

Graduate Studies and Research
Western Kentucky University
Office of the Dean
745-2446

REPORT TO THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

DATE: March 2012

FROM: Graduate Studies and Research

The Graduate Council submits the following items from the February 9, 2012, meeting for consideration. Items marked with an asterisk [*] are information items. All other items are consent items:

I. Temporary Course

HIST 517 Topics in Renaissance Europe*

II. Revise Course Credit Hours

CHEM 470G Chemistry/Middle School

III. Revise a Program

MA in History, Ref. #078

**Potter College of Arts and Letters
Department of History
Proposal to Create a Temporary Course
(Information Item)**

Contact Person: Beth Plummer (beth.plummer@wku.edu), 5-5739

1. Identification of proposed course

- 1.1 Course prefix (subject area) and number: HIST 517
- 1.2 Course title: Topics in Renaissance Europe
- 1.3 Abbreviated course title: Topics in Renaissance Europe
- 1.4 Credit hours: 3, repeatable to 6 for different topics
- 1.5 Schedule type: S
- 1.6 Prerequisites/corequisites: None
- 1.7 Course description: Different topics in Renaissance European History could include Renaissance Italy; Northern European Renaissance; Courts, Capitals and Culture in Renaissance Europe; Science and Medicine in Renaissance; Gender and Family in Renaissance Europe; Venice and Byzantine Empire during the Renaissance; Renaissance Humanism.

2. Rationale

- 2.1 Reason for offering this course on a temporary basis: This will be offered as a web-based course this spring, but will be made permanent. There was not time to do this before the spring semester began.
- 2.2 Relationship of the proposed course to courses offered in other academic units: There is an undergraduate Renaissance course (HIST 317), but this course is more scholarly and more focused on historiography and scholarship of the Renaissance. There are some undergraduate courses in Art and English departments that cover some of this material briefly, but none in depth.

3. Description of proposed course

- 3.1 Course content outline: For example: Courts, Capitals and Culture in Renaissance Europe
 - I. Italy
 - a. Florence
 - b. Venice
 - c. Princely Courts
 - II. Holy Roman Empire
 - a. Nuremberg
 - b. Imperial Court
 - III. France
 - a. Paris and the Royal Court
 - IV. Comparison
 - a. Ceremony and Ritual
 - b. Patronage and the Arts
 - c. Science and Knowledge
 - d. Political Developments
- 3.2 Tentative text(s)
 - David Mateer, ed, *Courts, Patrons, and Poets: The Renaissance in Europe*
 - Lauro Martines, *Fire in the City: Savonarola and the Struggle for the Soul of Renaissance Florence*
 - David Chambers, and Brian Pullan, eds, *Venice: A Documentary History, 1450-1630*
 - Thomas DaCosta, *Court, Cloister, and City: The Art and Culture of Central Europe, 1450-1800*
 - H.C. Erik Midelfort, *Mad Princes of Renaissance Germany*
 - John Spielman, *The City and the Crown: Vienna and the Imperial Court, 1600-1740* (Lafayette, 1993), 185-205.

Peter Marshall, *The Magic Circle of Rudolf II: Alchemy and Astrology in Renaissance Prague*
Robert Knecht, *The French Renaissance Court*

4. Term of Implementation: Spring 2012

5. Dates of review/approvals:

History Department/Division	November 14, 2011
PCAL Curriculum Committee	December 2, 2011
PCAL Dean	November 15, 2011
Graduate Council Chair	<u>2/09/2012</u>
Provost	_____

Attachment: Course Inventory Form

Proposal Date: 12/5/2011

**Ogden College
Department of Chemistry
Proposal to Revise Course Credit Hours
(Action Item)**

Contact Person: Cathleen Webb, cathleen.webb@wku.edu

- 1. Identification of course:**
 - 1.1 Current course prefix (subject area) and number: 470G
 - 1.2 Course title: Chemistry/Middle School
 - 1.3 Credit hours: 4
- 2. Proposed course credit hours: 2-4**
- 3. Rationale for the revision of course credit hours:** Students have more flexibility on credit hours they need and contents of study.
- 4. Proposed term for implementation: Fall 2012**
- 5. Dates of prior committee approvals:**

Department of Chemistry	<u>1/20/2012</u>
OCSE Curriculum Committee	<u>1/27/2012</u>
Professional Education Council	<u>2/08/2012</u>
Graduate Council	<u>2/09/2012</u>
University Senate	<u> </u>

Attachment: Course Inventory Form

**Potter College of Arts and Letters
Department of History
Proposal to Revise A Program
(Action Item)**

Contact Person: Eric Reed, eric.reed@wku.edu, x55732

1. Identification of program:

- 1.1 Current program reference number: 078
- 1.2 Current program title: Master of Arts in History
- 1.3 Credit hours: 30 (thesis option) or 36 (non-thesis option)

2. Identification of the proposed program changes: Revision of MA in History program admission standards and procedures. Following implementation of this proposal the History Department will:

- Require that applicants achieve a higher minimum overall undergraduate GPA and a minimum GPA in undergraduate history coursework;
- Require that applicants complete a minimum number of credit hours undergraduate coursework in history;
- Require that applicants achieve a minimum score on the verbal reasoning section of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE);
- Require that applicants submit a writing sample and personal statement;
- Admit applicants twice a year, following the university's published fall and spring application deadlines;
- If necessary, reject qualified applicants in order to maintain an ideal program size.

3. Detailed program description:

Old Program	New Program
In addition to meeting general Graduate Studies requirements, the applicant must present a major or minor in history with approximately a B average in this field. Students who meet the Graduate Studies requirements, but who do not meet departmental requirements, may be admitted after achieving at least a 3.0 grade point average on at least six graduate hours in history taken as an unclassified student.	<p>Applications to the Master of Arts in History program are handled by the Graduate Studies Office (www.wku.edu/graduate). Students must meet the minimum standards for admission set forth by Graduate Studies.</p> <p>Applicants must sit for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and submit scores to the university as part of their application. The advanced test in History is not required.</p> <p>Applicants must meet the following admission standards set forth by the History Department:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completion of at least 18 undergraduate credit-hours in history with a grade point average of at least 3.0 in history courses (on a 4.0 scale)• An overall undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale)• A GRE Verbal Reasoning section score of at least 500 (if taken before Aug. 2011) or 150 (if taken Aug. 2011 or later)• A GRE Quantitative Reasoning section score that meets the University's minimum for admission

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must submit application and all supporting materials by June 15 (fall semester start) or November 15 (spring semester start) <p>Applicants must also submit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A brief (approximately 750 words) personal statement that discusses why they wish to pursue the Master of Arts degree in History; • A sample research paper (at least five pages long). <p>The History Department will admit students twice a year on a competitive, academic merit-based basis. The History Department may limit the number of students admitted to maintain the quality and size of the MA program's student body.</p>
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4. Rationale for the proposed program change:

Currently, Graduate Studies and the History Department apply the following admission standards, even though they are not written in the Graduate Catalog:

- Applicants must achieve a minimum overall undergraduate GPA of 2.5 and minimum GPA of 3.0 in history coursework;
- Applicants must achieve a minimum GAP score (overall undergraduate GPA times total GRE score) of 2200;
- Applicants must have at least 18 hours of undergraduate history coursework on their transcript to be considered for admission;
- Applicants are admitted on a rolling basis.

The History Department wishes to revise the MA in History program admission standards for several reasons.

The MA in History program is growing rapidly. The number of students enrolled in coursework has grown from 13 in fall 2008 to 46 in fall 2011 (as of Aug. 10, 2011). Applications for admission received grew from 14 to 60 between 2008 and 2010.

The History Department has reached the limit of its ability to offer coursework to meet student demand given the department's staffing constraints. Students in the program complain that not enough spaces exist in courses to accommodate all students who want them. The proposed guidelines will help the History Department to manage staffing and the enrollment process by allowing the Department to manage the program size more effectively.

Instituting hard application deadlines in November and June will help the History Department to better manage enrollment.

Department faculty members fear that class sizes are getting too large to manage and to maintain graduate-level academic/intellectual interactions. Enacting the proposed admission guidelines will allow the History Department to better control the size and quality of its graduate student body and help to maintain the academic quality of the program.

Graduate students in history must have strong writing and research skills. Requiring students to submit a personal statement and a sample research paper will allow the History Department to judge more effectively the writing and research skills of applicants.

Given the expansion of the applicant pool, the History Department has the luxury of admitting students selectively and improving the quality of the program's student body, given that the size of the applicant pool. The Department's current admission standards are relatively low compared to other terminal MA universities in the Commonwealth (see attached information). The proposed standards will bring WKU more in line with other terminal MA programs in Kentucky.

The proposed minimum score of 500 (old system) or 150 (new system) on the GRE verbal section is appropriate given what other programs in Kentucky require and is close to the national mean score of students who self-identify as pursuing graduate work in history. The GRE mean Verbal Reasoning score for test-takers (2006-2009) who identified themselves as pursuing graduate work in history was 539, according to GRE's, *Guide to the Use of Scores 2010-11*.

http://www.ets.org/s/gre/pdf/gre_guide.pdf

The proposed 150 Verbal Reasoning score under the new system falls close to the national mean for all test-takers.

http://www.ets.org/s/gre/pdf/gre_guide_table1a.pdf

5. Proposed term for implementation and special provisions (if applicable):

Fall 2012

6. Dates of prior committee approvals:

History Department	<u>Aug. 18, 2011</u>
PCAL Curriculum Committee	<u>Sept. 3, 2011</u>
Graduate Council	<u>2/09/2012</u>
University Senate	<u></u>

Attachment 1: Program Inventory Form

Attachment 2: Admission Requirement of Other Terminal MA in History Programs in Kentucky

Admission Standards, Other Kentucky Terminal MA-Granting History Programs

I. ECU History MA Program

Admission

Admission is determined by the Department of History in cooperation with the Graduate School. The following is required of each candidate for clear admission to the program:

- Satisfactory performance on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) ideally before the student is enrolled, and at the latest, during the first summer or regular academic semester the student is enrolled in the MA program. On the GRE, a combined score of 1000 and a minimum of 4.0 on the analytic essay portion of the exam.
- An overall undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) on the last 60 semester hours of the baccalaureate program.
- Completion of at least a satisfactory undergraduate minor in History or a major in a closely related field.
- Applicants must arrange for submission of three letters of recommendation directly to the department.

Students must meet the general requirements of the graduate school.

II. University of Louisville MA program

Admissions

Applicants with the following credentials are eligible to be considered for unconditional admission to the Master's Program in History:

- a minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- 21 credit hours in history with a minimum GPA 3.0
- a combined score of at least 1000 on the Verbal and Quantitative sections of the Graduate Records Examination (GRE)
- at least two letters of recommendation from individuals who can speak to the applicant's academic and/or professional capabilities and potential
- a statement, not to exceed 500 words, addressing the question: "Why have you chosen to pursue an MA in history?"

For the most up-to-date information regarding admission to the graduate school, conditional admissions, and other information about the graduate school in general, please refer to the [Graduate Catalog Index](#).

Applications

The above-listed credentials must be submitted to the Graduate School Admissions Office along with a formal application and payment of a \$50 processing fee. The application and credentials will then be forwarded to the History Department for review by the Director of Graduate Studies. The online application is available at: <https://graduate.louisville.edu/nu-homepage/admissions/application.html>.

III. Murray State University

Requirements for Admission

Applicants must meet the Murray State University requirements. Additional requirements are as follows.

Unconditional

- An undergraduate major or minor in history.
- GPA of 3.0 or better in history courses.

- GRE score of at least 900 (V+Q).
- 3-5 page (minimum) sample of historical writing.
- Two letters of recommendation that addresses candidates ability to do graduate work in history.

Conditional

A student with a GRE score of less than 900 (V+Q) may be admitted conditionally to the history M.A. program, but the student must satisfy the conditional requirements for admission as specified in Chapter 2 of the Graduate Bulletin.