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The information published here represents the plans of the New School for Social Research at the time of publication. The division reserves the right to change any matter contained in this publication, including but not limited to policies, degree programs, names of programs, course offerings, academic activities, academic requirements, faculty and administrators.
The Committee on Historical Studies (History)

History is a field of inquiry essential to all human understanding. Recognizing that historical studies have transformative potential for interpretation, theory, and political action, we seek to establish a theoretically-informed interdisciplinary space for producing critical history. Our program conceives of history as a way of thinking, a form of inquiry, and a mode of critique, aligned with the intellectual tradition that defines the New School. We train students in the rigors of scholarly discourse, independent research, and the imaginative act of relating history to the contemporary world. Students’ projects combine theoretical and political engagement with rich empirical research.

The Committee on Historical Studies (CHS) was founded in the mid-1980s by Charles Tilly, Louise Tilly, Aristide Zolberg and Ira Katznelson on the conviction that the social sciences, public discussion of contemporary problems, and policy-making all become richer and more effective when joined with historical analysis; that practicing social scientists who want to work with history should learn to use historians’ standard materials and methods; and that the theories and methods of the social sciences strengthen historical research. These sentiments continue to guide the pedagogical and research programs of historical studies at The New School.

The Committee on Historical Studies is closely linked with History at Eugene Lang College. In conjunction with a number of scholars elsewhere at the university, we are developing an integrated Department of History across divisions.
Committee Members 2014-2015

Chair:

Federico Finchelstein, Associate Professor of History

Faculty:

Elaine Abelson, Associate Professor, Senior Lecturer Graduate Faculty
Federico Finchelstein, Associate Professor of History
Oz Frankel, Associate Professor of History
Orit Halpern, Assistant Professor of History
Victoria Hattam, Professor of Politics
Eiko Ikegami, Professor of Sociology
John M. VanderLippe, Associate Professor of History
Julia Ott, Assistant Professor of History
David Plotke, Professor of Politics
Ann-Louise Shapiro, Professor of History
Ann Stoler, Willy Brandt Distinguished University Professor of Anthropology and Historical Studies
Jeremy Varon, Associate Professor of History

Eli Zaretsky, Professor of History

Associate Faculty:

Laura Auricchio, Associate Professor of Art & Design Studies, Parsons School of Design
David Brody, Associate Professor of Art & Design Studies, Parsons School of Design
Julia Foulkes, Associate Professor and Chair of Social Sciences, New School for General Studies
Joseph Heathcott, Associate Professor of Urban Studies, New School for General Studies
Natalia Mehlman-Pertrzela, Assistant Professor of Education Studies and History, Lang College
Clare Potter, Professor of History, New School for Public Engagement
David Scobey, Professor of History, Executive Dean, New School for Public Engagement

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The M.A. in Historical Studies

Coursework and Degree Requirements

Students pursuing a degree in Historical Studies (History) must meet the requirements of the Committee on Historical Studies and the New School for Social Research. Students are expected to be familiar with both sets of requirements and procedures. For this reason, they should read this handbook in conjunction with the New School for Social Research Bulletin, which can be obtained at the office of Admissions or in the Office of Academic Affairs, located at 79 Fifth Ave., Rm 1007.

To obtain an MA in Historical Studies students are required to:

- Complete 30 course credits
- Maintain no less than a B (3.0) grade point average
- Complete a thesis project

Additionally, all MA students are required to take a linked trio of seminars designed to orient them to historical inquiry and further learn the craft of historical research.

- GHIS 6133 Historiography and Historical Practice (one semester course to be taken in the student’s first year)
- GHIS 6134 Historical Sources and Methods (one semester course to be taken in the student’s first year)
- GHIS 5900-A MA Thesis Seminar (one semester seminar to be taken in the student’s 3rd semester)

Students must take, in addition, at least 18 credits that are listed or cross-listed with Historical Studies.

- 18 credits must be listed or cross-listed with Historical Studies

The remaining courses are electives.

Students must meet with the Graduate Student Advisor before registering each semester to ascertain that the course of study follows the expected guidelines. In addition, each student is assigned a Faculty Advisor, with whom they must meet at least once per semester to discuss their course of study. This academic year, the Graduate Student Advisor is Joseph Lombardo. His email address is Histadv@newschool.edu. All contact information is available on the website at http://www.newschool.edu/nssr/historical-studies/.
Students who will seek entrance into a dual Ph.D. program with an NSSR Department upon completion of the Historical Studies MA, are strongly encouraged to take the basic, required courses from either the Politics or Sociology Departments. Students can download the Ph.D. admissions procedures and core requirements for each department from the NSSR Website http://www.newschool.edu/nssr/

Academic Advising

The Student Advisor is an advanced graduate student who assists students with academic decisions. The Student Advisor counsels students about course selections during registration. In addition, the Advisor informs students about requirements for the M.A. thesis, the dual PhD programs with other social science disciplines, credit transfers, and other academic petitions. The office of the Historical Studies Student Advisor is located in Room 512 at 80 Fifth Ave. Office hours are posted on the door, or can be arranged by appointment. The Student Advisor can also be contacted via email through the Historical Studies Website. Go to: http://www.newschool.edu/nssr/subpage.aspx?id=9244#hist and click on “Student Advisor.”

Faculty Advising

Entering M.A. and Ph.D. students will be assigned a faculty advisor, based on academic interests. Students need to consult their faculty advisor at least once during each semester and are encouraged to meet with their faculty Advisor more often. The faculty advisor is an essential guide in career and thesis planning.

MA Thesis

At the end of their first year of coursework, after completing both required courses, students submit a proposal for an MA Thesis project to their primary faculty advisor. If the proposal is approved, students work on their Thesis Projects in their second year. Students will write their thesis as an independent study under the supervision of their thesis advisor.

MA Thesis papers are written in the form of a polished research article in history. Typically, papers range between 40 and 60 double spaced pages, and should not surpass 65 pages in length. First and Final Drafts are due the following dates.

COMPLETED FIRST DRAFT - FRIDAY, APRIL 25, submitted to one's Thesis Advisor

COMPLETED FINAL DRAFT – FRIDAY, MAY 9, submitted to one's Thesis Advisor and one other CHS faculty member (History, or an affiliate).
The Dual Degree Ph.D. at the New School for Social Research

Though the New School offers no self-standing Ph.D. in History, it does have an innovative and exciting interdisciplinary program — the Dual Degree (DD) Ph.D. Students pursuing the Dual Degree pair formal disciplinary training in one of the NSSR’s Ph.D-granting programs in the social sciences and humanities (Politics, Sociology, Anthropology, Economics, and Philosophy) with training in Historical Studies. Embodying the interdisciplinary ethos of the NSSR as a whole, the Dual Degree encourages cutting edge research that synthesizes the methods and approach of multiple fields.

Dual Degree students receive their formal degrees in their primary, Ph.D. granting field. They may be eligible, however, for academic employment both in that field and as historians, and their work is typically marked by rigorous efforts to bridge disciplinary knowledge, methods, and cultures.

Dual Degree students must satisfy all the degree requirements of their primary Ph.D. field (coursework, qualifying exams, and dissertation) and also do a reasonable amount of work in Historical Studies. This generally entails taking two “core” History courses (Historiography; Historical Sources and Methods); doing one qualifying exam under the supervision of a History faculty member (typically oriented to historiographic study of a topic related to the dissertation research); and having one History faculty member (primary or “affiliate”) on one’s dissertation committee. These requirements, however, may be modified based on the student’s academic background, stage in their program, and research interests.

Admission into the Dual Degree program can work a number of ways, based on the student’s prior training and their stage in post-graduate study. A student may:

Apply into the Dual Degree program when already enrolled in a Ph.D. program at the NSSR. In such cases, students discuss their plans for the Dual Degree with their advisor in their Ph.D. field; identify a History faculty as their History advisor and discuss the Dual Degree with them; and submit an application to the Chair of the History Department. The application includes an academic transcript; a brief statement (3-4 pages) explaining the rationale for the Dual Degree and how their work meaningfully engages history; a cv; and a form (NSSR General Student Petition Form) that, signed by the History Chair, changes their status to a Dual Degree student. The form is submitted to the Office of Academic Affairs at the NSSR for processing. In consultation with their History advisor, such Dual Degree students go over the program requirements and make any valuable modifications, taking into account the stage of the student in their Ph.D. program and what best serves their intellectual and professional development.

Apply into the Dual Degree program when he/she applies into a Ph.D. granting program, while already in the MA program in that field (e.g. a Politics MA student applies to the Politics Ph.D. program as a Dual Degree student). In such cases, the admissions decision
rests with the department of the Ph.D. field. That department will, however, share the application with the History department, which may make a recommendation as to the candidate’s “fit” for the Dual Degree and comment on her/his general academic abilities. Upon admission to the Ph.D. program, the student will then consult with the History faculty regarding the specific requirements of the Dual Degree and the formal application process, whose steps are identical as those for the prior category of student.

Apply into the Dual Degree program as an “external” Ph.D. candidate, with no prior MA work at the New School. In such cases, the admissions process is as above. If a student who already did an MA in history elsewhere is admitted in this fashion, it is likely that the History Dual Degree requirements will be substantially modified (as the student may have already taken a class in historical methods).

Apply into the Dual Degree program while currently being an MA student in Historical Studies. This is perhaps the most common route into the Dual Degree, and has the most involved procedures. In general, it entails taking courses while an MA student in Historical Studies in the department in which one will apply for the PhD; developing a faculty advocate both in History and the Ph.D.-granting department; and applying into that program as an “internal candidate,” within a timetable set by that department and based on fulfilling certain admissions criteria it may set. The final admission decision lies with the Ph.D. department, but the History faculty consults in that decision.

Historical Studies MA students are instructed throughout their time at NSSR about the Dual Degree option: first, in a meeting of the new MA cohort before fall classes even begin, and then in special meetings later in the fall and/or spring for all Historical Studies MA students, about how to apply to Ph.D. programs, whether at NSSR or elsewhere. At such meetings, the key advice is that the student make sure to take classes in the PhD-granting field, consult with the Student Advisor of that fall regarding program requirements and expectations of Dual Degree candidates, and build a relationship with at least one faculty member in that department, who can serve as a faculty sponsor of one’s application.

Specific application procedures and deadlines are follows:

By **November 1** students intending to apply to Ph.D. programs as Dual Degree applicants are to submit to Academic Affairs the “Application for Internal Ph.D. Admission” form. Separate from the actual Ph.D. application, this form helps NSSR track all “internal” PhD candidates (NSSR MA students applying into NSSR Ph.D. programs).

By **February 1** students intending to apply to Ph.D. programs as Dual Degree applicants are to submit to the Department Secretary of Historical Studies their Ph.D. application. The student must also submit a complete application to the Ph.D field into which they are applying (those deadlines vary by individual department; some are on February 1, and others are later). The precise contents of the application are largely set by the department of the Ph.D. field and can be
ascertained by consulting materials from that department (whether on-line and/or in their Curriculum Handbook) and by talking to its graduate Student Advisor. Dual Degree applications must include, in addition, at least one letter by a “faculty sponsor” in both History (regular or affiliate) and in the Ph.D. granting field. These can be conventional recommendation letters in the student dossier (though best is for such letters to speak to the specificity of the Dual Degree and why the applicant is a good candidate for it), or special, supplementary letters. Further, the student’s “statement of purpose” (a standard part of Ph.D. applications) should include some description of the rationale for pursuit of the Dual Degree and how/why the student’s work is enhanced by interdisciplinary training.

* Note: the Ph.D. application in Anthropology is due considerably later than those of most other NSSR departments. Hence, a Dual Degree applicant may submit to the History faculty on February 1 a preliminary application, and add materials later to their Anthropology application.

By **February 15** Historical Studies faculty will meet to discuss and assess all Dual Degree applications, and prepare comments for potential, future consultation with the admissions committees of the Ph.D. departments into which the students are applying.

The students will be informed of their acceptance, rejection, or wait-listing by the PhD department based on the dates for notification set by those departments.

**Coursework and Degree Requirements**

Though specific requirements may vary (see above), Dual Degree students are expected to:

- Complete all the requirements for the doctoral degree in their respective social science discipline.

- Complete 60 credits of coursework.

- Take GHIS 6133, Historiography and Historical Practice; GHIS 6134, Historical Methods and Sources: Students who have already taken these courses as part of an MA in Historical Studies have already fulfilled this requirement. note: Ph.D. students are not required to take the MA Thesis Writing Course.

- Prepare one exam field for CHS in addition to those required by their other department. The form of the exam (a take-home exam, or a field statement) will mirror the practices in Political Science or Sociology.

- Form a dissertation committee with at least one CHS faculty member. Among their other advising responsibilities, this committee member will determine whether the thesis engages historical materials in a serious manner.
PhD Qualifying Exam in Historical Studies

Procedure:

PhD students generally take their CHS Qualifying Exam within six months of completing course work and before they defend their dissertation proposal. Students must choose a faculty advisor. This faculty Advisor will head their PhD Qualifying Exam Committee and ideally should serve on their dissertation committee. In conjunction with their faculty advisor, students must find another CHS faculty member to serve on the Qualifying Exam Committee.

Fields for the PhD qualifying exam should be devised with a specific PhD project in mind. Preparation for the exam assists students to situate their work within particular fields of historical research and methodology. Together with their faculty advisors students will prepare a detailed bibliography for each field. Ordinarily, the exam will be conducted as a three days “take home” exercise in which students will be asked essay questions based on their respective fields, though exam formats may vary.

Scholarly Expectations:

1) Demonstration of thorough knowledge of the field literature.

2) Exposition of the candidate’s own interpretation of the problem posed in the question. Along with critically reviewing the existing literature, the candidate is encouraged to discuss conceptual problems left unsolved or not addressed by the field.

3) A general summary of the ways in which the problem relates to broader questions of social and historical interpretation. The candidate should suggest the relevance of the research topic to questions posed in various sectors of social science and history.
Departmental Procedures

Registration
For MA students, registration begins in the Committee on Historical Studies with an appointment with the Student Advisor. Ph.D. students must register with the Student Advisor in their corresponding department. Students register on-line during two periods, April and November. Important information regarding registration and other policies are conveyed via the New School e-mail system. It is very important that all students set-up and maintain their accounts.

Transfer of Credits
A maximum of 3 credits may be transferred from another institution at the MA level. Students may apply for transfer credits after completing 6 credits at NSSR. All NSSR courses are for 3 credits. Requests for transfer credit will be reviewed by CHS faculty. At the Ph.D. level, while NSSR rules permit a transfer of as many as 30 credits from another institution, the precise number of credits transferred will be determined on a case basis. Given the extent of requirements in History plus either Politics or Sociology, it is unlikely that large numbers of credits can be transferred, in most cases.

Student Evaluations
Each year in August and February, the Chair of the Committee and the Office of Academic Affairs review the transcripts of all students and send each student an Academic Review. The main objective of the review is to determine whether or not there is any situation that might prevent continued study or graduation, or that might hinder financial aid. The Committee and the Assistant Dean typically look at incomplete coursework, the GPA, and the match between completed coursework and departmental requirements. The academic review is an attempt to help students navigate the roadblocks and pitfalls of earning an advanced degree.

All students receive mail through their CHS mailboxes. Each student is assigned a box, which is located on the wall in the lobby at 80 Fifth Avenue, 5th floor. Communications concerning CHS events are done through email.
## Graduation Requirements Checklist: CHS MA

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<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Sem/Yr</th>
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<tr>
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<td>GHIS 6133 Historiography and Historical Practice</td>
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<td>GHIS 6134 Historical Methods</td>
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<td>GHIS 5900 MA Thesis Seminar</td>
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<td><strong>B: Courses Listed or Cross-Listed in Historical Studies</strong></td>
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<td><strong>C: Electives</strong></td>
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<td><strong>D. M.A. Thesis</strong></td>
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# Graduation Requirements Checklist: Dual Degree Ph.D.

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<td><strong>A: CHS Core Courses</strong></td>
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<td>GHIS6133 Historiography and Historical Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>GHIS 6134 Historical Methods</td>
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<td><strong>B: Ph.D. Exams</strong></td>
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<td>Ph.D. Qualifying Exams in Departmental Discipline</td>
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<td>Approved on</td>
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