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A proposal to revise the MA Program in History – Dr. Kevin Gutzman

For the past three years, the Department of History and Non-Western Cultures has worked to revise our MA program in history for two reasons. First, the program is hopelessly outdated. It has not been substantively revised since it was first approved many decades ago. Consequently, many of the “themes” we require cannot be met by our graduate students because we have not offered the required courses for those themes in decades (and in many cases cannot offer them, because the faculty with the expertise to offer them are retired). Second, and more importantly, we are very concerned about our ability to recruit and retain students in this program. After coping with several years of declining enrollment, the department has relied on informal surveys of our graduate students and careful comparison with similar MA programs. Based on these data, we have decided to offer three tracks for our students, based on the three needs we have identified: a track for those interested in teaching history to others, either informally or professionally; a track for those interested in conducting historical research; and an accelerated track for those interested in completing the course requirements in a timely manner.

Courses to be offered:

Though this program does include the elimination of some courses and the addition of new courses, those will be addressed as new course proposals subsequent to this application.

Staffing and Time Provision:

There is no need for additional staffing, as these new requirements do not add additional new credit hour requirements, but only alter the way that we count courses for the MA.