

5-13-1999

Revision of the Capstone Experience and Increase Required Credits from 30-33 to Receive a History M.A. Degree

The College at Brockport, College Senate

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BROCKPORT

Faculty Senate
State University of New York
College at Brockport
350 New Campus Drive
Brockport, NY 14420-2925

Resolution#22

1998-99

FACULTY SENATE

TO: Dr. Paul Yu, College President

FROM: The Faculty Senate Meeting on: *May 13, 1999*

RE: I. Formal Resolution (*Act of Determination*)
 II. Recommendation (*Urging the Fitness of*)
 III. Other, For your Information (*Notice, Request, Report, etc.*)

SUBJ: *Resolution on Implementation of Two History Department Resolutions to Revise the Capstone Experience and Increase Required Credits to Receive a History M.A. Degree from 30 to 33*

Signed: *Thomas Bonner* Date Sent: *6/10/99*
(Thomas Bonner, Faculty Senate President)



TO: The Faculty Senate

FROM: Dr. Paul Yu, College President

RE: I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution
a. Accepted. Effective Date: *9/1/99 or next publication opportunity.*
b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on ___/___/___
c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation

II, III.
a. Received and acknowledged
b. Comment: _____

DISTRIBUTION: *Administrative Group - Please share with appropriate staff.*

Distribution Date: *6/21/99* Signed: *Paul Yu*
(President of the College)

Resolution Disk::9899-22::ayk

BROCKPORT

State University of New York
College at Brockport
350 New Campus Drive
Brockport, New York 14420-2956

Department of History
(716) 395-2377 • FAX: (716) 395-2620

February 21, 1999

Prof. Susan R. Seem, Chair
Graduate Curriculum & Research Policies Committee
Faculty Senate

Dear Susan,

Please find attached the proposal to implement two resolutions passed by the History Department on Dec. 4. They would revise the capstone experience and increase the required credits from 30 to 33 for the History M.A. degree. I have adapted the materials for the Graduate Committee as per our discussion.

At its Dec. 4 meeting the History Department also passed a third resolution relating to its M.A. Program. You requested that it be presented to you separately, as it would probably not require formal committee approval. Resolution #3 as passed by the History Department:

PROPOSAL FOR REVISION OF PROGRAM

M.A. in HISTORY

1. *Comparison of the new program to the old program*
On Dec. 4 the History Department passed 2 proposed revisions of its M.A. Program:
 - 1) That the requirements for the Master of Arts in History program be increased from 30 to 33 credits and that a 3-credit course titled *HST 700 Historical Integration*, to be completed through a Comprehensive Examination or a Thesis, be added to the graduation requirements.
 - 2) That the requirements for the American History Major Field of the History M.A. be increased from 15 to 18 hours and that the provision for an elective be eliminated.

Please see the attached diagrams of the old and new programs.

For a description of the new course please see #5

2. *Rationale for the changes*
Resolution #1
The History M.A. has required a Comprehensive Examination since the program's inception in 1972, when the History Department had 30 faculty and funding was abundant. Today with 14 faculty and different funding formulas, receiving formal credit for faculty work is important to the Department and the College.
In the current atmosphere, the Comprehensive Examination has too often been a hastily arranged extra burden that was insufficiently "comprehensive" intellectually. Our proposal provide candidates for the M.A. in History with a truly comprehensive and intensive capstone to their graduate work. The mechanism for these changes would be a 3 credit course (HST 700) with the provision and requirements spelled out in Resolution #1.
We believe this will enhance student learning in at least three ways:
 - 1) Each student will work with an *ad hoc* faculty committee
 - 2) Students will now have a choice between examination and thesis options
 - 3) Students will be able to express their ideas and be judged in both written and oral formats.
Resolution #2
 - 1) 15 credits are insufficient to provide Masters level comprehensive competence;
 - 2) some candidates take courses with too few available faculty to constitute an *ad hoc* committee for the Comprehensive Examination, or directors or second readers for the Thesis.
 - 3) that the provision of an elective in one Major Field (American) and not in the other (World) creates confusion.
3. *Evidence of demand for any new focus or emphasis in the program.*
Previous and current M.A. students have requested clearer structure and faculty guidance in the Comprehensive Examination and a Thesis option. It has been the only area of our program that has created consistent student expressions of dissatisfaction.
Faculty believe that the existing exam is insufficiently comprehensive.
4. *Potential clientele: No change foreseen*

After the Thesis is completed, the *ad hoc* committee will conduct a 1-2 hour oral examination to discuss the study's arguments, evidence, and connections to broader issues in the Major Field. The Department faculty will be invited to attend.

The *ad hoc* committee then grades the examination as Pass with Honors, Pass, or No Credit. A student who is graded No Credit will have one opportunity to re-submit the thesis. In case of a split vote on the *ad hoc* committee, the Graduate Committee resolves the matter.

After approval and in order to receive course credit, the student must submit three corrected copies, one each for the History Department, College Archives, and Drake Library.

6. *Staffing:* no change required

7. *Academic administration commentary*

a. **Dean:** None requested due to minor nature of revision

b. **Chair:** See attached

8. *Resources, facilities, and non-teaching staff needed to implement the program*

a. **Library:** no change needed

b. **Academic Computing Services:** no change needed

9. *Letters of support*

None sought as revision will have no impact on other departments.

10. *Competition*

None. This is the only functioning terminal M.A. in History program between Buffalo and Syracuse. The University of Rochester formally has one but it operates as a way station to the Ph.D. that enrolls few students.

CURRENT PROGRAM

MASTER OF ARTS IN HISTORY (30 credits) [PROPOSAL RAISES TO 33]

1. **Core Course (3 credits) [NO CHANGE PROPOSED]**
HST 600 Introduction to Historical Studies

2. **Major Field**

American History (15-18 credits) [PROPOSAL REQUIRES 18 CRS]

HST 614 Readings in Early America
HST 615 Readings in Modern America
HST 691 Research in American History
Electives (6 or 9 credits)

OR

World History (18 credits) [NO CHANGE PROPOSED]

Required Courses:
HST 641 Explorations in World History
HST 695 Research in World History
Regional Seminars: (at least two)
HST 642 Early Modern Europe
HST 643 Modern Europe
HST 644 Latin America
HST 645 East Asia
HST 656 Africa
HST 657 South Asia
Electives (6 credits)

3. **Minor Field (9-12 credits) [9 CRS ONLY; EQUALIZES AMERICAN & WORLD]**
 - A. **Historical Tracks (suggested)**
American History;
World History
Military History
Local History
Thematic across regions
 - B. **Professional and Interdisciplinary Tracks (suggested)**
Archives & Records Management
Education
Museum Studies
Women's and Gender Studies
Social Science

4. **Elective (0-3 hours) [PROPOSAL DELETES]**

5. **Written Comprehensive Examination [PROPOSAL INCORPORATES INTO HST700]**

PROPOSED PROGRAM

MASTER OF ARTS IN HISTORY (33 Credits)

1. HST 600 Introduction to Historical Studies 3 credits

2. Major Field 18 credits

A. American History *[INCREASE FROM 15 TO 18 CREDITS]*

HST 614 Readings in Early America
HST 615 Readings in Modern America
HST 691 Research in American History
Elective
Elective
Elective

OR

B. World History *[NO CHANGE]*

HST 641 Explorations in World History
HST 695 Research in World History
Regional Seminars: (at least two)
HST 642 Early Modern Europe
HST 643 Modern Europe
HST 644 Latin America
HST 645 East Asia
HST 656 Africa
HST 657 South Asia

Elective

Elective

Note: Each student must complete courses in four of the following regions:
Africa, East Asia, Europe, Latin America, South Asia

3. Minor Field (9 credits) *[FORMERLY 9 OR 12 CRS IN AMERICAN FIELD]*

A. Historical Tracks (suggested) 9 credits

American History
World History
Military History
Local History
Thematic across regions

B. Professional and Interdisciplinary Tracks (suggested)

Archives & Records Management
Education
Museum Studies
Women's and Gender Studies
Social Science

4. HST 700 Historical Integration *[NEW COURSE]* 3 credits

Comprehensive Examination OR Thesis

BROCKPORT

State University of New York
College at Brockport
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Brockport, New York 14420-2956

Department of History
(716) 395-2377 • FAX: (716) 395-2620

February 23, 1999

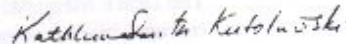
Prof. Susan R. Seem, Chair
Graduate Curriculum & Research Policies Committee
Faculty Senate

Dear Susan,

As Acting Chair of the History Department I fully support the accompanying proposal. I was a member of the Graduate Committee that drew up the proposal, which was subsequently adopted unanimously by the History Department.

This proposal will enhance our M.A. program by improving the student's capstone experience and by giving the College formal credit for work we are already doing.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Smith Kutolowski, Chair

BROCKPORT

State University of New York
College at Brockport
150 New Campus Drive
Brockport, New York 14420-2995
Drake Memorial Library

Memorandum

To: Dr. W. Bruce Leslie
Director, Graduate Studies in History

Dr. Kathleen S. Kutolowski
Chairperson, Department of History

From: Sally Petty *Sally Petty*
Chairperson, Library Collection Development Committee

RE: Proposal for revision of program, M.A. in History

Date: March 8, 1999

The Drake Memorial Library Collection Development Committee has reviewed current library holdings related to your proposal for revision of the M.A. in History program and find the collection more than sufficient to support the proposed changes.

BROCKPORT

State University of New York
College at Brockport
350 New Campus Drive
Brockport, New York 14420-2982
Academic Computing Services
Tel: (716) 205-2399

March 29, 1999

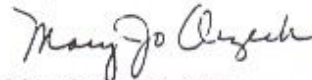
Bruce W. Leslie
History
117 F.O.B.

Dear Bruce;

This letter is sent regarding the History Department's proposal regarding changes in the History Masters program.

Although competencies in computer skills will be required and students will use PCs for papers and research using the World Wide Web, we do not foresee any impact on Academic Computing resources, such as new hardware and software, at this time. Academic Computing Services supports the History program in their efforts.

Sincerely,



Mary Jo Orzech, Ph.D.
Director, Academic Computing Services

Cc: Susan Seem

MJO/cn

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