

- Course Information -

University: University of Nebraska at Omaha
College: Graduate College
Curriculum: History
Number: 8990
Type: Independent Study
Title: Thesis
Short title: Thesis
Effective term: Spring 2012
Graduate non-degree students: Not allowed
Can course be taken for credit multiple times? Yes
Number of total hours: 6

- Credit Hours Information -

Type: Variable
Hours: 1 (minimum)
6 (maximum)

- Cross-listing and/or Dual-listing (UG/G) Information -

Courses: Not applicable

- Duplication Information (not to be used for cross/dual-listings) - Use in ALL instances where there is potential that a course overlaps in content with another discipline. This feature allows the relevant chair(s)/directors(s) to review and approve early in the review process. Please use if there is potential for perceived duplication.

Curriculum: Not applicable

- 1.0 Course Description Information -

1.1 Catalog description:

Thesis research project written under supervision of an adviser.

1.2 Prerequisites of the course:

Completion of twenty-four hours of history graduate work. Approval of Graduate Program Chair.

1.3 Overview of content and purpose of the course:

The purpose of Hist 8990 is for students to complete an in-depth research project in a narrow subject under the supervision of a member of the history graduate faculty.

1.4 Unusual circumstances of the course:

There are no class meetings. Students work under the direction of their thesis adviser.

- 2.0 Course Justification Information -

2.1 Anticipated audience / demand:

Approximately half of all graduate students elect to complete their MA by writing a thesis. There are currently about twenty students in the process of writing a thesis.

2.2 Indicate how often this course will be offered and the anticipated enrollment:

One section is offered in each of the fall, spring, and summer semesters. Enrollment is usually 8-10.

2.3 If it is a significant change to an existing course please explain why it is needed:

- 3.0 Objective Information -

Is this course part of or being proposed for the General Education curriculum?

No

3.1 List of performance objectives stated as student learning outcomes:

- Through an in-depth literature review, students will further develop an understanding of how historians use existing work to develop new avenues of research and inquiry.
- Students will further develop skills in analyzing and interpreting historical records.
- Students will learn how to assemble, analyze, and present a substantial amount of information in a lengthy written product.

3.2 General Education Student Learning Outcomes

After completing the course, successful students shall be able to do the following:

- 4.0 Content and Organization Information -

4.1 List the major topics central to this course:

Topics are specific to the particular historical questions engaged in each thesis. As such, topics vary widely from thesis to thesis.

- 5.0 Teaching Methodology Information -

5.1 Methods:

Individual meetings and guided study.

5.2 Student role:

- Conduct in-depth review of literature pertinent to the research in question.

- Develop a specific historical question to investigate.
- Locate, analyze, and interpret documentary and other evidence.
- Present findings in a coherent, interpretative, written form.
- Provide oral defense of written findings before thesis committee.

- 6.0 Evaluation Information -

Students should be provided the actual list of projects, basis for determining the final grade, and grading scale at the beginning of each course.

6.1.1 Describe the typical types of student projects that will be the basis for evaluating student performance:

The sole product of the Hist 8990 is a written thesis.

6.2 Describe the typical basis for determining the final grade (e.g., weighting of various student projects):

The determination of the final grade is made by the thesis committee after each member has read the thesis and participated in the student's oral defense.

6.3 Grading type:

Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory

- 7.0 Resource Material Information -

7.1 Textbook(s) or other required readings used in course:

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* 7th edition, (Chicago, 2007).

7.2 Other student suggested reading materials:

7.3 Current bibliography and other resources:

- "Issues in Graduate Education: Forum on the Master's Degree," *Perspectives Online* (April 2007).
- Booth, Wayne C., et al. *The Craft of Research*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003.
- Gustafson, Melanie. *Becoming a Historian: A Survival Manual*. Washington, D.C.: American Historical Association, 2003.
- Katz, Philip M. "Another View of the Master's Degree: Switching Institutions on the Way to a PhD," *Perspectives Online* (January 2004).
- Katz, Philip M. *Retrieving the Master's Degree from the Dustbin of History*. Washington, D.C.: American Historical Association, 2005.
- Rose, Jonathan. "Rethinking Graduate Education in History," *Perspectives Online* (February 2009).
- Schulz, Constance, et al. *Careers for Students of History*. Washington, D.C.: American Historical Association, 2002.
- Seip, Terry L. "We Shall Gladly Teach": *Preparing History Graduate Students for the Classroom*. Washington, D.C.: American Historical Association, 1999.

- 8.0 Other Information -

8.1 Accommodations statement:

Appropriate accommodations are provided for students who are registered with the Accessibility Services Center and make their requests sufficiently in advance. For more information, contact Accessibility Services Center (MBSC 126, Phone: 402-554-2872, unodisability@unomaha.edu) or visit unomaha.edu/disability.

8.2 Other:

* 8.3 Author(s):

Responsibility: all history department graduate faculty. Entered by: John Grigg