

## **Africa Graduate Field Requirements UCLA Department of History**

### **MA Degree**

**(History does not grant a terminal Master's. The MA degree can be earned en route to the Ph.D.)**

### **Foreign Language Requirement**

Students in the African history field must demonstrate proficiency in at least one foreign language by passing a departmentally administered exam which will be administered by a faculty member and proctored by the History Graduate Office or via Education Testing Services in European languages and UCLA internal assessment in African language. The student will have 90 minutes for the exam, and they are allowed to bring their own dictionary. In cases where the field deems it appropriate, course work or alternate languages may be used to fulfill the language requirement, subject to the approval of the field coordinator and faculty adviser. The course work option would only be available for less frequently taught languages and the student should have 'B' or better in the course work.

### **Course Requirements**

The department requires a minimum of nine upper division and graduate courses in history (36 units), at least six (24 units) of which must be graduate courses. All students must successfully complete the 36 units (normally nine courses) taken for a letter grade (unless only offered S/U). The six graduate courses must include at least one continuing two- or three-quarter research seminar which must include the preparation of a substantial research paper. When appropriate to specific research interests and scheduling exigencies, upon successful petition to the Field Coordinator, students may substitute courses within their two-quarter seminars. A one-quarter seminar followed immediately by the next quarter with a directed studies course (HIST 596) may replace the required two-quarter seminar. The two-quarter seminar(s) (and/or seminar with course substitution) must culminate in a substantial research paper at the end of the second quarter.

History 495 and courses in the 300 series are not applicable toward course requirements. All students may use up to a maximum of two History 596 courses for both the total course requirement and the minimum six graduate (200-series) course requirement. Note: only one of the two 500-series courses may be applied toward the total degree requirements without petitioning the field coordinator or faculty advisor and when appropriate the Vice Chair of Graduate Affairs.

For students in African history, six of the nine required courses must be at the graduate level, only one course in the 500 series may count and none in the 300 or 400 series will be counted. In addition to enrolling in History 204 (Fall seminar), first year students in African History are strongly encouraged to enroll in African Studies 201A, and inter-disciplinary seminar offered by the Interdepartmental Degree Program in African Studies each fall quarter. This course could substitute for a History 200/201 during the first quarter of study in the graduate program.

### **Capstone Plan**

The African field requires a four-hour comprehensive examination to be completed in May of the second year of study. Students entering the program with an M.A. degree must complete the examination by May of the first year or second year of study. Students entering with an M.A. in African Studies or African History are exempt from this examination requirement. The student is allowed one retake which should be taken within a month of the first attempt.

## Africa Graduate Field Requirements

### PHD Degree

#### **Foreign Language Requirement**

African History: Students must demonstrate proficiency and pass an examination in at least two languages, one of which must be an African language. In cases where the field deems it appropriate, course work or alternate languages may be used to fulfill the language requirements, subject to the approval of the field coordinator and faculty adviser. The student who chooses the course work option should have a grade of 'B' or better.

#### **Course Requirements**

All incoming students are required to complete History 204 (Fall seminar) and complete at least one continuing two- or three-quarter seminar, which must include the preparation of a substantial research paper (two continuing two-quarter seminars are required for students in History of Science and U.S. history). When appropriate to specific research interests and scheduling exigencies, upon successful petition to the Field Coordinator, students may substitute courses within their two-quarter seminars. A one-quarter seminar followed immediately by the next quarter with a directed studies course (HIST 596) may replace the required two-quarter seminar. The two-quarter seminar(s) (and/or seminar with course substitution) must culminate in a substantial research paper at the end of the second quarter. A maximum of eight units of HIST 596 may be used for all fields. Note: Only one of the two 500-series courses may be used without petitioning the field coordinator or faculty advisor and when appropriate, the Vice Chair of Graduate Affairs.

#### **Written and Oral Qualifying Examinations**

*Academic Senate regulations require all doctoral students to complete and pass university written and oral qualifying examinations prior to doctoral advancement to candidacy. Also, under Senate regulations, the University Oral Qualifying Examination is open only to the student and appointed members of the doctoral committee. In addition to university requirements, some graduate programs have other pre-candidacy examination requirements. What follows in this section is how students are required to fulfill all of these requirements for this doctoral program.*

*All committee nominations and reconstitutions adhere to the [Minimum Standards for Doctoral Committee Constitution](#).*

#### *All Fields*

Students with outstanding incomplete grades may not be permitted to sit for the written and oral qualifying examinations. The written qualifying examination must be passed before the oral qualifying examination can be taken. Students must begin the written qualifying examinations no later than the end of the ninth quarter of graduate study. To be eligible to sit for their qualifying examinations, student must have completed all their course work and language requirements.

#### *African Field*

##### Written Qualifying Examination

Students must produce a substantial research paper based, at least in part, on primary sources prior to taking the Ph.D. qualifying examinations. Students must pass an eight-hour written examination to be taken no later than the end of the ninth quarter of the program.

##### Oral Qualifying Examination

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The oral examination must be completed within a period not exceeding six months from the passing of the written examination. The oral qualifying examination has three basic components: (1) a return to issues raised in the written qualifying examinations; (2) an oral examination by the committee members in the two outside fields; and (3) a defense of the written doctoral research prospectus.