HISTORY

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M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.

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Associate Professors  Jennifer Allen, Rohit De, Marcela Echeverri Muñoz, Anne Eller,
Hussein Fancy, Crystal Feimster, Andrew Johnston, Isaac Nakhimovsky, Vanessa Ogle,
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Senior Lecturer  Jay Gitlin

FIELDS OF STUDY

Fields include ancient, medieval, early modern, and modern Europe (including Britain,
Russia, and Eastern Europe), United States, Latin America, East Asia, South and
Southeast Asia, Middle East, Africa, Jewish history; and diplomatic, environmental,
ethnic, intellectual, labor, legal, military, political, religious, social, and women’s
history, as well as the history of science and medicine (see the section in this bulletin on
the History of Science and Medicine).

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PH.D. DEGREE

Language Requirements

All students must pass examinations in at least one foreign language by the end of
the first year. Students are urged to do everything in their power to acquire adequate
linguistic training before they enter Yale and should at a minimum be prepared to be
examined in at least one language upon arrival. Typical language requirements for
major subfields are as follows:
African Either (1) French and German or Portuguese or Dutch-Afrikaans; (2) French or German or Portuguese and Arabic; or (3) French or German or Portuguese or Dutch-Afrikaans and an African language approved by the director of graduate studies (DGS) and the faculty adviser.

American One language relevant to the student’s research interests approved by the adviser and DGS.

Ancient German and either French or Italian and two ancient languages, one of which must be Greek or Latin and the second of which can be either the second classical language or another ancient language (e.g., Hebrew, Aramaic/Syriac, Demotic, Coptic, Classical Armenian, Sanskrit).

Chinese Chinese and Japanese; additional languages like French, Russian, or German may be necessary for certain dissertation topics.

East European The language of the country of the student’s concentration plus two of the following: French, German, Russian, or an approved substitution.

Global/International Two languages to be determined by the DGS in consultation with the adviser.

Japanese Japanese and one additional language, as approved by the student’s adviser and the DGS.

Jewish Modern Hebrew and German, and additional languages such as Latin, Arabic, Yiddish, Russian, or Polish, as required by the student’s areas of specialization.

Latin American Spanish, Portuguese, and French.

Medieval French, German, and Latin.

Middle East Arabic, Persian, or Turkish (or modern Hebrew, depending on area of research) and a major European research language (French, German, Russian, or an approved substitute).

Modern Western European (including British) French and German; substitutions are permitted with the approval of the DGS.

Russian Russian plus French or German with other languages as required.

South Asia One South Asian language and a second relevant research language, whether another South Asian or a European or Asian language.

Southeast Asian Choice of Dutch, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Sanskrit, or Arabic, plus one or more Southeast Asian language (e.g., Bahasa Indonesian, Burmese, Khmer, Lao, Malay, Tagalog, Thai, Tetum, or Vietnamese). In certain cases, Ph.D. dissertation research on Southeast Asia may also require knowledge of a regional or local language, e.g., Balinese or Cham.

Foreign students whose native language is not English may receive permission during their first year to hand in some written work in their own language. Since, however, the dissertation must be in English, they are advised to bring their writing skills up to the necessary level at the earliest opportunity.
Additional Requirements

During the first year of study, students normally take six term courses, including Approaching History (HIST 500), which is required of first-year students. During the second year of study, they may opt to take four to six term courses, with the approval of their adviser and the DGS. One of these courses must be the Prospectus Seminar (HIST 501), which is required of second-year students. The ten courses taken during the first two years should normally include at least six chosen from those offered by the department. Students must achieve Honors in at least two courses in the first year, and Honors in at least four courses by the end of the second year, with a High Pass average overall. Courses graded in the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory mode (HIST 998) count toward the coursework requirement but do not count toward the Honors requirement. Courses that count for less than one full credit per term do not count toward the coursework requirement, including EMST 700 and EMST 800 for those in the combined program with Early Modern Studies.

Two of the ten courses must be research seminars in which the student produces an original research paper from primary sources. The Prospectus Seminar (HIST 501) does not count as a research seminar. All graduate students, regardless of field, will be required to take two seminar courses in a time period other than their period of specialty.

Students in their second year should choose their courses so that at least one course will prepare them for a comprehensive examination field. Some fields offer reading seminars specifically designed to help prepare students for examination; others encourage students to sign up for Directed Reading (HIST 998) with one of their examiners. Students should, in consultation with their major field examiner and the DGS, register for Field Studies (HIST 525), which is a half-credit course and does not count toward the coursework requirements.

Students should discuss the following options with their advisers before choosing one:

Option 1 Students take exams during the fourth semester of graduate study (i.e., the second semester of year two). The Comprehensive Statement of Intention Form must be submitted by the end of the third semester.

Option 2 Students take exams during the fifth semester of graduate study (i.e., the first semester of year three). The Comprehensive Statement of Intention Form must be submitted by the end of the fourth semester.

Students in good academic standing may, with adviser approval, request scheduling comprehensive examinations in the sixth semester.

All students must submit the Comprehensive Statement of Intention Form by the end of the fourth semester.

Students will have a choice of selecting three or four fields of concentration: a major field and either two or three minor fields. The examination must contain one minor field that deals fifty percent or more with the historiography of a region of the world other than the area of the student’s major field. The examination will have a written component that will be completed before the oral component. For their major field, students will either write a historiographical essay of 8,000 words, maximum, or
prepare a syllabus for an undergraduate lecture class in the field; this is to be decided in consultation with the major field examiner. For each of the minor fields, the student will prepare a syllabus for an undergraduate lecture class in the field. All of these are to be written over the course of the examination preparation process and will be due not less than two weeks prior to the oral portion of the examination. The oral examination examines the students on their fields and will, additionally, include discussion of the materials produced for the written component of the examination. For those students who choose two minor fields, the major field will be examined for sixty minutes and the minor fields will be examined for thirty minutes each. For those students who choose three minor fields, each field will be examined for thirty minutes.

In order to advance to candidacy, all students must pass a prospectus colloquium. This should be completed by the end of the sixth term. The prospectus colloquium offers students an opportunity to discuss the dissertation prospectus with their dissertation committee in order to gain the committee’s advice on the research and writing of the dissertation and its approval for the project. The dissertation prospectus provides the basis of grant proposals.

Both the comprehensive examinations and the prospectus colloquium must be held by the end of the sixth term.

Completion of ten term courses (including HIST 500 and HIST 501), the language requirements of the relevant field, the comprehensive examinations, and the prospectus colloquium will qualify a student for admission to candidacy for the Ph.D., which must take place by the end of the third year of study.

It is also possible for students who have completed extensive graduate work prior to entering the Yale Ph.D. program to complete course work sooner. Students may petition for course waivers based on previous graduate work (up to four term courses) only after successful completion of the first year.

Students normally serve as teaching fellows during four–six terms to acquire professional training. Ordinarily, students teach in their third year and two subsequent years. During their first term of teaching, students must attend training sessions run by the Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning and work with the associate director of graduate studies to discuss any matters of concern. Students in more advanced years may have the opportunity to teach as associates in teaching (ATs), in conjunction with a faculty member, or by leading discipline-specific writing seminars on their own. Both options are available only through a competitive process. Interested students should consult with their advisers and the DGS for further information.

By the end of their ninth term, students are required to submit a chapter of their dissertation to the dissertation committee. This chapter will then be discussed with the student by the committee, in a chapter conference, to give the student additional advice and counsel on the progress of the dissertation. This conference is designed to be an extension of the conversation begun in the prospectus colloquium and is not intended as a defense. Its aim is to give students early feedback on the research, argument, and style of the first writing accomplished on the dissertation.

No less than one month before students plan to submit their dissertations, a relatively polished full draft of the dissertation should be discussed with the student by the
dissertation committee, in a dissertation defense of one to two hours, to give the
students additional advice and counsel on completing the dissertation or on turning
it into a book, as appropriate. Students are required to submit the draft to their
committee in sufficient time for the committee to be able to read it (approximately one
month). This defense is designed to give students advice on the overall arguments and
the final shape of the dissertation or book, and to leave time for adjustments coming
out of the discussion.

The fellowship package offered to Ph.D. students normally includes twelve months of
fellowship support for two terms of research and writing without any teaching duties.
With the approval of the academic adviser and the DGS, students may choose to take
the fellowship terms at any point after they have advanced to candidacy and before
the end of their sixth year. Students are prohibited from teaching during research and
writing fellowship terms.

Students who have not submitted the dissertation by the end of the sixth year need not
register in order to submit. If, however, students wish to register for a seventh year
for good academic reasons, they may petition for extended registration. The petition,
submitted to the History DGS, will explain the academic reasons for the request.
Only students who have completed the first chapter conference will be considered for
extended registration.

EVALUATION OF FIRST- AND SECOND-YEAR GRADUATE
STUDENTS
At the end of each term, the DGS will ask faculty members whether they have serious
concerns about the academic progress of any first- or second-year students in the Ph.D.
program. Faculty members who have such concerns will provide written feedback to
the DGS at the DGS’s request. The DGS will use discretion in ensuring that feedback
is provided in a clear and effective manner to any students about whom there are
concerns. We expect such concerns to be rare.

Toward the end of the academic year, the History faculty will hold a special meeting to
review each first- and second-year student in the program. The purpose of the meeting
is to assess students’ academic progress. In order for second-year students to proceed to
the third year, they must demonstrate through written work, classroom performance,
and participation in departmental activities that they have the ability to: (a) speak
and write clearly; (b) conduct independent research at a high level; and (c) develop
coherent scholarly arguments. A faculty vote will be taken at the conclusion of the
review meeting to decide whether each second-year student may stay in the program.
In the unusual case that a majority of faculty present and voting determine that a
student may not continue, the student will be informed in writing and withdrawn from
the program. The review meeting must be a full faculty meeting, but faculty members
with no knowledge of the students under review may abstain from the vote, and their
abstentions will not count in the total. Those members of the faculty who have worked
with or know the students being evaluated are required to attend. In the event that any
necessary faculty members absolutely cannot be present, they may send their views in
writing to the DGS, who will read them at the meeting.

A student informed of a vote of dismissal from the program may submit a formal letter
of appeal within two weeks, accompanied by supporting documentation (research or
other scholarly work), to the Graduate Advisory Committee. The Graduate Advisory Committee will render a final decision within two weeks of receipt of the appeal. Any members of the Graduate Advisory Committee who have worked directly with the student will recuse themselves from the final vote on the case.

**COMBINED PH.D. PROGRAMS**

**History and African American Studies**

The Department of History offers, in conjunction with the Department of African American Studies, a combined Ph.D. in History and African American Studies. For further details, see African American Studies.

**History and Classics**

The Department of History offers, in conjunction with the Department of Classics, a combined Ph.D. in History and Classics, with a concentration in Ancient History. For further details, see Classics.

**History and Early Modern Studies**

The Department of History offers, in conjunction with the Early Modern Studies Program, a combined Ph.D. in History and Early Modern Studies. For further details, see Early Modern Studies.

**MASTER’S DEGREES**

**M.Phil.** Students who have completed all requirements for admission to candidacy for the Ph.D. may receive the M.Phil. degree.

**M.A. (en route to the Ph.D.)** Students enrolled in the Ph.D. program may qualify for the M.A. degree upon completion of a minimum of seven graduate term courses at Yale, of which two must have earned Honors grades and the other five courses must average High Pass overall. Students must also pass an examination in one foreign language.

A student in the Ph.D. program in American Studies who wishes to obtain an M.A. degree in History, rather than an M.A. in American Studies, must include in the courses completed at least two research seminars in the History department.

Students enrolled in the Ph.D. program in Political Science may qualify for the M.A. degree in History, rather than an M.A. in Political Science, upon completion of a minimum of six graduate term courses in History at Yale, of which two must have earned Honors grades and the other four courses must average High Pass overall. A student must include in the six courses completed at least two research seminars in the History department.

**Terminal Master’s Degree Program** For this terminal master’s degree, students must pass seven term courses, four of which must be in History; substantial written work must be submitted in conjunction with at least two of these courses, and Honors grades are expected in two courses, with a High Pass average overall. An undergraduate language course, statistics course, or other applicable course in a technological “language” may count for one course credit toward the graduate degree. All students
in this program must pass an examination in one foreign language. Financial aid is not available for this program.

More information is available on the department’s website, http://history.yale.edu.