M.A. Program in World History

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

World History M.A. students must complete a total of 32 points of course work (8 courses at 4 points each).

- Methods and Approaches to World History, HIST-GA 2168 4 points
- MA Proseminar, HIST-GA 2022 or any advanced level history seminar that includes an emphasis on theory and method associated with historical research and writing. 4 points
- A course covering comparative or transnational themes associated with world history. 4 points
- Elective courses (3 in major field and 2 in the minor field)* 20 points

**Total** 32 points

* Students wishing to write a Master’s Thesis may fulfill the elective requirement in one of two ways:

  (1) Complete the Master’s Thesis independent study course, HIST-GA 3019, three courses in the major field, and one course in the minor field; or

  (2) Complete the Master’s Thesis independent study course, HIST-GA 3019, two courses in the major field, and two courses in the minor field.

**Major and minor regions.** Students must undertake the study of two regions of the world, one of which will be designated the major field and one as the minor. Available regions are Africa, East Asia, South Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, and North America. Students must elect at least one field outside of Europe and North America

**Language requirement.** Students must also demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language that has direct relevance to their area of study. The choice of language must be approved by the student’s advisor. Students may satisfy proficiency by either passing the proficiency examination in the language given by the Graduate School of Arts and Science or by having earned a grade of B+ or better in an intermediate or advanced language course in a college or university no more than two years prior to enrollment. Exceptions may be made, by which a student’s adviser may specify some other procedure to demonstrate sufficient competence.
**Capstone.** For a capstone project, students will complete either a Masters Essay or an M.A. Thesis:

1. **The Masters Essay** is a rewrite (a developed and improved version) of 15-30 page research paper in the student’s major, minor, transnational fields, or resulting from work in the M.A. Proseminar that has earned a grade of ‘A-’ or above. Students are responsible for meeting with the professor with whom the course was taken to discuss substantial improvements. Students will submit their Masters Essays, together with the original version of the paper (containing the grade and comments of the course instructor) to the director of the World History M.A. program in the semester before graduation.

Full-time students in the Master of Arts in World History program must declare their intention to write an M.A. Essay by the end of their first semester at NYU. Part-time students must do so by the end of their second semester. It is the responsibility of the student to be in touch with the faculty member for whom he or she wrote the M.A. Essay and to establish timelines and parameters for the re-write. Every M.A. Essay will be read by the instructor for whom the student originally wrote the paper.

2. **The M.A. Thesis** is an original piece of historical scholarship that builds a strong and compelling original argument based on a comprehensive knowledge of the appropriate primary and secondary sources. The thesis option provides an opportunity for students in New York University’s M.A. in World History program to build their skills as historians while engaging in rigorous independent scholarship under the mentorship of a member of the Department of History. The goal in writing the M.A. thesis is to produce a polished article-length work with the potential for publication.

Full-time students in the Master of Arts in World History program must declare their intention to write a thesis by the end of their first semester at NYU. Part-time students must do so by the end of their second semester. Students who choose to write a thesis will do so under the direction of a member of the Department of History at NYU with whom they have taken (or intend to take) a course. It is the responsibility of the student to find an advisor and to establish timelines and parameters for the project. Student should schedule regular meetings (every 3 or 4 weeks as needed) with their advisors, who will serve as sounding boards during the research and writing process. Every M.A. thesis will be read by two readers: the advisor and a second reader. Students will select a second reader in consultation with the primary advisor. The second reader may be from outside of the Department of History. In the final semester, students writing M.A. theses must register for the Master’s Thesis independent study course, HIST-GA 3019, with their advisor (4 credits).

The World History M.A. thesis should touch upon themes developed in the core courses of the M.A. in World History program. There should be strong evidence of primary-source research. The final presentation should be in the range of 30 to 50 pages, including notes and bibliography. The thesis must be entirely the student’s own work with all sources (primary and secondary) carefully cited. The presentation, including bibliography and notes, should follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*. Once the thesis has been submitted and read, a thesis-defense will be scheduled. During this meeting, the student will present and explain the findings of the thesis while answering questions about the content and argument from members of the thesis committee.