

University of Texas at Tyler

M.A. in History Graduate Handbook

Introduction

The Graduate Program in History at UT-Tyler was created and approved by the Board of Regents in 1984. The program originally had just nine graduate course offerings in US and European history; that number today has expanded to 26 graduate seminars in history. Fields range from medieval history to the twenty-first century, from social movements to borderlands history, from local history to world history, from politics and society to gender and sexuality, and much more. Students with an M.A. in History have worked in areas such as secondary education, junior college education, archives, libraries, museums, historical societies, non-profit organizations, historic preservation agencies, government service, freelance writing, law, and private enterprise. An M.A. in History provides students with a wide range of career options, and the faculty at UT-Tyler will help students find their own path during and beyond their graduate program.

Program description

In UT-Tyler's graduate history program, you will be actively engaged in the practice, methods, and techniques of thinking about, creating, and sharing history. The M.A. in History emphasizes the development of analytical skills and research methods and tools necessary to study the past. Our program focuses on the comprehension and appraisal of historiographical perspectives and debates, the methodologies and practices of research in primary sources, and the development of skills necessary for the interpretation of the past for a variety of audiences, from the general public to secondary and university students, from newcomers to specialists. This handbook and the university catalogue will help you navigate the M.A. in History at UT-Tyler and provide you with general information about the program. However, new academic and professional opportunities continually appear. Once enrolled, be sure to consult regularly with the department's Graduate Advisor and, as you advance in your program, with members of your comprehensive examination or thesis committees.

Admission

To be admitted to the graduate program in History at UT-Tyler, students must meet the following requirements:

- A baccalaureate degree in History from an accredited college or university or a baccalaureate degree outside of History that includes a minimum of 12 semester hours of upper-division History courses.
- A satisfactory score on the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT). This requirement may be waived if the student has an M.A. or M.S. in another field from the Humanities, Social Sciences, or Arts, pending the approval of the department.
- A minimum GPA of 3.0 on all prior upper-division work.
- Consideration is also given to one or more of the following: the applicant's demonstrated commitment to his or her chosen field of study, socioeconomic background, first

generation college graduate, multilingual proficiency, geographic region of residence, and level of responsibility in other matters including extracurricular activities, employment, community service, and family responsibilities.

Students who have completed graduate work in History at another institution may apply up to six hours of courses from other approved universities toward the M.A. in History at UT-Tyler. Students must have received a grade of “B” or better in courses to be transferred.

Upon admission to the program, students must contact the graduate program coordinator for programmatic advisement.

Degree Requirements

A total of 36 semester hours of graduate work with a GPA of at least 3.0 is required to complete the M.A. in History at UT-Tyler. Students must successfully pass a minimum of 36 hours of graduate-level coursework to complete their MA in History, and they must complete their coursework within 6 years of enrolling in the program. A minimum of 30 of these hours must be in HIST courses. All students are required to take 15 hours of coursework in the following areas:

- 3 Hours of a graduate seminar in European History
- 3 Hours of a graduate seminar in United States History
- 3 Hours of a graduate seminar in World History
- HIST 5310 – Research Methods
- HIST 5394 – Historiography

Beyond this, students must complete either an additional 15 hours (Option I – Thesis) or 21 hours (Option II – Non-Thesis) of Electives in areas of their own academic interests and thesis/exam areas. For students who choose Option I (Thesis), in addition to 15 hours of electives, they must take 6 hours of Thesis (HIST 5395 and HIST 5396). These courses may not be taken at the same time. Option I students may repeat HIST 5396 as needed for credit until completion of the thesis.

Option I (Thesis) and Option II (Comprehensive Exams)

Option I: Thesis

A thesis represents a high-level research project that reflects the development of a graduate student’s training, critical analysis, and writing. The thesis also provides the student with an opportunity to contribute original historical analysis to the broader field of history and to prepare the student for the next steps in their professional career. In general, a successful thesis:

- clearly articulates an original argument or interpretation
- is based on analysis of appropriate primary sources
- integrates and engages with the broader secondary scholarship on the topic
- demonstrates the student’s ability to conduct independent historical research of primary sources
- demonstrates the student’s ability to critically understand, synthesize, support, and/or challenge relevant scholarly literature
- demonstrates the student’s critical understanding of and use of methodological, conceptual, and theoretical frameworks and approaches
- is coherently organized and clearly written

- adheres to the most recent edition of The Chicago Manual of Style
- is typically falls in the range of 25,000-30,000 words (approximately 80 to 100 pages), exclusive of notes, bibliography, and other scholarly apparatus

Students who select Option I will complete their 30 hours of coursework. Before enrolling in Thesis I (HIST 5395), students will form a thesis committee, with a chair and at least two additional committee members. At least one of the additional committee members must be from the History Department. All committee members must be Graduate Research Faculty (students can confer with the Graduate Advisor to ensure all faculty meet university requirements). Upon selecting a chair and committee, the student and graduate advisor will submit an Appointment of Thesis Committee form to the Office of Graduate Studies (OGS). Once approved, the student may enroll in Thesis I (HIST 5395). If a student needs to change their committee membership, they and the graduate advisor must submit a Change of Thesis Committee form.

Once a student has enrolled in HIST 5395, they may re-enroll in it the following semester, or they may enroll in Thesis II (HIST 5396) if they are planning on completing their thesis that semester. If the student has been working with their Thesis Chair and is preparing to graduate, Students intending to graduate must submit their thesis to the committee by the deadline established by the Thesis Chair and the Graduate Advisor. Upon submitting the thesis to the committee, the committee will review the thesis and provide feedback before the defense. A student then will defend their thesis, and faculty will provide final comments. Students then must submit a the final, signed, and correctly-formatted version of their thesis to OGS by the internal deadline; failure to meet the deadline or correct formatting guidelines will result in a delay in graduation. Deadlines can be found at <https://www.uttyler.edu/graduate/calendar.php>, and formatting guidelines can be found at <https://www.uttyler.edu/graduate/files/thesis-and-dissertation-formatting-guidelines.pdf>. Steps for completing the thesis can also be found at <https://www.uttyler.edu/graduate/gradfaculty/files/thesis-process-student.pdf>.

Option II: Comprehensive Exams

Students who select Option II will select two areas to take comprehensive exams. These typically are in the two areas in which students have the most coursework, and students must have at least six (6) hours of seminar coursework in the areas in which they will take comprehensive exams. Areas for comprehensive exams are: Early Europe; Modern Europe; Early US; Modern US; or World. Students will work with the appropriate faculty who will chair the exam based on the region/area of study. For each area, students will answer three questions on the comprehensive exams (professors may, but are not required to, give students upwards of 5-6 questions and allow students to choose 3). These exams are take-home exams, which will be distributed on a Friday late in the semester; students will then have until 8AM on the following Monday to complete and submit the exams. Answers are limited to no more than 10 double-spaced pages per answer. The student's comprehensive exams will then be read by their committee (made up of the faculty member serving as the exam committee chair, another faculty member, and the graduate advisor) and assessed. Students who successfully pass the comprehensive in both areas will have successfully completed the requirements for graduation. If a student fails their comprehensive exams by failing 2 or 3 of the questions they answer in an area, they must wait another semester before retesting in that area. If a student fails the comprehensive exam a second time, they shall be dismissed from the graduate program without a degree as per university policy.

Course Policies

Independent Study

In addition to graduate seminar courses, the Department of History also offers graduate students to take three to six hours of Independent Study toward their degree. Independent Studies are designed to allow students to pursue a more detailed study about a topic of interest under the direction of a faculty member.

If a student is interested in taking an independent study, they must first speak with the Department Graduate Advisor to ensure it is appropriate. If the Graduate Advisor approves the student's request and the student has an idea for an independent study, he or she must discuss this with the faculty member the student would like to work under. Faculty are not required to accept an independent study proposal, and faculty cannot work with more than two independent study courses a semester.

If the faculty member agrees to work with the student on an independent study, students must then correspond with the Graduate Advisor to get access to the registration code to take a section of HIST 5399 – Independent Study.

A student may only take two HIST 5399 courses (6 hours total) for program credit; while more than 6 hours is possible, additional hours will not count towards students' 36 hour degree requirement. In general, students must complete **at least** 15 hours of seminar work before taking an HIST 5399 course; exceptions must receive the approval of the Graduate Advisor.

Students who have an outstanding Incomplete may not take an Independent Study until all previous coursework has been completed and all Incompletes have been converted to a final Letter Grade.

Elective Courses Outside of History

In addition to HIST courses, students may take up to 6 hours of elective graduate-level courses in fields that are history-adjacent and fit within their academic and professional interests. These courses may be taken from Anthropology, Art History, Literature & Languages, Political Science, or Sociology. Students interested in taking electives outside of the History program must first discuss their plans with the Graduate Advisor and receive the Graduate Advisor's approval. Students who take more than 6 hours of electives will have those additional hours appear on their transcripts and factor into their GPA, but additional hours will not count toward the 36 hours required for the History MA.

If the elective taken is an Independent Study in another field, the departmental program guidelines on Independent Studies remain in effect.

Policy on Incompletes

In certain cases, students may earn an incomplete, or "I," which temporarily takes the place of a letter grade for a course. The purpose of the "I" is to give good students more time to complete course work. An "I" cannot remain on a student's record indefinitely,

however. Students are expected to complete the necessary assignments in order to remove any incompletes from their records in a timely manner. If a student feels that he or she will need an “I” in a course, they are responsible for communicating their situation effectively with their professors. The issuing of an “I” is up to the discretion of the professor, and professors are not required to allow students to take an “I.” Failure to complete the “I” within one calendar year will result in the letter grade defaulting to an “F” and will show up on the student’s transcript and GPA as such.

Students with two or more Incompletes may not register for additional coursework until they have completed all previous unfinished courses and letter grades have been entered for the course.

Plagiarism

The Department of History follows the American Historical Association’s Statement on Standards of Professional Conduct regarding plagiarism and the University of Texas at Tyler’s Manual of Operation Procedures on academic dishonesty. Students in the Graduate Program of History who commit academic dishonesty, including (but not limited to) plagiarism will receive an automatic F for the course in which they commit academic dishonesty and will face expulsion from the program.

Graduate Courses

The Department of History at UT-Tyler offers the following graduate-level seminars:

HIST 5310 - Seminar in History - Research and writing in selected areas of history. May be repeated for credit when content changes. Prerequisite: Six hours of reading seminars.

HIST 5330 - Seminar in European History - Research and writing in selected areas of European history. May be repeated for credit when content changes. Prerequisite: Six hours of reading seminars.

HIST 5340 - Seminar in American History - Research and writing in selected areas of American history. May be repeated for credit when content changes. Prerequisite: Six hours of reading seminars.

HIST 5351 – The Vietnam War - This course explores--through intensive reading, research, writing, and discussion--the complex political, military, diplomatic, economic, and ideological undercurrents that led to and perpetuated the Vietnam War. In so doing, we will carefully evaluate Vietnamese history, French imperialism, communist ideology, and the causes, course, and consequences of the Cold War. A majority of the course will focus on America’s involvement in Vietnam and how such involvement impacted domestic, cultural, and political issues within the United States.

HIST 5352 - Renaissance Europe - In-depth study of literature in Renaissance European history.

HIST 5353 - Reformation Europe - In-depth study of literature in Reformation European history.

HIST 5354 - Medieval Europe - In-depth study of literature in Medieval European history.

- HIST 5356 - Seventeenth-Century Europe - In-depth study of literature in seventeenth-century Europe to 1715.
- HIST 5357 - Eighteenth-Century Europe - In-depth study of literature in European history of the eighteenth century, 1715 - 1815.
- HIST 5358 - Nineteenth-Century Europe - In-depth study of literature in European history of the nineteenth century, 1815-1914.
- HIST 5359 - Twentieth-Century Europe - In-depth study of literature in European history of the twentieth century, 1914-present.
- HIST 5376 - Native American History - In-depth study of literature related to Native American relationships with the United States.
- HIST 5377 - American Borderlands - In-depth study of literature related to the history of American Borderlands.
- HIST 5379 - Antebellum America - In-depth study of literature in American history from 1815 to 1848.
- HIST 5384 - Colonial America - In-depth study of literature in American history from 1492 to 1754
- HIST 5385 - Revolutionary America - In depth study of literature in American history from 1754 to 1815.
- HIST 5386 - Civil War and Reconstruction - In-depth study of literature in American history from 1848 to 1877.
- HIST 5387 - Industrial and Progressive America - In-depth study of literature in American history from 1877 to 1917.
- HIST 5388 - America During the World Wars - In-depth study of literature in American history from 1917 to 1945.
- HIST 5389 - America Since 1945 - In-depth study of literature in American history since 1945.
- HIST 5394 - Historiography - Analyzes historical writing and the philosophy of history. Considers the works of important historians and schools of thought since Herodotus. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.
- HIST 5395 - Thesis - Selection of a research topic and development of a thesis plan. Prerequisite: Consent of thesis director.
- HIST 5396 - Thesis - Completion and approval of thesis. Prerequisite: HIST 5395 or concurrent enrollment and consent of thesis director.
- HIST 5397 - Topics in History - In-depth study of literature in selected areas of history. May be repeated for credit when content changes.
- HIST 5399 - Independent Study - Independent study in specific areas of history not covered by organized graduate classes. A maximum of six credit hours may be applied toward a graduate degree. Prerequisite: Consent of graduate advisor and instructor.