HISTORY (PHD)

The University of Connecticut offers both the Master of Arts (M.A.) and the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in History. Small seminars comprise the bulk of course work in both M.A. and Ph.D. programs to provide maximum interaction between faculty and students. Students may also design special courses with individual professors and take a limited number of advanced undergraduate courses.

Location

- Storrs Campus

Modality

- In Person

Requirements

Doctor of Philosophy Requirements

The objective of the Ph.D. in History program is primarily, though not exclusively, the training of academic scholars for college, university, and government service, with an additional focus on the practices of public history. Through a mixture of seminars, independent study, field examinations, language requirements, and a doctoral dissertation closely supervised by an advisor and faculty advisory committee, students develop the highest level of skills and command of information required for research scholarship and advanced teaching. Students will choose to focus their doctoral studies in a particular field, such as Medieval European, Early Modern and Modern European, United States, Latin American, Asian, or African history. Supporting work in other disciplines is recommended.

In order to develop teaching skills beyond the level of seminar presentations and oral examinations, Ph.D. students normally work as supervised teaching assistants and/or lecturers for several semesters. There are ongoing workshops on pedagogical techniques for all graduate assistants, and a highly recommended seminar on teaching history at the university level, HIST 5103 Teaching History, taken towards the end of coursework. By the time a student completes a Ph.D., they will normally have presented papers at scholarly meetings, written grant applications, submitted articles for publication, and engaged actively in teaching. Upon admission to the program, the student is assigned a major advisor to chair an advisory committee. At least two associate advisors, chosen by the student, also serve on the committee. In consultation with this committee, the student plans a program that meets individual needs and satisfies the requirements of the Graduate School and the Department of History. The major advisor who counsels the student through the general examination process ordinarily, but not necessarily, becomes the dissertation advisor. The amount of coursework required for the doctorate depends on whether students completed their M.A. at the University of Connecticut or another institution.

Doctor of Philosophy Course Requirements

HIST 5101 Introduction to Historical Research, HIST 5102 Historical Research and Writing; 30 credits of additional coursework or 18 credits of additional coursework if the student enters the doctoral program holding a M.A. from another university. Doctoral students who have received a M.A. from the History Department at the University of Connecticut must complete a minimum of 15 credits of coursework. Students may take up to six credits of graduate courses offered by other departments. In exceptional circumstances, students may petition the Graduate Affairs Committee for permission for additional studies outside the department. Up to six credits of independent studies HIST 5199 Independent Study in History may be taken. In exceptional circumstances, students may petition the Graduate Affairs Committee for permission for additional independent studies. Up to six credits of 3000-4000 level coursework may also be taken with special permission.

Foreign Language Requirement

All students must satisfy the foreign language requirement prior to passing the general examination. The specific language(s) in which each student is to establish reading competency are to be determined in consultation with the student's advisor.

General Examinations

The Ph.D. general examinations are intended to assess the development of doctoral students into professional historians who are familiar with the knowledge, literature, interpretations, and theories of their fields, and who demonstrate the substantive knowledge and analytic skills necessary for teaching at the college level and for conducting original research and scholarly analysis.

Three fields will be examined jointly in an oral examination. The fourth field consists of the dissertation prospectus. Students may not take the examination until all previous courses have been successfully completed, and all language requirements fulfilled. In recognition of the importance of students being in regular contact with their examiners while preparing for the examination, students should register for directed readings courses with committee members during the semester prior to the examination. Full-time students should complete the oral examination covering the first three fields no later than February 15th of the year following the completion of regular course work. (Part-time students should consult the Graduate Director concerning appropriate deadlines). If after the oral examination the student is judged by the committee to have failed in only one field, final judgment will be reserved, and the student must take an additional one-hour oral examination in that field by May 15th of the same academic year. If the student is judged to have failed the field a second time, or if the student fails more than one field initially, the student will not be continued in the program. If a student departing the program under these circumstances has not already earned the M.A., it may be conferred as a terminal degree.

The fourth field of the general examination is the dissertation prospectus. A completed prospectus should be submitted to the three core dissertation committee members within six months, and preferably sooner, of the successful completion of the oral examination. At the latest, the deadline for approval of the prospectus may be extended to August 15th of the year following the completion of regular coursework.

Dissertation Research

All doctoral students must enroll for at least 15 credits of GRAD 6950 Doctoral Dissertation Research or GRAD 6960 Full-Time Doctoral Research in the semesters after completion of regular coursework.

Residence Requirement

The doctoral student must complete a minimum of one year of full-time study in residence beyond the master's degree, which consists of two consecutive semesters of a full-time graduate program at the Storrs campus. A graduate assistant, whose academic program normally proceeds at half the rate of the full-time student, ordinarily fulfills this residence requirement with two years of such service. (This requirement

does not mean the student must live on or near campus for their year of full-time study).

Dissertation and Final Oral Examination

A dissertation that makes a significant contribution to the candidate's field of specialization is a primary requirement for the doctorate. The final oral examination (dissertation defense) of approximately one to one-and-a half hours focuses on the dissertation.

Learning Objectives

1. Knowledge:#Demonstrate#appropriate breadth#and depth of disciplinary knowledge and comprehension of the major topics, theories, and issues of the discipline, including demonstration of specialized knowledge of a sub-field sufficient to carry out substantive independent research or creative pursuits.
2. Research/applied skills:#Use disciplinary methods and techniques to apply knowledge, critically analyze, and, as#appropriate to#the degree, create new knowledge or achieve advanced creative accomplishments.
3. Communication: Communicate proficiently and effectively to a specialist and non-specialist audience, verbally and in writing, a structured, coherent academic presentation, representation, or argument that cogently summarizes their research or creative pursuit, relevant literature, and its significance at the level#appropriate to#discipline.
4. Ethics/Professional behavior:#Conduct themselves#in accordance with#the highest ethical and responsible standards, values, and, where these are defined, the best practices of the discipline.