

HIS MA Curriculum Proposal

To be effective Fall 2018

[CGS Agenda Item: 17-90](#)
[Effective Fall 2018](#)

The History Department proposes three changes to its curriculum:

1) The department would like to change two of its three areas of concentration, from European and Modern World to Premodern World (pre-1700) and Modern World (post-1700). The US area of concentration will remain unchanged. There are three reasons this curricular change will better serve our students:

- a) In light of recent retirements and in anticipation of future hires, this reconfiguration will redistribute our course offerings into more robust concentrations that draw on our faculty's scholarly strengths.
- b) The change also reflects trends in the discipline that has become more transnational in focus and that has decentered Europe as a field of study.
- c) The changes will bring the face-to-face option and the online option in line in terms of the organization of coursework and the adoption of the proseminars (see below.)

2) The department is also adopting HIS 5800: Proseminar in US History, HIS 5810: Proseminar in Premodern World History, and HIS 5820: Proseminar in Modern World History as requirements for the face-to-face option, for the following reasons:

- a) These courses will provide greater curricular consistency within the three areas of concentration.
- b) We will have more uniform expectations for student comprehensive exams with a more systematic and clearly articulated set of content-area learning goals, which will be shared with students.

Note: these courses are already approved courses in the catalog.

3) It is necessary to offer new special topics numbers that reflect the new concentrations: HIS 57101, HIS 57102 and HIS 57201, HIS 57202.

- a) The department regularly offers courses under special topics numbers. Currently, European special topics are offered under the HIS 5400 number (regardless of time period.) HIS 5700 is the number for world history (regardless of time period.) We are proposing HIS 5710 (Seminar in Premodern History) and HIS 5720 (Seminar in Modern History). HIS 5700 (Seminar in World History) will continue to be offered as the special topics number for diachronic courses (that is, courses that cover both periods, such as Dr. Key's Early Modern European Societies and Cultures special topics, last offered in Spring 2013.) Courses such as HIS 5430: Modern German History would now be considered an elective in the modern world concentration.
- b) These special topics numbers are crucial for us to continue offering new content that responds to changing scholarship and student interest and maintains flexibility in our curriculum. Because students may not take a special topics course more than twice, we must have two numbers for each seminar.

Proposed Catalog Changes for MA in History, Thesis and Non-Thesis Options

Program Mission: In addition to furthering their knowledge of United States, ~~European~~ **Premodern World**, and **Modern** World History through reading and research, students in the graduate program in history develop their skills in writing and critical thinking. The Master of Arts in History prepares graduates to pursue teaching, research (in government, business, or academia), and further graduate study.

Admission Requirements: To be eligible for degree candidacy, applicants must meet all of the requirements for admission to the Graduate School (see "[Admission to Graduate Degree and Certificate Programs](#)"). Additional requirements include completing an application from the appropriate History Department Graduate Coordinator, submitting a statement of professional goals, and two confidential letters of recommendation. Admission to the graduate program in History requires a minor in history or its equivalent. Students must have written approval of the department prior to counting any graduate-level course (outside Eastern Illinois University's History Department) toward graduate credit.

Degree Audit: The graduate plan of study is the EIU Degree Audit, which is generated automatically in the Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS) at the time of degree or certificate candidacy. Modifications of the standard EIU Degree Audit are submitted by the graduate coordinator to the certification officer in the Graduate School at the time modifications are approved. The Degree Audit serves as an unofficial summary of requirements for the program. Degree and certificate candidates are advised to review the comprehensive summary of the Degree Audit process specified on the "Requirements for All Degree and Certificate Candidates" section of the *Graduate Catalog*. Individual programs may require candidates to submit plans of study in addition to the Degree Audit, candidates should consult with the program coordinator.

Plan of Study Approval: For the Master of Arts in History, the student chooses during the first month of course work **major and minor concentrations in consultation with the graduate coordinator, who also helps the student identify members of an examination committee in those fields of concentration** ~~a history professor to head the student's exam committee in his or her intended concentration.~~ **The coordinator must approve the student's plan of study.** The student should meet with the committee head (as well as the ~~advisor~~ **coordinator**) from time-to-time to monitor exam progress. The student must also contact professors who agree to serve as exam committee members based on the student's concentration at that time.

Concentrations for the Master of Arts in History:

~~European~~ **Premodern World** Concentration:

The majority of course work on the study plan must be in European **and world history before c. 1700 CE and must include HIS 5810** ~~History and two.~~ **Two** exam committee members must be chosen from professors who are ~~European~~ **Premodern** specialists. (Written exams are to cover ~~Medieval/Early Modern to Modern~~ **ancient to early modern history**). The minor field will be United States or **Modern** World History. **Students must take either HIS 5800 or HIS 5820, depending on the minor field.**

United States Concentration:

The majority of course work on the study plan will be in United States History **and must include HIS 5800** ~~and two.~~ **Two** exam committee members must be chosen from professors who are United States specialists. (Written exams are to cover colonial period to present). The minor field will be ~~European~~ **Premodern** or **Modern** World History. **Students must take either HIS 5810 or HIS 5820, depending on the chosen minor field.**

Modern World **Concentration:**

The majority of course work on the study plan must be in ~~non-western~~ Modern World History (~~history since c. 1700, including at least six courses in nonwestern history, two courses in European history, and one course in U.S. history~~ **excluding U.S. history**) and must include HIS 5820. Two exam committee members must be chosen from professors who are specialists in ~~African, Asian, or Latin American history~~ **modern history (exclusive of US History)**. (Written exams are to cover from 18th-century to present.) The minor field will be ~~Premodern or United States History. Students must take either HIS 5810 or HIS 5800, depending on the chosen minor field. Written exams are to cover from 18th century to present.)~~ There is no minor field requirement.

Degree Requirements

"[Requirements for the Master's Degree](#)"). In addition, all candidates for the Master of Arts in History without the ~~Historical Administration Option~~ **Online Option for Teachers** must pass a written comprehensive examination in the student's concentration and an oral comprehensive examination in both concentration and minor field upon completion of all course work, and submit a graded and revised research paper and a bibliography of works read during their graduate studies.

Curriculum for the Master of Arts in History with Thesis

Total with Thesis. Credits: 30

- Approved History courses numbered 4750 or higher. Credits: 21 (See footnote *)
- [HIS 5000 - Historiography](#). Credits: 3
- Two of the following: HIS 5800 Proseminar in US History, HIS 5810 Proseminar in Premodern World History, HIS 5820 Proseminar in Modern World History: Credits 6

Curriculum for the Master of Arts in History without Thesis

Total. Credits: 32

- Approved History courses numbered 4750 or higher. Credits: ~~29~~ **23** (See footnote *)
- [HIS 5000 - Historiography](#). Credits: 3
- Two of the following: HIS 5800 Proseminar in US History, HIS 5810 Proseminar in Premodern World History, or HIS 5820 Proseminar in Modern World History: Credits 6

Footnotes

The coordinator may approve a limited number of hours outside of history if the candidate can demonstrate that it is necessary to his/her goals.

Graduate Assistantships

Information on graduate assistantships may be obtained by contacting the Coordinator of Graduate Studies or Chair, Department of History, 2740 Coleman Hall, EIU.

New Catalog Language (without markup)

Program Mission: In addition to furthering their knowledge of United States, Premodern World, and Modern World History through reading and research, students in the graduate program in history develop their skills in writing and critical thinking. The Master of Arts in History prepares graduates to pursue teaching, research (in government, business, or academia), and further graduate study.

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Concentrations for the Master of Arts in History:

Premodern World Concentration:

The majority of course work on the study plan must be in European and world history before c. 1700 CE and must include HIS 5810. Two exam committee members must be chosen from professors who are Premodern specialists. (Written exams are to cover ancient to early modern history). The minor field will be United States or Modern World History. Students must take either HIS 5800 or HIS 5820, depending on the minor field.

United States Concentration:

The majority of course work on the study plan will be in United States History and must include HIS 5800. Two exam committee members must be chosen from professors who are United States specialists. (Written exams are to cover colonial period to present). The minor field will be Premodern or Modern World History. Students must take either HIS 5810 or HIS 5820, depending on the chosen minor field

Modern World Concentration:

The majority of course work on the study plan must be in Modern World History (history since c. 1700, excluding U.S. history) and must include HIS 5820. Two exam committee members must be chosen from professors who are specialists in modern history (exclusive of US History). (Written exams are to cover from 18th-century to present.) The minor field will be Premodern or United States History. Students must take either HIS 5810 or HIS 5800, depending on the chosen minor field.

Degree Requirements

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