as needed.

Course of Study

- Hist905 *Dissertation Design* (spring) (Required of all students or satisfied by equivalent 900-level substitute with instructor and DGS approval). This course helps students learn about research strategies and project feasibility and when applicable to expand the MA into a viable PhD project. Students learn how to write an abstract, a short project statement, and a grant proposal preliminary to their dissertation

prospectus, and to plan summer research to advance their projects. This course will normally be taken in a student's 4th semester (spring immediately post M.A.), or for those admitted with a M.A., in their second semester.

- Hist702 *Introduction to Historical Education*, the teaching practicum (fall or spring) (recommended) This course focuses on the art of teaching and helps students understand classroom strategies and pedagogy, syllabus design, lecture preparation, and putting together a teaching portfolio. Students admitted with a B.A. take Hist702 typically during their third year (6- 7th semester) but may take it as early as the fourth semester. Students admitted with an M.A. typically take Hist702 during their 4th or 5th semesters, but may take it as early as during their first year.
- One Field/Topical or Thematic 900-level research seminar.
- Two courses in a minor field preferably at the 700 level or above in consultation with the student's advisor. Students with interdisciplinary or cross-cultural interests may choose to take one or both courses outside the department. At least one of these courses must be completed post M.A.
- Courses may not be double counted to fulfill requirements, i.e. a 900-level seminar substituted for Hist905 will not count as the student's second 900-level seminar beyond Hist905.
- Language requirements for the Ph.D. can be met by
 - (1) minimal proficiency in two foreign languages
 - (2) advanced proficiency in one foreign language
 - (3) minimal proficiency in one foreign language and successful completion of a two-course program designed to develop proficiency in a research skill or theoretical perspective. (The Department recognizes that the needs of individual fields and students differ. It has, therefore, established this option for meeting the language requirement for the doctorate where knowledge of only one foreign language is considered sufficient.)

Some fields in the department may require more than one non-native language, including indigenous or non-Western languages according to the students' research needs. See individual field links for their specific requirements.

- Comprehensive exams are to be designed by individual fields with an eye to flexibility, which might include allowing students to schedule their exams and dissertation prospectus defense over the space of two semesters. In any case, all students must have completed their exams and oral defense of the prospectus by the end of their 6th semester (4th semester for students admitted with the MA). The oral exam shall be conducted before a committee composed of the student's advisor and four additional

faculty selected by the student in consultation with the advisor. Two committee members may be qualified faculty members from outside the department or from another academic institution.

- Hist994 Doctoral Dissertation. Students register for H994 once they have passed their comprehensive exams and prospectus defense. H994 registration allows students to conduct dissertation research on or away from campus. A minimum of 6 hours are required and can not be taken simultaneously during one semester.
- Dissertation writing groups. The department strongly urges ABD students to participate in dissertation writing groups with other students in their same field or with similar interests or approaches.
- Between 12 and 18 months after achieving ABD status, students must schedule and complete a formal progress review with their examining committees.
- Dissertation defense. Upon completion, all degree candidates must successfully defend their dissertations before a committee composed of their advisor and four additional faculty members, two of whom may be qualified faculty members from outside the department or university.
- Fields may wish to consider whether to incorporate a research portfolio in lieu or as part of the comprehensive examinations.

Typical Courses of Study					
		Incoming BA students		Incoming MA students	
1. Year	Fall	Required (3 hrs.)	H 700 Thinking Historically: Introduction to Historical Theories and Methodologies	Required (3 hrs.)	Course/colloquium/ seminar or second field course
		Required (6 hrs.)	Courses, colloquia/ seminar or language courses	Required (3 hrs.)	1 field seminar (fall or spring). Some fields may require additional field colloquia
		Recommended	Field colloquium 1	Recommended	Field colloquium 1
	Spring	Required (3 hrs.)	H 900: Crafting a Historical Project	Required (3 hrs.)	H 905: Dissertation Design
		Required (6 hrs.)	2 Courses/colloquia/seminars or language courses	Required (6 hrs.)	Complete second field
					Prepare for comps
	Summer	Language study and research for MA thesis/ dissertation			
2. Year	Fall	Required (6 hrs.)	H 901: Researching and Writing a Master's Thesis; and H993: Master's Thesis		- Defense of the prospectus - Application for research grants
		Required (6 hrs.)	Courses/colloquia/or seminars. -Language certification completed	Recommended	course/colloquium/ seminar/ comps prep
			MA Thesis defense	Recommended	H 703: Teaching Practicum

	Spring	Required (3 hrs.)	H 905: Dissertation Design		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comprehensive examinations and/or submission of the portfolio completed -language certification completed - ABD status - Preparation for diss. research
		Required (3 hrs.)	Courses/colloquium/ or seminar or second field course		
	Summer		Language study and dissertation research		Research
3. Year	Fall		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Defense of the prospectus - Application for research grants 		Research (registered for H694 diss credit (minimum of 6 hrs, 3 in each of two semesters))
		Required (3 hrs.)	Field seminar (fall or spring)	Required: 12-18 month progress review	
		Recommended	H 703: Teaching Practicum		
	Spring		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comprehensive examination and/or hand-in of the portfolio - ABD status - Preparation for diss/archival research 		
		Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete second field (6 hrs.) -Language certification completed 		
		Recommended	Course(s) for comps prep		
	Summer		Research		
4. Year	Fall		Research		Dissertation Writing
				Recommended	Dissertation

					Writing group
	Spring	Required 12 -18 month progress review			
	Summer				
5. Year	Fall		Dissertation Writing		Dissertation Writing
		Recommended	Dissertation Writing Group	Recommended	Dissertation Writing group
	Spring		Extension only when a fully funded research year away		
	Summer	Dissertation writing			
		Recommended	Dissertation Writing Group		Dissertation defense
6. Year	Fall			No Extension	
	Spring				

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