

Graduate Coursework

Major Fields and Graduate Seminars

The master's degree candidate should choose one major field of concentration from the following areas: U.S. History, European History, and World History (including Asia, Middle East, Africa, and Latin America).

Those who select U.S. History as their major field may include in their total program up to two public history courses, including internships.

Graduate seminars are of two types: readings (5000-level) and research (6000-level).

The Readings Seminar is designed to introduce to the graduate student a body of literature specific to a broad conceptual framework focusing on a region, topic, or time period. It provides students with an overview of the changing interpretations in a particular area over time. These seminars require some type of analytical or interpretive paper.

The Research Seminar requires graduate students to conduct primary research and to prepare a major, original research paper on some specific aspect of the seminar's focus, and exchange results through presentation and discussion.

Directed Independent Study

(DIS) gives graduate students the opportunity to investigate a particular topic in greater detail under the direction of a full-time faculty member. Students interested in taking a DIS should approach the prospective faculty member at least several weeks before the semester in which the DIS is to be conducted starts. At this time the students and faculty member complete the DIS registration form and submit it to the History Department Office along with a syllabus that includes assignments, meeting schedule (weekly or bi-weekly) and criteria used for grading. These materials must be finalized and submitted no later than during the add/drop period during the first week of classes. Students may not register for a DIS without securing the instructor's approval, and faculty members will only conduct a DIS that corresponds within their own specialties. *DIS courses require regular meetings between students and instructors, and cannot be conducted long-distance.*

There are two types of Directed Independent Study (DIS) courses offered at the graduate level. HIS 5906 parallels the regular readings seminars and involves a concentrated, individualized program of study on a topic not normally offered as a course. Students often write annotated bibliographies and historiographic essays in these. HIS 6909 parallels the regular research seminar course, with thesis-track students completing a significant research project associated with the thesis topic. This DIS cannot be used to conduct thesis research but constitutes a course separate from, even if related to, the actual thesis topic. Students on the non-thesis track will engage in a significant research project resulting in the writing of a scholarly paper for this DIS. *Graduate students may take one DIS that counts for credit within their program. Any additional DIS courses will*

be counted for credit but will not fulfill any additional requirements for the M.A. degree. For additional information regarding DIS requirements please consult the Director of Graduate Studies.