



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

The Abbreviated Handbook for MA Students Department of History

Updated 16 Nov 2015

This is a brief summary of the major requirements of the MA program.

Course Work

Our Master's program was designed with several goals: to introduce students to the craft of studying, researching, and writing history; to build key components of students' thesis projects into their required course work; and to enhance the sense of scholarly community among graduate students. All MA students are required to take 9 credit units of courses: HIST 881.3 (T1): Historiography; HIST 883.3 (T1): Historical Research Methods; and HIST 884.3 (T2): Historical Writing. Also, if recommended by the student's advisory committee, students may take HIST 860.6: Ethnohistory Fieldschool (as a substitute for Hist 883.3).

You must also register for HIST 994 Research (Thesis) and maintain registrations in this course until your program is completed. This means registering in Term 1 (Sept-Dec), Term 2 (Jan-Apr) and spring/summer Term (May-Aug).

As well, you must register for the HIST 990 Colloquium in Term 1 and Term 2 until you complete the colloquium requirement and receive a CR (credit). You do not need to register for HIST 990 in spring/summer terms.

In addition, you are required to take the on-line Ethics course(s). GSR 960_Intro Ethics and Integrity is required by all students as part of your program requirements, to be taken within the first term. GSR 961_Ethics and Integrity in Human Research is required by students who are conducting research that will involve human subjects.

Thesis Advisory Committee, Preparation, and Defense

The thesis is prepared in close consultation with your supervisor. You will also be assigned an advisory committee, consisting of your supervisor and two other members (usually but not always faculty from the Department of History). The Advisory Committee will review your thesis proposal (which should be completed in Term 1 of your first year) and offer suggestions for improvement.

When your supervisor feels that your thesis is ready for defense, it will be submitted to the Advisory Committee for consideration. They must agree that it is ready for defense before it can go forward. Only at that point will it be sent to the external examiner (usually a faculty member from another department at the University of Saskatchewan).

The defense of a Master's thesis takes approximately three hours. In attendance will be the Advisory Committee, the external examiner, and a representative of the Graduate Committee. Graduate students and faculty in the History Department and faculty members in the CGSR are also welcome to attend. You will be asked to make a brief statement about your thesis and research of approximately 15 minutes). Two rounds of questions will follow, each led by the external, followed by the thesis committee. After the question period is over, you will be asked to leave the room while the committee deliberates. Once you return, the committee will inform you of its recommendations.

Language Requirements

You are required to prove your competence to read a language other than English, to be determined by your Advisory Committee. If English is your second language you are not required to pass a language examination unless another language is needed for your research. You must pass a language competency examination before you can defend your thesis. The examination is usually given by a member of the department in Term 1 and consists of translations from the language to English. You may attempt the language examination as many times as is needed to pass it. Alternatively, you may register for a French language course (INCC 801) offered in Term 2 with no additional tuition or fees required. This course counts towards your language requirement if a pass grade is obtained.

990 Colloquium

Students must attend and present papers at the Graduate Colloquium. Your presentation (which should be circulated to graduate students and faculty at least one week in advance) will be based on a chapter of your thesis. Typically, these presentations will be delivered in February of the second year of the program.

Funding and Teaching Assistantships

The department has various levels and sources of funding. All eligible students are expected to apply for external funding (from SSHRC or equivalent) in each of their first two years in the program. The Department will hold a workshop in September to advise students about such applications. Departmental scholarships are valid for the first two years provided that the recipient maintains acceptable progress in the program. The other major forms of funding are Graduate Teaching Fellowships (GTFs) and Graduate Research Fellowships (GRFs). Decisions about scholarships are made by the Graduate Committee. Decisions about teaching assistantships are made by the Chair of the Department in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies. The Department also has some funds for student research travel which you can apply for each January.

RECOMMENDED TIME LINE

Year One, Term One

- HIST 881.3: Historiography (complete historiography section of thesis)
- HIST 883.3: Historical Research Methods (write SSHRC proposal and thesis proposal)
- Advisory Committee must approve thesis proposal
- Write language exam

Year One, Term Two

- HIST 884.3: Historical Writing (complete one chapter of thesis)
- Complete French language course, if necessary

Summer

- Work on thesis research and writing

Year Two, Term One

- Meet with advisory committee and complete progress report (by November)
- Complete all research and rough draft of thesis (by December)

Year Two, Term Two

- HIST 990: Present chapter of thesis at colloquium in February
- Revise thesis chapters and present full draft to advisory committee
- Prepare for thesis defense