

## HIST 5960 – COMPREHENSIVE EXAM

Please make sure that you have completed or are taking three units of HIST 5910 before enrolling in 5960, the final course in your MA program. (Students who have enrolled prior to the Fall semester of 2019, please contact the Department Chair about the format of your HIST 5960). The comprehensive exam comprises of a 1,000-2,000 word reflective essay that describes your development as a historian over the course of your years in the Master's program at Cal State Los Angeles. The essay can either argue a point or provide a narrative, but if narrative-oriented, it must retain a strong explanatory thread rather than simply describe your course of study. Here are some examples of questions you might address in the essay. These are meant to help stimulate your writing; please note you should NOT try to address all of them.

- What kind of a historian have you become, and how did you get there?
- Which courses influenced your path?
- Which significant scholarly literature formed your outlook on history?
- Which primary sources particularly interested you, and how did you work with them?
- How did your writing, research, and analytical abilities improve in this program?
- Of the historiographic schools of thought that you have studied, with which ones do you see yourself primarily aligning with?
- What are your present strengths as a historian, and in what areas do you imagine becoming stronger in the future?
- How do you envision (and/or how have you experienced) our MA program helping you in the job market, as a teacher, as a researcher, as an archivist, as a museum worker, or in any job you hold?

This essay should be well-written and thoroughly edited. You should work with your primary advisor to develop and refine this assignment. The essay is due by noon on Monday of the exam week for the term in which you are registered for HIST 5960.