



**Master's Program Specialization in
World History
M.A. HANDBOOK**

2018-2019

Table of Contents

Administration & Personnel	3
Program Overview & Requirements	4
Thesis Guidelines	6
Events & Series	8
GSAS Master's College	8

Administration

Program Director: Professor Thomas Truxes

Chair: Professor David Ludden

Director of Graduate Studies: Professor Andrew Needham

Graduate Program Administrator: Chelsea Rhodes

Department Manager: Karin Burrell

Assistant to the Chair: Maura Puscheck

Undergraduate Program Assistant: Jackie Menkel

Graduate Program Assistant: Latoya Coleman

Director of the Master's College/Assistant Dean of GES: David Giovannella

Personnel

Director of the World History M.A. Program: The Director serves as the initial advisor to all students entering the World History M.A. Program. Students should stay in close touch with the director regarding their course of study and all matters relating to the completion of program requirements.

Director of Graduate Studies (DGS): The Director of Graduate Studies is responsible for the overall management of the Graduate Program. The DGS is the final arbiter of the regulations of the program, which are outlined in the bulletin of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. The DGS has the authority to make exceptions to departmental regulations. The DGS does not, however, have the authority to make exceptions to GSAS rules. The DGS can petition on behalf of the student, but such exceptions, including extensions of time to degree, late completion of incompletes, or missing any other deadline of the Graduate School, are in the prerogative of the Dean of the Graduate School and the assistant deans.

Graduate Program Administrator: The day-to-day administration of the program is the responsibility of the Graduate Program Administrator. Questions a student may have about rules, deadlines, grant opportunities, or minor bureaucratic problems should be directed to the Program Administrator. If the issue or problem requires faculty advice or approval, the Program Administrator will advise the student to talk either with her or his advisor or the DGS. The Program Administrator is also the communications center for the department. Make sure that the Program Administrator has your current mailing addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses. The Program Administrator can also direct students to funding opportunities, job notices, and the like.

Graduate Program Assistant: The Department Assistant is responsible for the practical aspects of registration: providing registration materials and the permission codes by which students officially register. The Department Assistant helps maintain student records and information for the Graduate Program Office, including rosters, listservs and keeping the website up to date.

Program Overview

The Master of Arts Program in World History introduces students to the methods and approaches used by scholars to study global and transnational history. It also engages students in comparative and thematic work exploring the history of at least two world regions. This program is aimed at those who are seeking a historical perspective on the increasingly interconnected global society in which we live.

Program Requirements

The core curriculum depends on the student's choice of pursuing either the "M.A. Essay Track" or the "M.A. Thesis Track."

The M.A. Essay Track includes eight one-semester courses (32 credit points), comprising two core courses, one "transnational" course, three courses in a major field of study, and two courses in a minor field of study. In addition, students in this track will present a masters essay, and demonstrate reading knowledge of a foreign language relevant to their work.

The Masters Essay is a rewrite (a developed and improved version) of a semester-length paper that has earned a grade of 'A-' or above in one of the courses taken by a student in the World History M.A. program. Students will submit their master's 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.

The M.A. Thesis Track likewise includes eight one-semester courses (32 credit points), comprising two core courses, one "transnational" course, three courses in a major field of study, and two courses in a minor field of study.

Students opting for the M.A. Thesis Track will undertake the writing of a master's thesis (a scholarly research project under the supervision of a thesis advisor) in lieu of one of the courses in their major or minor fields of study. Students in this track will also demonstrate a reading knowledge of a foreign language relevant to their work.

In their coursework, students will undertake study of two regions of the world, one of which will be designated as the major field and one as the minor. The 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.

All students enrolled full-time are expected to complete their course work in three semesters, including meeting the foreign language requirement. They will qualify for the degree when their masters essay or thesis has been completed and approved. Part-time students will be allowed to stretch the program out over a maximum of six semesters. Students may petition to substitute one course that does not fit the above program if their special needs, interests, or background justify it. All course substitutions must be approved by the Program Director and submitted to the Graduate Program Administrator.

The M.A. in the World History is a 32-credit program. Students will take the following set of courses:

Curriculum Requirements – Essay Track	
M.A. Proseminar - HIST-GA 2022	4 pt
Methods and Approaches to World History - HIST-GA.2168	4 pt
3 electives in the major field of study	12 pt
2 electives in the minor field of study	8 pt
1 course covering comparative or transnational themes	4 pt
Master’s Essay	
Foreign Language Requirement	
Total: 32 points	

1. “M.A. Pro-seminar” (HIST-GA 2022). The seminar provides students with a general introduction to the professional study of history (4 credits).
2. “Methods & Approaches to World History” (HIST-GA 2168). This course provides an introduction to world history as a research field. Readings and discussions focus on various conceptual approaches to world history, including comparative history, the study of the global political economy, and the history of empires (4 credits).
3. Three history electives in the major field of study. These may be courses offered by our core faculty or, with approval, courses offered by faculty from across the university and beyond (12 credits).
4. Two history courses in the minor field of study. Like the electives in the major field of study, these courses should be selected according to students’ interests in order to deepen their historical expertise (8 credits).
5. One course covering comparative or transnational themes (4 credits).
6. Master’s Essay. The master’s essay is a rewrite (a developed and improved version) of a semester-length paper that has earned a grade of ‘A-’ or above in one of the courses taken by a student in the World History M.A. program. Students will submit their master’s 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.

Curriculum Requirements – Thesis Track	
M.A. Proseminar - HIST-GA 2022	4 pt
Methods and Approaches to World History - HIST-GA 2168	4 pt
3 electives in the major field of study	12 pt
2 electives in the minor field of study	8 pt
1 course covering comparative or trans-national themes	4 pt
Master's Thesis (in lieu of one elective course)	
Foreign Language Requirement	
Total: 32 points	

M.A. Thesis Guidelines

1. Students must write the M.A. thesis under the direction of a faculty thesis advisor. The advisor is to be chosen from among the program's core faculty. By the end of the first semester, students should select an advisor whose research and teaching interests correspond with their own planned area of focus.
2. Students should begin meeting with their advisor to plan the thesis a semester in advance (normally in the first semester of the second year).
3. In the final semester, students must register for an independent study course (HIST-GA 3019) with their advisor (4 credits). This is the thesis credit. Students should schedule regular meetings (every 2, 3, or 4 weeks as needed) with the advisor, who will serve as a sounding board during the research and writing process.
4. Every M.A. thesis will be read by two readers. Students should select a second reader in consultation with their primary advisor. The second reader should normally be selected by the beginning of the final semester.
5. Once the thesis has been submitted and read by the thesis advisor and second reader, an oral thesis defense will be scheduled. During this one-hour meeting, the student will present and explain the findings of the thesis and answer questions about content and argument from the two members of the thesis committee.
6. Content: The thesis should present the results of original primary-source research in the student's chosen area of geographic and chronological expertise. (In the case of research on sources written in languages other than English, the research should be conducted in the original language.) The thesis should offer a clear argument supported by the citation

of sources and the listing of archival and bibliographical materials in a manner consistent with standards appropriate for historical research.

7. Scope: The thesis should present a full review of the relevant scholarly literature on the topic selected *and* present original arguments and analysis based on the primary-source research.
8. Length: The thesis should be 30 to 50 pages long.
9. Originality: The thesis should be entirely the student's own work. All primary and secondary sources should be carefully cited to avoid any appearance of plagiarism. Students are responsible for knowing and following university policies on academic integrity.
10. Style: Notation should follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

Thesis Deadlines

1. End of 3rd semester: choose topic with aid of advisor.
2. Start of 4th (final) semester: select second reader.

Spring Term

1. APRIL 1ST BY 12PM: FINAL DEADLINE for submission of thesis to readers.
2. MAY 1ST BY 12PM: Thesis defense should be scheduled. It is the student's responsibility to coordinate this with the advisor and second reader.
3. LAST DAY OF SPRING CLASSES BY 12PM: All requirements, **including thesis defense**, must be met by the last day of classes. It is the student's responsibility to coordinate this with the advisor and second reader. FINAL DEADLINE to submit **two signed reader sheets**, and **one copy of the final thesis with signed title page** to the Graduate Program Administrator.

For Fall Term

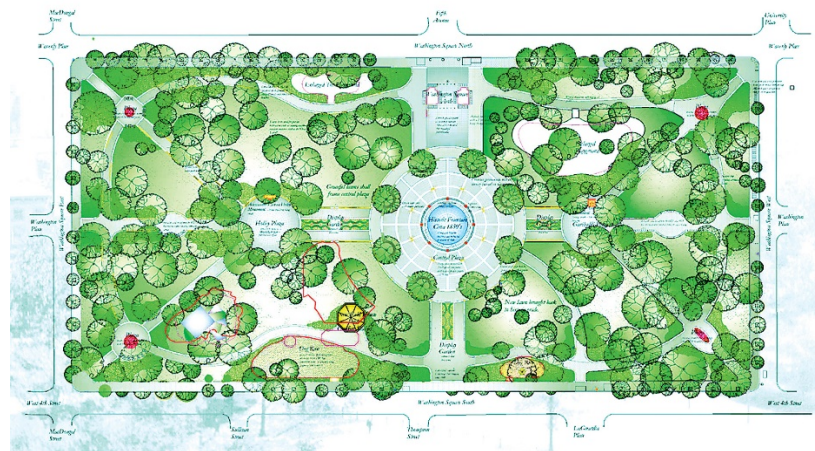
1. NOV 1ST BY 12PM: FINAL DEADLINE for submission of thesis to readers.
2. DECEMBER 1ST BY 12PM: Thesis defense should be scheduled. It is the student's responsibility to coordinate this with the advisor and second reader.
3. LAST DAY OF FALL CLASSES: All requirements, **including thesis defense**, must be met by the last day of classes. It is the student's responsibility to coordinate this with the advisor and second reader. FINAL DEADLINE to submit **two signed reader sheets**, and one copy of the **final thesis with signed title page** to the Graduate Program Administrator.

Events & Series: The NYU Department of History offers many recurring series and events throughout the academic year. Please stay attuned to the History Department's listserv emails and newsletters that contain information on workshops and other events.

The GSAS Master's College: The Graduate School of Arts and Science's Master's College provides access to information, advisement, and resources for prospective and current master's students as they focus on their scholarly, professional, and personal development. Founded by Dean Emeritus Catharine R. Stimpson in 2007, the Master's College is an innovative initiative in higher education which demonstrates our commitment and dedication to master's education and students. We work with NYU campus-wide offices and GSAS academic departments and programs to provide the highest quality master's education. We host a variety of academic events, including thesis competitions, career-planning seminars, and grant-writing workshops. The Master's College also plans social events to give students a chance to meet colleagues from other departments in a convivial and welcoming atmosphere.

The Master's College recruits students to participate on the Master's College Program Board, a group of current master's students from diverse backgrounds who create, plan, and host events for their fellow students. Its mission is to enhance the educational experience of GSAS master's students by providing activities that build a sense of unity across the NYU global community.

The above represents only a modest sampling of student life, and all incoming students are encouraged to ask other students and faculty for more information. Of course, you are encouraged to attend lectures and seminars and perhaps join at least one student association.



Washington Square Park