



Southeastern Louisiana University

## Master of Arts History

### PURPOSES

The purposes of the Department of History and Political Science are to:

1. Increase the students' knowledge, train them in proper scholarly methods of research and writing, and prepare them for more effective teaching and for further graduate study.
2. Instruct students in the study of the past.

The purposes of the Master of Arts (M.A.) in History program are to:

1. Train students for careers in school teaching, government service, and business.
2. Prepare students for doctoral studies in History.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

To be accepted for admission into the M.A. in History program, a student must:

1. Meet all University admission requirements.
2. Have satisfactorily completed at least 30 undergraduate hours of History.
3. Have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 (4.0 scale) for all undergraduate coursework attempted or a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 on all upper division undergraduate coursework attempted.
4. Score a minimum of 900 (combined verbal and quantitative scores) on the General Test of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

To be accepted for conditional admission into the M.A. in History program, students must:

1. Meet all University admission requirements.
2. Have satisfactorily completed at least 21 undergraduate hours of History.
3. Have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 (4.0 scale) for all undergraduate coursework attempted.

Students accepted for conditional admission into the program must make up any undergraduate deficiencies during their first semester in the program. Students must also take the GRE during the first semester and score a minimum of 750 (combined verbal and quantitative scores on the General Test) to remain in the program.

Applicants for admission and for graduate assistantships should submit completed application forms, transcripts, and GRE scores by April 1. Applicants received after that date will be accepted, but priority in awarding assistantships and in scheduling graduate classes will be given to those who meet the April 1 deadline.

## DEGREE/PLAN/CANDIDATE STATUS/APPLICATION FOR GRADUATION

To remain in good standing in the M.A. in History program, all students must:

1. Obtain the Graduate Coordinator's approval for an individual degree plan prior to registering for their first semester of graduate coursework. Changes in the degree plan may be made only with the Graduate Coordinator's approval.
2. Apply for status as a Candidate for the M.A. in History degree prior to completing 12 hours of graduate coursework.
3. Apply for graduation by the appropriate deadline for the semester in which they will graduate.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTERING FOR COURSES

To register for courses in the M.A. in History curriculum, students must:

1. Have an approved up-to-date degree plan on file with the Department of History and Political Science.
2. Obtain the Graduate Coordinator's written authorization prior to registration each semester. Advising for all graduate courses is mandatory. After receiving authorization, students will then be registered in the department office.
3. Register during the early registration period for each semester. All 600-level courses in the M.A. in History curriculum have waiting lists. Students who do not register during the early registration period will have their names removed from the waiting lists for these courses.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR THE HISTORY DEGREE

To receive the Master of Arts (M.A.) in History degree, students in the Thesis Option must:

1. Satisfactorily complete 36 hours of graduate coursework in the Thesis Option, as detailed below.
2. Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 on all coursework.
3. Satisfactorily complete the written and oral portions of the Comprehensive Examination.
4. Write a thesis and have it approved by the Major Professor and Thesis Committee.
5. Satisfactorily defend the M.A. thesis.
6. Submit at least 4 copies of the final approved version of the M.A. thesis to the Graduate Coordinator for binding by the Sims Memorial Library.
7. Be recommended for the degree by the Graduate Faculty.
8. Meet all requirements for the M.A. in History degree within 6 years of enrolling in the M.A. in History program.

To receive the Master of Arts (M.A.) in History degree, students in the Non-Thesis Option must:

1. Satisfactorily complete 36 hours of graduate coursework in the Non-Thesis Option, as detailed below.
2. Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 on all coursework.
3. Satisfactorily complete the written and oral portions of the Comprehensive Examination.
4. Be recommended for the degree by the Graduate Faculty.
5. Meet all requirements for the M.A. in History degree within 6 years of enrolling in the M.A. in History program.

#### Required Courses, Thesis and Non-Thesis Option

History 600 — Historical Research .....	3 hours
History 605 — Seminar in American History to 1800 .....	3 hours
History 606 — Seminar in American History 1800-1900 .....	3 hours
History 607 — Seminar in American History since 1900 .....	3 hours
History 625 — Seminar in British History .....	3 hours
History 626 — Seminar in European History to 1500 .....	3 hours
History 627 — Seminar in European History since 1500 .....	3 hours
History 630 — Seminar in the History of Western Thought .....	3 hours

#### Thesis Option

Requires 12 additional hours from courses listed below, including 6 hours of History 770.

May include 6 hours in Political Science or Philosophy for a minor (see Minor Field, below).

History 602 — Readings OR	
History 621 — Independent Study .....	3 hours
History 610 — Seminar in Southern History .....	3 hours
History 611 — Seminar in Louisiana History .....	3 hours
History 698 — Seminar in Selected Topics in History .....	3 hours
History 770 — Thesis .....	6 hours
Political Science 500 or 600 level courses* (no more than 6 hours) OR	
Philosophy 500 level courses* (no more than 6 hours) .....	6 hours

**Non-Thesis Option**

Requires 12 additional hours from courses listed below.

May include 6 hours in Political Science or Philosophy for a minor (see Minor Field, below).

History 602 — Readings OR	
History 621 — Independent Study .....	3 hours
History 610 — Seminar in Southern History .....	3 hours
History 611 — Seminar in Louisiana History .....	3 hours
History 655 — Seminar in History and Government for Teachers .....	3 hours
History 698 — Seminar in Selected Topics in History .....	3 hours
Political Science 500 or 600 level courses* (no more than 6 hours) OR	
Philosophy 500 level courses* (no more than 6 hours) .....	6 hours
Total required and elective hours for Thesis and Non-Thesis Options ....	36 hours

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\*Only students who choose a minor field may take Political Science or Philosophy electives.

**Thesis Option.** The Thesis Option is required for all students who plan to pursue study beyond the M.A. degree. In some cases it may be taken by students who do not plan to pursue study beyond the M.A. degree. Students will be allowed to enter the Thesis Option only with the Graduate Coordinator's consent. The thesis is a major work of independent research into primary sources on an original topic, supervised by the student's Major Professor and Thesis Committee.

**Non-Thesis Option.** The Non-Thesis Option may be taken only by students who do not plan to pursue study beyond the M.A. degree. The Department of History and Political Science considers an M.A. in the Non-Thesis Option to be a terminal degree and will not recommend students in the Non-Thesis Option to doctoral programs.

**Minor Field.** Students may choose a minor field in either Political Science or Philosophy. The minor requires 6 hours in either discipline and must be approved by the Graduate Coordinator.

**Works-in-Progress Seminar.** All students enrolled in the M.A. in History program are required to attend a monthly Works-in-Progress Seminar at which faculty, graduate students, and visiting scholars present the results of ongoing research for books, articles, or M.A. theses. This promotes a greater sense of community among faculty and students, allows participants to present their own work in a congenial atmosphere and benefit from their colleagues' constructive criticism, and gives students experience with the scholarly give-and-take that occurs at professional conferences and in thesis defenses.

**Comprehensive Examination.** During their last semester of graduate coursework, students must satisfactorily complete a written and oral Comprehensive Examination, based on all graduate coursework completed and in progress. The written portion of the exam will consist of mandatory questions from all faculty with whom students have done coursework. The oral portion of the exam will be held only after students have passed the written portion. The panel of examiners for the oral portion will include all members of the graduate faculty. Students who fail any part of the Comprehensive Examination must retake that part within one year of the original exam and satisfactorily complete it or face dismissal from the program. Students who fail the Comprehensive Examination a second time will be dismissed from the program.

**Thesis Defense.** Prior to graduation students in the Thesis Option must defend their theses before a forum of graduate faculty and graduate students. Before being recommended for graduation, students must receive approval for their theses from the Department Head, Graduate Coordinator, Major Professor, and Thesis Committee members, who may solicit advice from other members of the graduate faculty.

**Attendance at Thesis Defenses.** All students enrolled in the M.A. in History program are required to attend at least one thesis defense per semester. This gives authors of theses the audience they have earned, helps students in the Thesis Option prepare for their own defenses, and allows students in the Non-Thesis Option to join in the community of scholars.

**Thesis Style and Binding.** The thesis must conform to the format of the most recent edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style*. Students must submit at least 4 copies of the final approved version of the thesis to the Graduate Coordinator for binding by the Sims Memorial Library.

## GRADUATE FACULTY

All faculty in the Department of History and Political Science (including Philosophy faculty) who are members of the University Graduate Faculty are members of the department's graduate faculty. They are eligible to teach graduate courses, supervise theses, serve on Thesis Committees, and participate in Comprehensive Examinations. Regular graduate faculty status must be renewed every four years by the University Graduate Council. Temporary graduate faculty status must be renewed annually; adjunct faculty must be renewed each semester.

## **GRADUATE COORDINATOR**

The Graduate Coordinator serves as academic advisor for all graduate students, supervises their progress toward the M.A. degree, approves all graduate degree plans, and authorizes all students for registration in courses in the M.A. curriculum. The Graduate Coordinator supervises the work of all departmental graduate assistants. The Graduate Coordinator serves as the department's representative on the College of Arts and Sciences Graduate Committee and on the University Graduate Council.

## **MAJOR PROFESSOR**

Students in the Thesis Option will be assigned a Major Professor to supervise the research and writing of their theses. The Graduate Coordinator will assign the Major Professor, with the latter's consent, on the basis of his/her expertise in the field in which a particular student chooses to write the thesis. The Graduate Coordinator serves as Major Professor for all students in the Non-Thesis Option.

## **THESIS COMMITTEE**

Students in the Thesis Option will have a Thesis Committee consisting of the Major Professor and two additional members of the graduate faculty. The Graduate Coordinator and Major Professor will choose the committee members, with the consent of the latter, on the basis of their expertise in the field in which the particular student wishes to write the thesis.

## **GRADUATE FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

All graduate faculty in the Department of History and Political Science shall serve as members of the Graduate Faculty Advisory Committee. This committee must approve any changes in the M.A. curriculum, must approve the awarding of all graduate assistantships, and after each semester shall determine whether or not each student will be permitted to continue in the M.A. program.

## **GRADUATE ASSISTANTS**

Graduate assistantships are awarded by the Graduate Faculty Advisory Committee on the basis of merit, with faculty recommendations, undergraduate GPA, History GPA, and GRE scores the primary factors considered. Graduate assistants are contractual employees who work under the supervision of the Graduate Coordinator. Applicants should submit all application materials (see "Requirements for Admission") by April 1.