

Department of the History of Science
PhD Program
Guide to Fulfilling the Temporal Distribution Course Requirement

Temporal Course Requirement

At least one graduate-level course must focus substantially on pre-1800 subjects. (Conversely, one course should focus substantially on post-1800 subjects, but this will normally be fulfilled by taking HSCI 3003a.)

There are three ways to fulfill the pre-1800 requirement:

- A 2000-level course (primarily for graduate students) in History of Science (or History) whose readings are *substantially* about pre-1800 subjects. Specifically, up to two weeks may focus on later or more general subjects, but most weeks should focus on historical subjects before 1800.
- A 2000-level course in History of Science (or History) which does not fulfill the above condition, but whose readings are at least 50% pre-1800. In this case, the course should have a final assessment (such as a research paper) or other substantial written component which engages substantially with pre-1800 historical subjects.
- A General Examination Field in a subject that is primarily pre-1800. (Examples include but are not limited to: History of Early Modern Science, History of Medieval Medicine, History of Ancient Science.)

In all cases, students should check with the DGS well ahead of time to ensure that their plan for fulfilling this requirement is feasible.

Students may petition to use courses in Departments outside of History and History of Science to fulfill this requirement, including in Art History, Classics, and NELC, at the discretion of the DGS and the Committee on Higher Degrees. But note that the intent of this requirement is for students to engage in primarily historical approaches to studying the past, so that courses focused on literary analysis, for example, will not normally fulfill this requirement. When necessary, the DGS will consult the Committee on Higher Degrees to decide whether a given course fulfills this requirement.