

MASTER OF ARTS IN HISTORY



GUIDE FOR GRADUATE STUDY

HISTORY DEPARTMENT
CAL POLY, SAN LUIS OBISPO

Revised June 2018

The Master of Arts in History

Thank you for your interest in the History M.A. Program at Cal Poly. We hope that this Guide for Graduate Study will answer the questions of both prospective and current graduate students.

I. A Few Words about the Program

Cal Poly's Master of Arts Degree in History is tailored to students who want to pursue further graduate studies and careers in public history, education, museums and local or state government.

This two-year program takes students deep into particular cultures and eras and hones their command of historical research and analysis. The program also develops students' critical thinking, written and oral communication, and their understanding of the rich diversity of human experience.

Students in the program work closely with faculty mentors in seminars and in a range of independent projects. An introductory seminar to graduate studies prepares students for graduate seminars on topics in United States, European, East Asian, Latin American, African, Middle Eastern, and Comparative History.

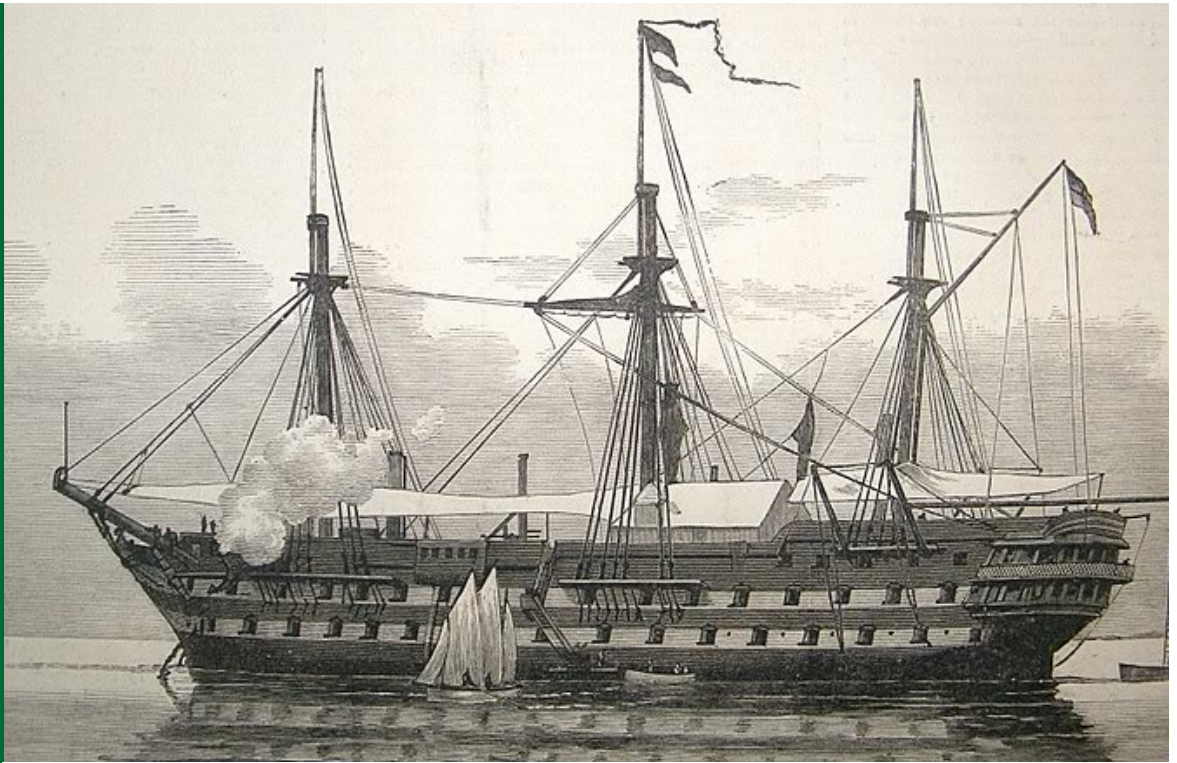
To finish their masters degree at Cal Poly, students undertake either original historical research, by writing a thesis, or deepen their expertise in two historical fields of their choice, through the comprehensive exams option.

The M.A. program focuses on rigorous historical methods while allowing students the flexibility to tailor their study to match their interests and meet their goals. The program's emphasis on practical application of skills and knowledge is reflected through the History Department's well-established internship program.

Cal Poly's M.A. History program supports lifelong learning and welcomes members of the community interested in continuing to study History.

FEATURING COURSES IN:

- AFRICAN HISTORY
- COMPARATIVE HISTORY
- EAST ASIAN HISTORY
- EUROPEAN HISTORY
- LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY
- MIDDLE EASTERN HISTORY
- UNITED STATES HISTORY
- WORLD HISTORY



Deadlines for applying to the History M.A. Program:

1 April for Fall Quarter

1 November for Winter Quarter

M. A. candidates returning to study at Cal Poly should consult the Admissions website for details: <http://admissions.calpoly.edu/applicants/returning/>

Before applying to the program, please visit the History Department website to familiarize yourself with faculty members' areas of expertise, course offerings, and contact information. If you are especially interested in working in one particular field, you may want to contact the professors offering courses in that field before making your final decision about applying to this program.

The History Department's website also offers detailed information about the application process: <https://history.calpoly.edu/MA-history/apply>



A. Minimum Requirements for Admission:

- Possession of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university.
- Grade point average of 3.0 or higher in the last 90 units of undergraduate course work.
- Previous coursework in History. (This may be waived at the discretion of the Graduate Coordinator.)
- Applicants whose preparatory education was principally in a language other than English will need to demonstrate English proficiency. This is typically done through the TOEFL exam.

Applicants without the requisite GPA or sufficient coursework in appropriate disciplines may be accepted on a *conditional* basis. Individuals admitted conditionally may be asked to enroll during their first quarter in either History 303: Research & Writing Seminar or History 304: Historiography. *Neither of these courses can be taken for graduate credit.*

B. How to Apply

Please submit your application and supporting materials via Cal State Apply. Please see the program website for detailed directions on how to apply. The application includes a statement of purpose, sample of scholarly writing, and letters of recommendation. If you have any questions about how to apply or about the status of your application, please contact the Grad Ed Office at grad@calpoly.edu or (805)756-2328.

C. Tips for Successful Applications

On Writing a Statement of Purpose: Begin with a brief paragraph to explain why you are applying to the History M.A. program and your post-M.A. program professional goals. Next, explain what you have done to prepare for this program, including classes taken, double major or minors that you had as an undergraduate that might contribute to your unique perspective of history, language skills, experience abroad, and relevant internship or job experience. Then, explain to the reader (i.e., members of the History Department Graduate Committee) what your plans are in the graduate program: Is there a field of study that you intend to focus on? Is there a research project that you are particularly interested in pursuing? Is there a professor with whom you would like to work? Finally, explain to the reader how this M.A. program in History at Cal Poly will contribute to your professional goals.

On Choosing a Writing Sample: Select an essay that shows off your research skills and one that has a strong thesis argument that is proven using primary sources (preferably). This paper should be cited properly with footnotes or parenthetical citations that include a variety of primary and secondary sources. Be sure to choose a paper that makes--and proves--a strong argument and one that you feel is a good example of your best written paper. It is more important that it reflect your skill as a writer than it be precisely the suggested page length.



HISTORY GRADUATE FACULTY

- Farah Al-Nakib (Ph.D. SOAS, Univ. of London)
Modern Middle East, Persian Gulf, Cities
- Brian Beaton (Ph.D. Univ. of Toronto)
Science, Technology & Society
- Kathleen Cairns (Ph.D. UC Davis)
U.S., California, Media, Women's History
- Lewis Call (Ph.D. UC Irvine)
Modern European Intellectual History
- Christina E. Firpo (Ph.D. UCLA)
Southeast Asia, Vietnam
- Paul J. Hiltbold (Ph.D. Univ. of Texas)
Europe, Spain, Renaissance & Reformation
- Matthew S. Hopper (Ph.D. UCLA)
Africa, Indian Ocean, World History
- Jason Linn (Ph.D. UC Santa Barbara)
Ancient Mediterranean, Medieval Europe
- Molly J. Loberg (Ph.D. Princeton)
Modern Europe, Germany, cultural, urban
- Andrew D. Morris (Ph.D. UC San Diego)
East Asia, Modern China & Taiwan
- Kathleen S. Murphy (Ph.D. Johns Hopkins)
Colonial America, Atlantic World, Science
- Andrea Oñate-Madrado (Ph.D. Princeton)
Modern Latin America
- Joel Orth (Ph.D. Iowa State)
U.S. History, Environmental History
- Anne Reid (Ph.D. Univ. of Southern California)
U.S. & Latin America, Borderlands, Gender
- James Tejani (Ph.D. Columbia)
19th Century U.S., American West, Pacific
- Thomas R. Trice (Ph.D. Univ. of Illinois)
Modern Europe, Russia

II. M.A. in History: Tracks

There are two tracks that a student may follow for the M.A. in History, each with a unique culminating experience. Track One (Comprehensive Exams) is open to all students. Track Two (Thesis) requires a minimum GPA of 3.7 in the History graduate program after completion of 24 units.

All students are encouraged to gain facility with a foreign language. Students working in a geographic area where English is not the language of the primary sources should have sufficient proficiency to read sources in their original language. The decision as to whether this is a requirement, rather than a desire, will be made by the student's M.A. Thesis Advisor, Examiner, and/or Graduate Coordinator.

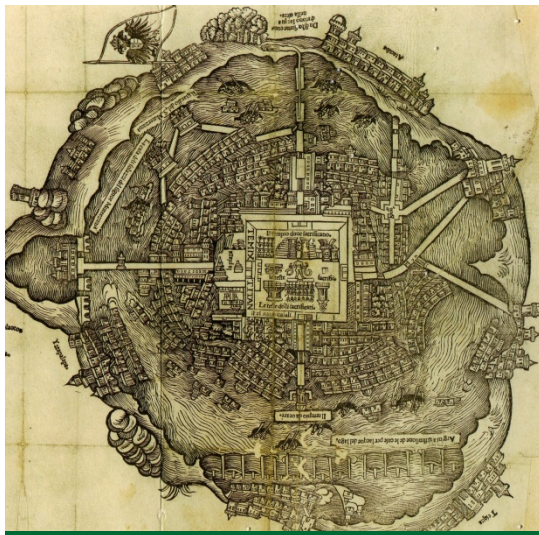
Track 1: Comprehensive Exams (48 Units)

- A. History 504: Graduate Study in History. 4 units.
- B. History Seminars (6 courses required, 4 units each). Each is repeatable up to 12 units. Total of 24 units. Chosen from:
 - HIST 505: Graduate Seminar in United States History
 - HIST 506: Graduate Seminar in European History
 - HIST 507: Graduate Seminar in East Asian History
 - HIST 508: Graduate Seminar in Latin American History
 - HIST 509: Graduate Seminar in African History
 - HIST 510: Graduate Seminar in Comparative History
 - HIST 511: Graduate Seminar in Middle Eastern History
- C. Graduate History Electives (4 courses at the 400 or 500 level). Total of 16 units.

Graduate students receive credit for 400-level courses that have not been counted toward a Cal Poly baccalaureate degree and that do not duplicate the subject matter of 500-level seminars. With the Coordinator's approval, 400- and 500-level courses outside of History may serve as electives (up to 8 units).
- D. History 512: Supervised Reading for Comprehensive Exams (2 sections required, 2 units each). Total of 4 units.

Course is to be taken twice, once in each Field of Study for the comprehensive examination. Requires consent of the professor supervising the comprehensive field and the Graduate Coordinator.

Students choosing Option One for their M.A. Degree will be examined in two topics, chosen from two different fields of study. This will ensure that they acquire a wide expanse of knowledge. Comprehensive exams may be taken from topics within seven general fields of study: U.S. History, European History, East Asian History, Latin American History, African History, Middle Eastern History, and Comparative World History.



EXAMINATION FIELDS

The main areas of study for Comprehensive Examinations are listed below. In consultation with their examining professors, students undertake intensive study in the historiographies of two specific fields (out of some three dozen fields currently offered) from these generally defined areas:

- AFRICAN HISTORY
- COMPARATIVE HISTORY
- EAST ASIAN HISTORY
- EUROPEAN HISTORY
- LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY
- MIDDLE EASTERN HISTORY
- UNITED STATES HISTORY

Students enrolled in History 512 will be responsible for mastering a reading list agreed upon by both the student and the examining professor. Typically these lists include around twenty books or articles relating to the chosen examination field.

Each comprehensive examination consists of essay questions dealing both with the larger field of study and one or more topics of concentration.

A. Procedures for Comprehensive Examinations

You must, a quarter before you plan to take either of your field exams, do the following:

1. Make sure that your FINAL FORMAL STUDY PLAN has been approved by the Graduate Coordinator.
2. Complete the APPLICATION FOR GRADUATION form, and submit it directly to the Graduate Education Office (52-D27).
3. Confer with the Graduate Coordinator to ensure that s/he completes the ADVANCEMENT TO CANDIDACY form. Before advancement can be approved, you must have at least a 3.0 GPA. Moreover, you must have passed or received credit for the Graduation Writing Requirement (see section IV.C) and met any additional requirements.
4. Demonstrate to the Graduate Coordinator, after review of these forms, that you are within one or two quarters of graduating. Hence, your Comprehensive Exams should be taken no earlier than your last or next-to-last quarters of graduate study.

After the Graduate Coordinator approves your FINAL FORMAL STUDY PLAN, APPLICATION FOR GRADUATION and ADVANCEMENT TO CANDIDACY, the forms will be sent by the Graduate Coordinator to the College of Liberal Arts Dean's Office, Graduate Education Office and Evaluations Office for final approvals. The Evaluation's Office will then send you a SUMMARY OF REMAINING MASTER'S DEGREE REQUIREMENTS.

PLEASE NOTE: All forms are available on Graduate Education's "Graduate Forms" page: <http://grad.calpoly.edu/checklist-forms/form.html>

B. Scheduling the Comprehensive Written Exam

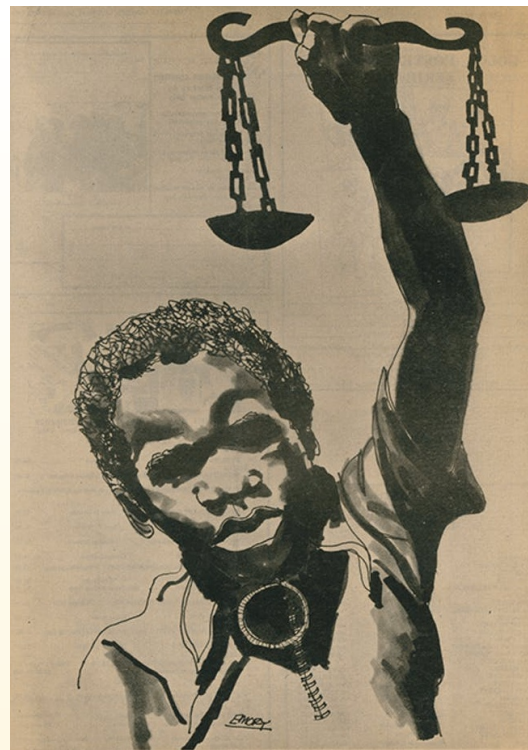
You must meet with the faculty member who has directed your work in each particular History 512 section. That professor will set up a time and place, and procedures, for you to take your Comprehensive Exam. It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to meet course requirements.

After you have completed the examination, it will be read by that professor, as well as by the Graduate Coordinator. After they have read the examination and consulted with one another, a grade will be assigned to the examination. Any grade below a “C+” is failing. With the approval of the directing professor and Graduate Coordinator, students who fail may retake the examination no later than one quarter after the failed exam. Students who fail a second comprehensive examination will be removed from the History M.A. Program.

C. What does the Comprehensive Written Exam Entail?

Each professor within a given area for the Comprehensive Exam will draw up her or his own exam. In general, at least two quarters before the examination, the student should ask the directing History 512 professor for a reading list for the comprehensive exam in that area. This list will include books and articles that the professor expects the student to have mastered prior to the examination. In addition, the student should complete a section of History 512 with the professor prior to the Comprehensive Exam. And, if at all possible, the student should have taken 400- and 500-level courses in the area of the Comprehensive Exam.

The examination will stress both understanding of the material and familiarity with central questions of interpretation, both within the geographical area and the specific topic. There is a range of exam formats, from a three-to-four-hour closed-book examination held in the department to a 24-hour open-book exam.





Track 2: M.A. Thesis (49 Units)

Requires the completion of at least 24 units with a minimum GPA of 3.7.

- A. History 504: Graduate Study in History. 4 units.
- B. History Seminars (5 courses required, 4 units each). Each is repeatable up to 12 units. Total of 20 units. Any five can be chosen from:
 - HIST 505: Graduate Seminar in United States History
 - HIST 506: Graduate Seminar in European History
 - HIST 507: Graduate Seminar in East Asian History
 - HIST 508: Graduate Seminar in Latin American
 - HIST 509: Graduate Seminar in African History
 - HIST 510: Graduate Seminar in Comparative History
 - HIST 511: Graduate Seminar in Middle Eastern History
- C. Graduate History Electives (4 courses at the 400 or 500 level). Total of 16 units.

Graduate students receive credit for 400-level courses that have not been counted toward a Cal Poly baccalaureate degree and that do not duplicate the subject matter of 500-level seminars. With the Coordinator's approval, 400- and 500-level courses outside of History may serve as electives (up to 8 units).
- D. History 599: Thesis (3 sections required, 3 units each). Total of 9 units.

Course is taken three times, over three separate quarters. Requires consent of the professor supervising the thesis and the Graduate Coordinator.



A. Procedures for M.A. Thesis

You must, the quarter that you take your second section of History 599, do the following:

1. Make sure your FINAL FORMAL STUDY PLAN has been approved by the Graduate Coordinator.
2. Complete the form, APPLICATION FOR GRADUATION, and submit it directly to the Graduate Education Office (52-D27).
3. Confer with the Graduate Coordinator to ensure that s/he completes the ADVANCEMENT TO CANDIDACY form. Before advancement can be approved, you must have at least a 3.7 GPA over your first 24 units in the M.A. program. Moreover, you must have passed or received credit for the Graduation Writing Requirement (see section IV.C) and met any additional requirements.

After the Graduate Coordinator approves your FINAL FORMAL STUDY PLAN, APPLICATION FOR GRADUATION and ADVANCEMENT TO CANDIDACY, the forms will be sent by the Graduate Coordinator to the Dean of Liberal Arts Office, Graduate Education Office and Evaluations Office for final approvals. The Evaluations Office will then send you a SUMMARY OF REMAINING MASTER'S DEGREE REQUIREMENTS.

PLEASE NOTE: All forms are available on Graduate Education's "Graduate Forms" page, at:

<http://grad.calpoly.edu/checklist-forms/form.html>

B. Deciding on a Thesis Topic and Course Work

Students should, after a year of coursework, decide what area of history they want to research. The student will, in consultation with the professor with expertise in that area and the Graduate Coordinator, decide upon an acceptable M.A. thesis topic. The student should then sign up, for each of the next three quarters for History 599: Thesis (3 units). In this course, the student will research and write the thesis, with the professor assigning a grade each quarter based upon the quality and timely submission of work that the student has completed for that quarter.

C. What is a M.A. Thesis?

The M.A. Thesis is an extended research paper, based upon extensive use of primary sources and comprehension of the existing historiography on the subject. Student theses should have an original interpretation or raise new questions about a subject. The thesis should be written in an accessible and compelling manner and will generally run between 80 and 100 pages in length, typed, double-spaced, including bibliography and appendices.

D. Thesis Defense and Final Copy

The finished M.A. Thesis will be read by the student's thesis advisor, by the Graduate Coordinator, and by a third faculty member. The third faculty member may be a professor in the department or outside, including professors from other universities who have special expertise in the student's research area. The student will meet with all of these individuals for a discussion and oral defense of the thesis that will last up to 2 hours. After the completion of the oral defense, the student will be told if s/he must make any changes to the thesis. These changes, if required, will then be reviewed by the student's advisor or the graduate coordinator. If everything is then found to be in order, the advisor will assign a final grade for the M.A. Thesis.

The M.A. degree will not be granted until the Thesis Editor in Graduate Education has approved the thesis. Therefore, students should be certain that the Thesis is prepared in accordance with the MASTER'S THESIS FORMATTING GUIDELINES, available at: <http://grad.calpoly.edu/thesis.html>

Students must post their completed M.A. Thesis to Cal Poly's Digital Commons: <http://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/>

III. Courses

A. Graduate History Courses

The precise nature of graduate seminars is decided by individual professors. All will be rigorous in terms of weekly readings; the norm is a historical monograph or several journal articles per week. Graduate seminars meet for four hours per week in order to discuss the works, and to reach a deeper understanding of the historiographical and interpretive issues involved with them. A significant portion of seminar grades is based on the quality of students' participation in class. Students must have their written and reading assignments done on time, and should come to class prepared with notes to help them discuss whatever reading or subject is assigned for that day. At the graduate level, shyness is no longer an excuse. Students are expected to participate with enthusiasm, to demonstrate their knowledge of the subject in both oral and written form, and to develop further their ability to enter into constructive and respectful intellectual discourse.

All graduate seminars also include rigorous writing assignments throughout the quarter and to conclude the seminar. Some courses will focus more on historiographic writing, while others will require research papers based upon both primary and secondary research and in the range of 20-30 pages, typed, double-spaced. Students in most seminars are asked to edit peers' written work, thereby gaining experience in the process of editing and giving constructive feedback to one's colleagues, and also engaging in a new level of intellectual conversation.



Course Descriptions:

HIST 500: Special Problems for Graduate Students. Individual investigation, research, studies, or surveys of selected problems. 1-4 units.

HIST 504: Graduate Study in History. Weekly reading and discussion course on practical methods and theoretical approaches to the study and writing of history. Seminar format. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in History or consent of instructor. 4 units.

HIST 505: Graduate Seminar in United States History. Intensive study of selected topics in United States history. Class Schedule will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 12 units. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in History or consent of instructor. 4 units.

HIST 506: Graduate Seminar in Modern European History. Intensive study of selected topics in Modern European history. Class Schedule will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 12 units. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in History or consent of instructor. 4 units.

HIST 507: Graduate Seminar in East Asian History. Intensive study of selected topics in East Asian history. Class Schedule will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 12 units. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in History or consent of instructor. 4 units.

HIST 508: Graduate Seminar in Latin American History. Intensive study of selected topics in Latin American history. Class Schedule will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 12 units. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in History or consent of instructor. 4 units.

HIST 509: Graduate Seminar in African History. Intensive study of selected topics in African history. Class Schedule will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 12 units. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in History or consent of instructor. 4 units.

HIST 510: Graduate Seminar in Comparative History. Intensive study of selected topics in comparative history. Class Schedule will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 12 units. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in History or consent of instructor. 4 units.

HIST 511: Graduate Seminar in Middle Eastern History. Intensive study of selected topics in Middle Eastern history. Class Schedule will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 12 units. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in History or consent of instructor. 4 units.

HIST 512: Supervised Reading for Comprehensive Exams. Directed supervision of M.A. reading for comprehensive exams. Regular consultation between advisor and student. Prerequisite: HIST 504 and 24 units of graduate study. Variable course content. 2 units each, has to be taken two times. Total of 4 units.

HIST 599: Thesis. Directed supervision of M.A. thesis. Regular consultation between advisor and student. Prerequisite: HIST 504 and 24 units of graduate study. 3 units each, to be taken three times. Total of 9 units.



B. 400-level Courses for Graduate Students

Graduate students may take up to four 400-level courses as electives in the M.A. Program. Graduate students receive credit for 400-level courses that have not been counted toward a Cal Poly baccalaureate degree and that do not duplicate the subject matter of 500-level seminars. Professors in these 400-level advanced undergraduate courses will expect higher quality work from graduate students.

NOTE: Students hoping to apply to Ph.D. programs should consider taking as their electives 500-level courses in History or in other M.A. programs at Cal Poly.

C. Teacher Education Courses

Present and prospective teachers are urged to take HIST 424: Organizing and Teaching History and HIST 425: History-Social Sciences Student Teaching Seminar. Students should also consider the following courses: EDUC 587: Educational Foundations and Current Issues and EDUC 589: Educational Research Methods. Courses outside of History can serve as electives (up to 8 units), as approved by the Graduate Director.

HIST 424 offers non-credential and credential pathways. The non-credential pathway is for those considering higher education and focuses on tasks such as writing learning outcomes, creating a syllabus, and developing course materials. Students considering a California teaching credential should wait and take HIST 424 once they are enrolled in the credential program.

If a student accepted into the History M. A. program wishes to pursue the teaching credential, s/he must file a Postbaccalaureate Change of Objective form. The application process goes through the Graduate Education Office (not through Admissions). S/he should also contact the History-Social Sciences credential advisor, Dr. Joel J. Orth (jorth@calpoly.edu), to discuss requirements for acceptance into the credential program.

HIST 424: Organizing and Teaching History. 4 units. Organization, selection, presentation, application, and interpretation of subject matter in history in secondary schools.

HIST 425: History-Social Sciences Student Teaching Seminar. 2 units. Supervised practicum for part-time and full-time student teachers in the Social Science Credential Program. Teaching techniques and strategies useful for addressing a wide range of issues that arise in grades 6-12 social science classrooms. Total credit limited to 8 units.

EDUC 587: Educational Foundations and Current Issues. 4 units. Historical, organizational, legal and philosophical characteristics of American education. Emphasis on the analysis of contemporary issues focusing on these characteristics. Course may be offered in classroom-based or online format.

EDUC 589: Educational Research Methods. 4 units. Introduction to research methodologies, application of inferential and descriptive statistics, critical analysis of research designs and data collection techniques.



GRADUATE EDUCATION CONTACT INFO:

Cal Poly Graduate Education
Building 52, Room D27
1 Grand Avenue
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407
(805)756-2328
grad@calpoly.edu

IV. Additional Academic Policies

A. Continuous Enrollment

Graduate students are required to maintain continuous enrollment from the time of first enrollment in the graduate program until completion of the degree. Continuous enrollment is defined as being enrolled during Fall, Winter, and Spring quarters each year. Students can maintain continuous enrollment either by: being enrolled as a regular student; obtaining approval for an education or medical leave prior to the quarter when such a leave would begin; or by registering in a special course designated for this purpose, during quarters in which they are not regularly enrolled. The special course, GS 597, is listed in the University catalog and is taken through Cal Poly Continuing Education. It is a one-unit course, at a cost of \$289 per unit, offered credit/no credit; and does not count toward degree requirements. Students who fail to fulfill this continuous enrollment requirement will be not be permitted to graduate—even if all degree requirements have been completed—until payment has been made for all quarters of non-enrollment. This requirement is not retroactive to terms prior to Fall 2009. In addition, ALL graduate students must be enrolled the quarter they graduate.

For further information on an educational or medical leave, consult the Office of the Registrar.

B. Course Load

There is no easily defined optimal course load, especially since many students in the M.A. Program have full-time jobs and/or other responsibilities. To remain in the program, as noted in the previous paragraph, you should take at least one course each quarter. Eight (8) units per quarter (at the 400 or 500 level) is considered full-time, and will help you complete your course work in an optimal fashion.

C. Graduation Writing Requirement

The Graduation Writing Requirement (GWR) is a CSU-mandated program designed to insure that students can write proficiently before they enter the professional work force. All Cal Poly students who are seeking a degree, including Master's degrees and teaching credentials, must fulfill the GWR. This degree requirement must be fulfilled before a diploma can be awarded. Some students will have passed the Graduate Writing Requirement as undergraduates at Cal Poly. Students from another CSU or University of California campus usually receive an automatic waiver; however, it is their responsibility to confirm this. Students who graduated from another U.S. college or university may request a waiver if they can demonstrate that they have passed an equivalent course at their undergraduate institution. Alternatively, they may opt to take the GWR exam. For more information please contact the Writing & Rhetoric Center.

D. Incomplete/In Progress Grades

Students will, as per university policy, have up to one year to remove an “RP” (Report in Progress) grade. However, a graduate professor may ask the student to sign a contract stipulating when the work must be turned in.

Students may not have more than two “I” (incomplete) grades on their record at any time. If they do, then they will be required to see the Graduate Coordinator to draw up a contract for the completion of the work in question.

E. Academic Probation and Disqualification

The M.A. will not be awarded to any student with a final grade point average below 3.0 for graduate level courses listed on the Formal Study Plan.

Academic Probation: If you fall below the minimum 3.0 GPA, you must meet with the Graduate Coordinator before enrolling for the next quarter and sign a probationary contract designating which courses you will take and the minimum grades that you must receive in order to remain enrolled in the graduate program. You will have two quarters to raise your GPA to the acceptable level.

Academic Disqualification: Failure to adhere to the exact provisions of the probationary contract will result in the student’s dismissal from the program.

Administrative Academic Disqualification: In addition to failure to maintain the minimum 3.0 GPA, students may be disqualified by campus authorities for repeated withdrawal from classes, noncompliance with an academic requirement, or other actions preventing them from making satisfactory progress toward the degree.

For additional information on these and related policies, please consult the *Graduate Education Handbook* available on the Grad Ed website.

F. Completion of Degree Requirements: Deadlines, Transfer Units

Students have seven years to complete the M.A. program. The clock begins once they have taken their first class counting towards the graduate degree.

Students may receive up to eight units for work completed as an undergraduate in courses that are included in the Graduate Study Plan. However, these courses can only count if the units were not major or GE graduation requirements. Also note that if course work taken as an undergraduate is included among the student’s courses for the M.A., then the seven-year limit for when the degree must be completed begins at that moment.

Students who were in a M.A. program elsewhere (without receiving a degree) may transfer 13 quarter units of coursework into the program at Cal Poly. The clock for completion of the degree will begin from the time the first of those courses was taken. Students must complete at least 35 units at Cal Poly to be eligible for their M.A. degree.

Students may also double-count 12 quarter units of coursework from the Cal Poly History-Social Science Credential Program. Here too, the clock for completion of the degree will begin from the time the first of those courses was taken.

Students doing a written thesis have up to three years to complete it. The clock on the thesis begins when they take their first section of History 599 Thesis.

G. Graduation with Distinction

Students pursuing either option may graduate with distinction if they have a GPA of 3.75 or higher and are graded as Distinguished on their M.A. Comprehensive Exams or M.A. Thesis.

H. Academic Integrity

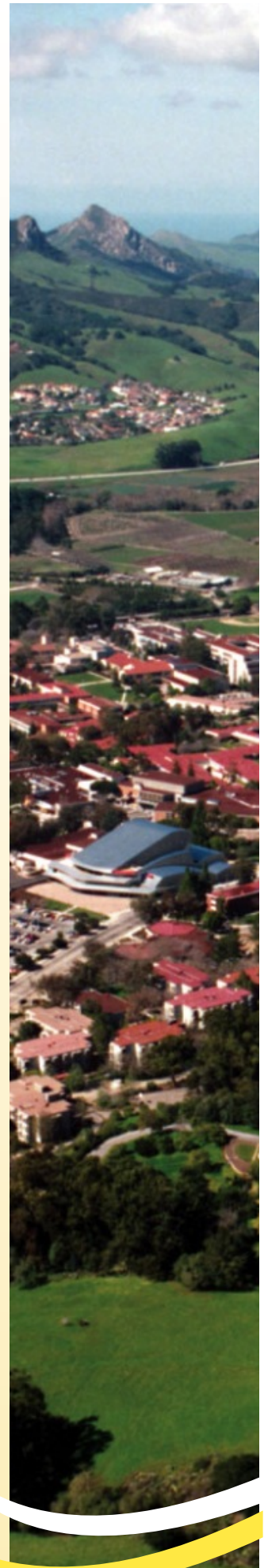
Students are required to follow university policies on academic integrity as set out in the Standards for Student Conduct. All instances of academic dishonesty are reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. The department strictly follows the definitions and procedures set out in Faculty Senate Resolution AS-722-10, dated 16 November 2010. In addition, the History Department maintains a zero-tolerance policy toward plagiarism and cheating in the graduate program. Cheating or plagiarizing in a comprehensive examination or master's thesis is grounds for expulsion.

I. Professional Standards

All successful applicants to the History M. A. program are expected to familiarize themselves with the American Historical Association's *Statement on Standards of Professional Conduct* (2018), available at: <http://demo.polr.me/7z>. Students enrolled in the Cal Poly History M. A. program are expected to maintain a professional code of conduct in the classroom and in the program as a whole.

V. Financial Aid and Graduate Resources

Graduate students will find information on financial aid, graduate and teaching assistantships, resident and non-resident tuition waivers, research awards, and graduate facilities at the Graduate Education Office's website, under the "Financial Resources" tab at right.



ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

We welcome your interest and participation in this program. If you have additional questions please direct them to the current Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Andrew Morris, at admorris@calpoly.edu or (805)756-2761.

PHOTO CREDITS

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Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

MASTER OF ARTS IN HISTORY

History Department
California Polytechnic State University
1 Grand Avenue
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407-0324

(805)756-2543 phone
(805)756-5055 fax