

University Senate

Proposed: November 12, 2010

Adopted: November 12, 2010 by voice vote
without dissent

**RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A PROGRAM LEADING TO
THE MASTER'S DEGREE IN HISTORY AND LITERATURE FROM THE
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

WHEREAS, the proposed program will train students in historical approaches to the study of literature and the interpretation of texts for the study of history, and

WHEREAS, the program will be taught at Reid Hall, Columbia's campus in Paris, and will draw on the resources of local libraries and archives, and

WHEREAS, students will also have access to the courses and seminars of France's top two graduate schools in the humanities and social sciences, the Ecole normale superieure and the Ecole des hautes etudes en sciences sociales, and

WHEREAS, many college graduates who majored in the humanities or social sciences wish to extend their liberal arts education by one or two years before entering the workforce or applying for professional school, and this program is designed for that constituency, offering a balance between the eclectic approach of a college education and the single focus of professional or doctoral studies, and

WHEREAS, the program will be designed and administered and principally taught by Columbia faculty, and

WHEREAS, many students have expressed interest in such a program, and

WHEREAS, no similar program exists in the U.S. or Europe,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate establish the program leading to a master's degree in history and literature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Education Committee shall review the program in five years.

Proponent:

Committee on Education

Purpose

The MA in History and Literature trains students in historical approaches to the study of literature and in the interpretation of texts for the study of history. It is taught at Reid Hall, Columbia's campus in Paris, and draws on the resources of local libraries and archives. Students also have access to the courses and seminars of France's top two graduate schools in the humanities and social sciences: the Ecole normale supérieure and the Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales. The program starts with the premise that literature and history owe their current forms to many past developments that both separated them and leave much common ground for interconnections. It introduces students to the main critical and theoretical debates at the intersection between history and literature, including the narrative qualities of historical writing, the linguistic turn in history, and the tension between history and theory within the literary field. An important part of the program is the consideration of literature itself as a field of moral, philosophical, sociological, and historical knowledge. Students develop a sophisticated awareness of theoretical and methodological issues. They also acquire the philological tools required for the interpretation of texts in print or manuscript form. This practical training includes hands-on sessions conducted at the Bibliothèque nationale de France and the Archives nationales de France. Although many of its students are interested in French history and literature, the program is by no means restricted to French topics. Comparative work is welcomed, as well as work on the French-speaking world beyond Europe. Courses are taught in English or French. Written work is normally done in English.

SAMPLE OF CURRENT COLUMBIA COURSES THAT MAY BE OFFERED AT REID HALL BY FACULTY IN RESIDENCE TEACHING IN THE MA IN HISTORY AND LITERATURE

GERM G4250 Aesthetics and the Philosophy of History

This course offers an introduction to key texts of 18th and 19th century philosophy with a particular emphasis on the competition between a philosophy of art or aesthetics in a broader sense, on the one hand, and a philosophy of history, on the other. What is the social function of art, are there a-historical standards for the beautiful and the sublime?, what do we mean by taste?, on what basis do we compare different civilizations?, different historical periods?, how do we talk about progress? What constitutes human freedom?

CLGR G6012 History of the Theory of Rhetoric.

Exploration of the relationship between rhetoric and hermeneutics (Gadamer), rhetoric and semiotics (Barthes), rhetoric and deconstruction (de Man), rhetoric and argumentation theory (Perelman), rhetoric and law (Fish), and rhetoric and theories of probability (Meyer). Comparison of different approaches and outline of rhetorical dimensions within literary criticism itself.

CLGR 6820 Theory and History of Media

This course will examine the theory and history of media.

CLFR G8730 Levi-Strauss on trial A historical study of some of the main controversies raised by Claude Lévi-Strauss' work, in the anthropological field as well as in the intellectual arena in general, between 1945 and 1970.

CLHS G8420 The Hermeneutic Tradition

A conceptual and historical study of what it is to read historically, with a focus on the hermeneutic tradition. Authors include Erasmus, Spinoza, Schleiermacher, Droysen, Dilthey, Heidegger, R.G. Collingwood, Gadamer, Habermas, Hayden White, and Paul Ricoeur.

HIST G8117 Knowledge Networks and Information Economies in the Early Modern Period

This course is designed to introduce students to major topics in the developing historical literature on the relationships between intellectual and economic history, centered on Europe's global reach in the first two centuries after Columbus and Da Gama.

HIST G9061-G9062 Seminar in the Intellectual History of Europe from 1000 to 1500

A two-semester research seminar intended to introduce students to the institutional settings (monasteries, universities, etc.) and the genres (sermons, mystical treatises, scholastic quaestiones, etc.) of medieval intellectual history, and to some creative recent scholarly approaches to this material.

HIST G8103 Topics in Early Modern European Cultural and Intellectual History

What were the institutions, formal and informal, in which knowledge was created, disseminated and policed during the early modern period? How were practical solutions to problems of knowledge found in solutions to problems of order and organization?

HIST G8110 Intellectual History

Reading and research in Anglo-American and European intellectual history. Case studies drawn from early-modern and modern European and American history.

HIST G8165 History of Political Economy

A study of the emergence of political economy in eighteenth-century Britain and France, with a focus on the problematic relationship between economics and politics, and the gradual establishment of economics as a separate field of knowledge. Authors include Hobbes, Locke, Mandeville, Montesquieu, Hume, Rousseau, Smith, Say, and Ricardo.

**SAMPLE OF EHESS AND ENS COURSES THAT MAY BE TAKEN BY
STUDENTS
IN THE MA IN HISTORY AND LITERATURE**

Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS)

- Droit, histoire et littérature
- Écriture et événement
- Écritures de fiction et histoire : le XXe siècle
- Écritures du passé : visualisations, localisations
- Herméneutique de la fiction romanesque moderne
- Histoire des contes
- Histoire, littérature, biographie
- Historiographies franco-allemandes et transferts culturels
- Image et texte
- L'activité et la figure du critique, XVIIIe et XIXe siècles
- L'histoire et la littérature des immigrés dans une perspective européenne
- La construction de l'histoire littéraire
- La littérature algérienne de langue française
- La parole représentée
- La traduction au cœur des œuvres
- Lectures postcoloniales : histoire et littérature dans des espaces dominés
- Les manifestations de l'Art en Afrique et dans la diaspora : critique et subversion
- Les usages sociaux de la littérature au XIXe siècle
- Mémoire et écriture dans les débuts de l'islam
- Mémoires croisées, restructurations et historiographie du sud-est européen
- Narratologies contemporaines. III- Nouvelles formes et nouvelles fonctions sociales du récit
- Orient Littérature. Introduction à la littérature orientale
- Orient-Littératures. Variations sur l'amour, le corps et la nostalgie
- Poésie et connaissance : lyrique, théâtre et mythe en Grèce ancienne
- Récit, fiction, histoire
- Texte et image : le corps figuré à la Renaissance
- « Faire des manières ». Pratiques et pensées du style
- « Porter à l'écran » : les romans du XVIIIe siècle au cinéma

Ecole normale supérieure (ENS)

- Philologie et interprétation
- Histoire de la rhétorique
- La construction de l'histoire littéraire
- La poésie française : histoire d'une idée/histoire d'un genre
- Littérature et morale à l'âge classique
- Séminaires de littérature comparée : l'invention du récit d'enfance
- Orientalismes : théories, représentations, échanges culturels, de 1750 à nos jours
- La guerre aérienne 1940-1945 et la littérature allemande
- De l'histoire du livre à l'étude des textes (XVIe-XVIIIe siècles)
- Langues, livres, lecteurs : le français et les Lumières
- Textes anciens et milieux savants : du XVe au XVIIIe siècle
- Science et magie du Moyen Age au XVIIe siècle
- Conflit des facultés, usages croisés et transferts entre histoire et philosophie
- Transferts culturels
- Atelier de l'historien
- Le monde des Lumières : histoire et historiographie du 18e siècle
- Introduction à l'histoire et à la philosophie des sciences