

## **HISTORY**

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

#### ***Degrees Offered***

Ph.D./Th.D.

#### ***Objectives***

Students acquire a strong general competence, particularly for teaching the history of Christianity or Judaism, and will have particular strength, both for teaching and scholarly research, in a more narrowly defined specialization and in a second field.

The GTU History Area offers its doctoral students two distinct tracks: History of Christianity and Jewish History and Culture.

1. The History of Christianity track offers programs of study in the following fields: ancient and eastern Christianity, medieval Jewish-Christian relations, medieval Christianity, the Reformations broadly conceived, spirituality, Christian missions and American religious history especially colonial, church and state, religion in the American West and American Catholicism.
2. In the Jewish history and culture track, students can study Hellenistic Jewish and rabbinic literature, medieval Jewish history and thought, and modern Jewish literature and culture. Among the interests of the faculty are literary studies, history of ideas and language, the politics of translation and of cultural exchange. Students may work within the discipline of history as well as literary, religious, or cultural studies.

In both tracks, the department encourages interdisciplinary and comparative research. Students have the opportunity to work closely with professors from both the GTU and UC Berkeley.

### **LANGUAGES**

Each student, in consultation with the academic advisor, will prepare a plan for establishing language competency. In the History of Christianity track, the student is expected to show proficiency in two modern languages (other than his or her native language). In the Jewish history and culture track, the student is expected to show proficiency in Hebrew from any period relevant to her/his research as well as one modern language (other than English). In addition, each student is expected to show proficiency in any other language(s) necessary for the planned concentration.

### **COURSEWORK**

As part of their coursework, students must acquire a strong grasp of larger historiographic trends and materials in Christian or Jewish history. In the effort to provide comprehensive training in the principle historical narratives and primary materials in the many periods of Christian or Jewish history, students are required to satisfy the following course distribution requirement:

1. In the History of Christianity track, six doctoral seminars must cover three out of the four following historical periods in Christian History:  
Early Christianity  
Medieval Christianity  
Early Modern Christianity  
Modern Christianity

2. In the Jewish History and Culture track, six doctoral seminars must cover three out of the four following historical periods in Jewish History:  
Biblical (First and Second Temple period)  
Late Antiquity (Hellenistic period to early Middle Ages)  
Medieval and Early Modern  
Modern

### **COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS**

1. In addition to a general competence demonstrated by work in seminars, students are expected to acquire primary competence in one historical period. This is demonstrated by a closed book, three-hour timed examination. As noted above, the bibliography for this exam is drawn up by the student and approved by the comprehensive exam committee and the Area faculty.
2. Each student will write a paper (approximately 40 pages in length) that demonstrates specialization in a particular topic. Ideally this paper would be related to the student's projected dissertation topic.
3. Each student will write a paper (approximately 40 pages in length) that demonstrates competence in a second field. Depending on the track the student is following, a possible second field might be: a second period of Christian or Jewish history or a topic that involves periods outside one's specialization (for example, Christian-Jewish relations, church-state relations, ecumenism, education, missions, spirituality, etc.); the history of another religion (Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Islam, etc.); or, another discipline (the sociology of religion, religious anthropology, systematic theology, etc.)
4. Each student will devise a teaching portfolio of two sample course syllabi that demonstrates broad competence in their field of study, a review and rationale for the primary and secondary sources utilized, and a clear statement of learning outcomes, teaching goals and means of assessing them.

Each student finally undergoes an oral examination by the comprehensive examination committee. This is a discussion of the closed book examination, the two research papers, and the teaching portfolio. The oral examination follows the written examination as soon as is practical within the semester that the written exam is taken.

### **DISSERTATION**

After successfully completing the comprehensive examinations the student submits a dissertation proposal to the Area faculty and the Doctoral Council for approval. An oral defense is conducted upon completion of the dissertation.

### **ALLIED FIELD REQUIREMENTS**

Students who declare History as an Allied Field will be required to take two 5000-level or above history seminars (one of which will ordinarily be the area's methodology seminar) and pass a comprehensive examination supervised by a Core Doctoral Faculty member from the History area.