



EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY

Master of Arts in History

PROGRAM ORIENTATION



Thesis Option

The thesis option requires 30 credits & Defense of a thesis:

First Semester (9 credits): HIST 5950 Intro to Research (Fall Semester) and two graduate seminars. (If you begin in the spring your required courses are 5940 and then 5950).

Second Semester (9 credits): HIST 5940 Historiography (Spring Semester) and two graduate seminars. **Select a thesis committee (usually three professors).**



Third Semester (6 credits): Two seminars plus **HIST 5990** Reading & Research gets you to 9 credits and eligibility for a Full or Half-GA. Financial Aid (student loans) requires enrollment in six credits that count towards the degree. 5990 does not count, it is not part of our degree program, so only 6-credits count toward program completion.

Fourth Semester (6 credits): One seminar and **HIST 5960** (thesis). GA students only need six credits in their final term for eligibility, and both the thesis and another class are necessary to complete the 30-credit requirement. **Culminating Event: Thesis Defense.**

Note: Thesis students generally begin work on the project over the summer before their second year in the program. A thesis is an original contribution to the scholarship in your field based upon primary sources and an understanding of the existing scholarship.

Non-Thesis Option*

The non-thesis option requires 39 credits to complete. Normal schedule:

First Semester (9 credits): HIST 5950 Intro to Research (Fall Semester) and two graduate seminars. (If you begin in the spring your required courses are 5940 and then 5950).

Second Semester (9 credits): HIST 5940 Historiography (Spring Semester) and two other classes.

Third Semester (9 credits): Three or four graduate seminars decide which professors will be on your Comprehensive Exam Committee. **Select a Exam Committee of three professors and submit to History Department.**

Fourth Semester (12 credits): Three or four graduate seminars.

Culminating Event: Comprehensive Exam (Written and Oral) - The form for exam on MA in History Website only. Do not use forms on the Grad School webpage.

Note: The 12-credits can be taken any semester although most students wait until the final semester.

GRADUATE SEMINARS

History graduate seminars are 5000 level or above.

All students must complete HIST 5950 (research) and 5940 (historiography). Thesis students must also take 5960 (thesis) in their final semester.

HIST 5010 - graduate-only seminars focused on American history.

HIST 5020 - graduate-only seminars focused on European history.

HIST 5030 - graduate-only seminars focused on the rest of the world.

HIST 5xx7 - classes of all different types. They are called “split-level” classes because they have an undergraduate section (5xx6 or 5xx7). The university limits the number of split-level courses you can take.

HIST 5990 reading and research is a class that allows thesis student to maintain continuous enrollment or eligibility for a GA. It does not count towards graduation requirements. Thesis students can take it their third semester and students who do not complete the program in two years take the course for continued enrollment until they finish.

HIST 5019: One credit Supervised Teaching course required for all students with a GA.

HIST 5019 – Supervised Teaching

A D2L site will be set up for this course, which is online only. You must be enrolled in the course if you are receiving a GA from the Department of History.

Successful completion HIST 5019 will be described by the coordinator each semester. Consider these courses professional development.

The grade you will receive on GoldLink and your transcript will be Pass or Fail.

LIMITED COURSES & TIMELINES

No more than 30% of your courses that count towards graduation can be split-level (5xx7/5xx6) courses. For the thesis track this means three (3) and for non-thesis students only four (4) split-level seminars.

No more than 30% of your courses that can come from independent studies (HIST 5900). Three for non-thesis four for split-level.

Half or Full Graduate Assistantships, or a combination thereof are granted for two years only.

Once you have completed two years in the program you must be continuously enrolled in Thesis/Dissertation or Readings and Research credit until you finish, including the summer.

There is a six-year matriculation limit on earning your master's degree at ETSU. You have six years to earn your degree. Afterward, courses dated six years old or older must be revalidated or retaken for those credits to count toward graduation.

How You Receive a GA Assignment

Before classes begin the coordinator will ask professors if they need help from a Full or Half-GA.

Based on the department's needs, students are assigned to work with professors who need assistance.

You will then receive an email that is copied to the professor letting you know your assignment.

After you receive the email, contact the professor immediately regarding expectations for the semester.

If the professor's courses or requirements conflict with your course schedule let the coordinator know right away.

SERVICE AS A GRADUATE ASSISTANT

You may be asked to assist in the classroom with grading, attendance, office hours, review sessions, classroom management, etc. Some faculty will need help with their scholarship or other professional tasks. You are considered an employee of ETSU so familiarize yourself with the GA handbook – especially the section on interaction with undergraduates.

If you wish to teach, consider also enrolling in GRAD 5110 Teaching Pedagogy for the Graduate Assistant through the Graduate School.

You are not required to step in for the instructor of record – you can be asked and can agree, but you are *not* required to do so.

GAs should not perform personal chores for a professor.

Your work or services should not exceed the 10 or 20 hours of your contract. You can agree to few more hours one week and a few less the next, but constantly exceeding your contracted hours is unacceptable.

If you have concerns about your GA requirements, have problems with your assignment, or feel uncomfortable about a task contact the coordinator right away.

FINANCIAL AID

Federal Financial Aid: Regulations require that students enroll in at least six credit hours that count toward the program of study. Just enrolling in the requisite number of hours is not enough – the classes must count toward completing the MA program. If you receive an email from Financial Aid, contact the coordinator immediately.

GA recipients must maintain enrollment of at least nine credit hours to be eligible for their award. In your final semester you may and probably will be eligible to enroll in six hours. We can discuss individual cases as applicable.

Students with Full GAs are required to work 20 hours a week. Half-GAs must perform 10 hours of service per week. Both receive a stipend and must submit a monthly time sheet to payroll. A Full GA covers all and a Half-GA half tuition.

A current Half-GA may apply for a full GA if a position becomes available (look for this during the spring). Both are only offered for the two years you are in the program. Neither is extended if you do not complete the program.

Department Accommodations & Events

Department mailbox. Each of you has a mailbox in the department office **119 Rogers-Stout Hall**. Check it as regularly as possible.

ETSU email. The department and Graduate School will only use your ETSU account. Respond to emails regularly – especially those directed to you.

Graduate Student Lounge. You will have new responsibilities and demands on your time. Time management is key, and there is no right or wrong way to manage your time. You can relax or work in the Grad student lounge, room **126 Roger-Stout Hall** (get your key from Ms. Woodring in the main office).

Events. The history department, Appalachian Pre-modernists, Women's Studies, and other programs host events each semester. Watch for announcements!

Research funds. We will talk about funding in Intro to Research and there are links on our program webpage to funds available through the Graduate School, Phi Alpha Theta, Department of History, and other sources on and off campus.

ENJOY GRADUATE SCHOOL

Take this opportunity to study topic(s) in history that interest you with professors and others interested in the same subject(s). Whether you plan to work in the academy or not, for the next two years become an historian.

Enjoy a thriving department and campus – join the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA), attend events (sports, guest speakers, department gatherings, conferences, and other extracurricular activities).

Get to know other MA in History students, join committees, and take advantage of benefits that student fees help pay for like the Culp center, the Center for Physical Activity (CPA), and graduate spaces in the Sherrod Library.

Speak regularly with faculty and mentors. **Read and respond to emails!**

Take pride in what you do and with whom you do it. Work at crafting scholarly prose and editing your work (even emails).

Cherish the Department of History and scholars at ETSU.
Enjoy the next two years and

GIVE YOURSELF A CHANCE TO SHINE!



KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE PRIZE!!!

