

**Georgetown University
Department of History**

**MAGIC Student Handbook
2009-2010**

Rev **8/21/09**

OVERVIEW

Trans-regional and global processes have marked the emergence of the modern world, accelerating since the sixteenth century. They define the century now beginning. Knowledge of history is essential to grappling with continuing global integration and conflict. Knowledge of international processes is essential to understanding history.

The Georgetown Master of Arts in Global, International, and Comparative History (MAGIC) will provide an educational foundation for professional participation in the world of global affairs. History as a discipline aims to analyze and integrate politics and states, production and work, environment and society, culture and religion, gender and family. History seeks to understand the interactions of these factors as they change over time, and it views local, regional, and national developments in international contexts. Thus, the MAGIC program will offer students the historical knowledge, the mix of global and local perspectives, the analytical visions, and the foreign language, writing and communications skills to prepare them to participate productively in a global professional world in such fields as government service, journalism, international agencies, and global business. The Georgetown MA in Global, International, and Comparative History will also serve to prepare students for doctoral study in History and related fields such as Government, International Relations, and Sociology.

The History Department faculty at Georgetown is distinguished by the notably international scope of its teaching and research interests. Over half of the 40 members of the ordinary faculty specialize in areas outside the United States and Western Europe. The Georgetown history faculty has strengths in both early modern (c.1500 to 1800) and modern history (c. 1750 to present). These strengths span the Americas and the Atlantic World, Africa, Europe, Russia and Eastern Europe, the Arab and Islamic Worlds, and East Asia.

COURSE OF STUDY

The MAGIC program will consist of ten courses (30 credits). The ten courses will normally be taken over the course of three semesters, but may extend over four (for those needing more language study, or finding work in the area). Students must take at least three courses each semester during their first two semesters in the program. Students will choose from the extensive list of graduate-level courses (500 and above) offered by the History department. In addition to having access to departmental course offerings, students may take up to two courses outside of the History Department, either within Georgetown or at another university in the Washington DC area.

The goal is to allow students to craft (in consultation with the program director) their own programs, placing a nation or a world region in international context, and exploring developments from the sixteenth century to the present. Participants may choose to emphasize any time period. Students are also encouraged to develop informal advisory relationships with faculty in their areas of interest.

Courses will be distributed as follows:

* Two Core Colloquia (HIST 504: Introduction to Global & International History; HIST 505: Introduction to Comparative History). Students may take the two Core Colloquia in any sequence but in all cases must complete both Colloquia during the first two semesters. (2 courses taken in any sequence)

* Field I Global and Comparative History (3 courses)

* Field II Regional or National History (3 courses)

* Research Seminar in Global or Regional History (2 sequential courses)

The two Core Colloquia will provide all students with a firm grounding in global and comparative history. One semester will focus on global processes, the other on comparative regional studies. The courses will be taught by members of the ordinary faculty and will be required of all MA candidates.

Candidates may take the two Colloquia in either order. Field I emphasizes trans-regional and comparative studies. Field II focuses on a world region or nation within the context developed in Field I. Students will normally be required to take at least one course from Field I and one course from field II their first semester. In the 2-course research seminar, students will prepare a substantial analytical paper integrating the historical literature with original research in the relevant foreign language(s). In addition to the existing national and regional seminars, the History department plans to offer a Research Seminar in Global History for students who choose to focus on trans-regional or comparative questions. This research seminar would also be open to the department's Ph.D. students.

By petition, a student may focus Field I on one world region, Field II on another region, and emphasize relations between the two (e.g., Europe and the Americas); or develop an explicitly comparative perspective, such as, for example, politics, gender, and culture in the Middle East and Latin America. (See attached Student Advisory Form)

Good Standing

All MAGIC candidates are expected to achieve a grade of "B+" or better in each course. The attainment of a "B" or lower grade in any course is considered cause for concern and may generate a review of the student's work by the faculty members of the MAGIC Committee. Students with average grades of "B" or lower will be asked to withdraw from the program.

Courses in which grades of "C" or lower are earned will not be counted by the Program toward a student's required total number of credits. If a "C" grade is earned in one of the two MAGIC core courses (History 504 and 505), the MAGIC Advisory Committee will review the student's status and, in most cases, ask the student to leave the program. In the exceptional case of the student's remaining in the program, he/she will have to retake the core course and earn a B+ in it.

If a student receives an F in any course, he/she will be asked to leave the program.

To be in good standing, students must take a foreign-language exam during orientation; pass a foreign-language exam before the beginning of their third semester in the program; meet with the Program Director before registration for each semester and submit an updated version of the advising worksheet; maintain a B+ average; have no more than one temporary Incomplete; be on track to complete all 36 credits of coursework within four semesters (excluding leaves of absence approved by the Graduate School).

Incompletes

There are occasions when a limited extension of time is needed to complete course work. Illness or family emergencies may justify the granting of an "I" (Incomplete) grade. However, this cannot be assumed; arrangements must be made with the instructor, and students should know that some faculty members as a matter of policy do not grant incompletes except in cases of dire medical or personal emergency.

If a professor has granted an "I", the work must be completed by the end of the following semester. Although the departmental regulations allow an entire semester to complete the "I", instructors may impose narrower time restrictions.

As a rule, the History Department enforces the rules of the Graduate School regarding incomplete course work. Any course requirement which is not resolved according to the above schedule will become a "Permanent Incomplete."

Any student with more than one incomplete will not be allowed to register at the start of the following semester.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

All students must demonstrate competence in at least one language other than English by passing the existing department-administered examination before beginning their third full semester in the program. For students with native languages other than English, the native language plus English will normally fulfill the program's language requirement. At the beginning of their studies, all native English-language students will take a reading examination in a language other than English to determine their level of competence. Students who do not pass the examination on entrance will be required to take courses or other appropriate steps to bring their language skills up to department standards. The department will make available as an option certification in verbal competency in a foreign language to be determined by participation in the existing language department examinations. Students intending a career in international affairs are encouraged to take this option.

Existing Graduate School policies regarding language course enrollment apply to MAGIC students. They are as follows:

Graduate Student Enrollment in Language Courses

Graduate School students who need to develop foreign language skills in order to pass proficiency examinations or to pursue their research goals can enroll in Georgetown University language classes without charge. However, specific permission to do this must be obtained in advance from the Graduate School. To obtain this authorization, the student should send an e-mail the Director of MAGIC explaining how the intended language study is related to the student's research plans or proficiency-test requirement. The Director will forward the request to the Graduate School accompanied by a letter of endorsement.

1. Register for the language course in the usual way, for credit.
2. During the Add/Drop period, file an Add/Drop form to switch the registration from a for-credit basis to an audit basis.
3. At the end of the Add/Drop period, the University Registrar will identify all Graduate School students who are enrolled in a language course on an audit basis, and will switch those students' registration in the language courses only to a form of non-charge enrollment. The tuition charges for the students' other courses, and for registration categories such as Thesis Research, will be uncharged.

Language departments and/or individual instructors will specify the standards for attendance and academic progress that graduate student auditors are expected to meet. If the Graduate School is notified that a student has failed to meet those standards, the student will be withdrawn from the course and a "W" will be recorded on the student's transcript.

Students are also encouraged to investigate summer language programs, which may have their own sources of funding available. Examples of these programs are the Southeast Asian Summer Studies Institute (SEASSI) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Middlebury College's Language Schools.

FUTURE STUDY

The MAGIC program is designed to provide students with credentials and training that will help advance careers in a variety of fields including government and diplomacy, globally oriented private-sector enterprise, international NGOs, and journalism. It is also an excellent stepping-stone for those wishing to pursue a Ph.D. in History and in related fields and who seek admission to top-tier Ph.D. programs.

In certain cases, the MA in Global, International, and Comparative History may lead to acceptance into the Georgetown History Department's Ph.D. program. There will be no presumptive advancement. Students will be required to apply directly to the Ph.D. program and must pass through the standard evaluation process for admission and financial aid. If a student is admitted to the Georgetown Ph.D. program, all History coursework completed at the 500-level or above may be credited to the Ph.D.

requirements. Students would still be required to complete the Doctoral Core Colloquium (HIST 501), the research seminar relevant to their doctoral studies, and any other courses and language training required to prepare for comprehensive examinations and dissertation research.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Washington DC area has a large number of jobs available in a broad range of firms and sectors, including federal government, NGOs, for-profit firms, and non-profits. The Georgetown MAGIC degree will help students to take advantage of the area's robust internship and employment opportunities. The Georgetown Career Center, located in the Leavey Center, is available to MAGIC students. (http://www1.georgetown.edu/career_center/explore/)

MAGIC students are advised to consult the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences as well as the MAGIC program staff for information on graduation requirements and deadlines.

KEY CONTACTS

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