

Latin American 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 Latin American 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. The student will have 90 minutes for the exam, and they are allowed to bring their own dictionary. In cases where the field coordinator and faculty adviser deem it appropriate, certain accredited language courses can fulfill the requirement, such as Quechua, Nahuatl or Haitian Creole.

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.

Students in Latin American History must complete a two-quarter research seminar (History 266, 267, 268). The completion of two graduate seminars in the same subfield (colonial or modern) may be applied to satisfy the two-quarter research requirement if a relevant two-quarter seminar has not been offered during a student's term of pre-candidacy (i.e., within two to three years).

Capstone Plan

The department follows the capstone plan. Individual fields specify the fulfillment of the examination requirement by (1) a written examination designed to assess the candidate's ability to synthesize a broad field of knowledge; or (2) the submission of three essays as part of the candidate's program of study written for at least three different professors. At least two of these papers must have been submitted for graduate courses in the 200 series.

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PHD Degree

Foreign Language Requirement

Latin American History: Students in the Latin American field should demonstrate fluency in Spanish or Portuguese and proficiency in a second language, including Spanish, Portuguese, French, or an indigenous language. In cases where the field deems it appropriate, course work may be used to fulfill the language requirements, such as Nahuatl or Quechua, in accordance with the student's particular research interests and subject to the approval of the field coordinator and faculty adviser.

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.

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Written Qualifying Examination

The written qualifying examination is administered by the student's principal adviser, focusing on the subfield (colonial or modern) in which the student is specializing. The chair provides three questions and the student is asked to write on two of them. The examination normally consists of two broad, substantive questions which do not overlap with content covered in the dissertation prospectus. The written examination should be taken at least one week before the oral examination. The written exams are a take home exam, and the student has 24 hours to write them. There is no length

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requirement. The essays are read by the chair of the committee who determines whether they pass or not. The chair will then inform the committee member before the oral examination.

Oral Qualifying Examination

The oral qualifying examination focuses on questions and issues related to the dissertation prospectus, which must be distributed to members of the committee at least two weeks before the date of the examination. The oral exam should be taken within one month of the written exam.