

## Guidelines for HIST 6999

### Major Research Paper (MRP)

Students enrolled in the course route Masters Degree should normally enrol for HIST 6999 in the summer semester of their year, with the expectation of completing HIST 6999 by the end of their third semester (August). Using primary and secondary source materials, the student will write an original scholarly work on a subject developed in consultation with their supervisor(s). As per the departmental guidelines, the MRP should be article length, or approximately 10,000 words (35-40 double-spaced pages), plus bibliography and notes. The MRP should be in the manner of a journal article, or book chapter. That is, the MRP should have a clear argument, be based in part on original documentation, and have substantial historiographical contextualization. The MRP will be assessed for a grade by the supervisor and a suitable second reader, the latter selected in consultation with the supervisor. Before the MRP is submitted for examination this individual's willingness and availability to examine the MRP must be secured by either the supervisor and/or the student. That individual does not need to be within the Department of History, but should be someone with a degree of knowledge of the subject area, methodology, or some other aspect of the MRP. That individual normally should not be external to Memorial University, as this creates difficulties in administering the assessment. The format of the MRP should follow, where appropriate, the guidelines for MA Thesis format outlined by the School of Graduate Studies ([https://www.mun.ca/sgs/go/guid\\_policies/Guidelines\\_Theses\\_and\\_Reports.pdf](https://www.mun.ca/sgs/go/guid_policies/Guidelines_Theses_and_Reports.pdf)).

The student will normally provide their supervisor(s) with a complete full draft of the MRP by mid-July of their third semester. Once the student has incorporated the supervisor's suggestions and comments, and with the supervisor's approval, the student will submit an electronic copy (usually in .pdf format) to the Graduate Coordinator for examination, cc'ing their supervisor on that email for the latter's notification. The Graduate Coordinator will forward the paper to the examiner with instructions. The Graduate Coordinator will adjudicate the process of assessment, and inform the student of the result at the end. The supervisor and the second reader will provide the Graduate Coordinator with a brief report based on their reading of the MRP, along with a suggested grade range (eg., 82-84%). The reports may also contain suggestions for revision. This can take two forms: either requiring revisions and resubmission before a final grade will be assessed, or suggestions for revisions to be made to the MRP but on which the assessment does not depend. In the former case the student can elect to not make those revisions and accept a grade based on the originally submitted paper. The Graduate Coordinator will consider the reports and recommendations of the two readers in determining the final grade for the MRP/6999, and will adjudicate any discrepancy between the reports and proposed grade. Following the evaluation process the Graduate Coordinator will forward the grade and suggestions to the student for incorporation into the MRP, either for re-assessment or for final submission to the Department of History for our library. This will be considered as having completed HIST 6999 as a course, and a final grade will be submitted only when the student's final and formatted MRP is received.

If examination and/or revisions cannot be completed within the summer semester, the student will at the end of August receive an "INC" for Incomplete for 6999 on their transcript until such time as the course is complete. You do not need to re-register for HIST 6999 since you registered for that course in the summer semester. In your fourth semester (Fall) you would still register for HIST 9000 as you normally would while a student. If the MRP is still not assessed by the end of that fourth semester you

must speak to the Graduate Coordinator who will request an extension on that course from the Registrar. Whether the request is successful is outside of the Department's power to predict, so it is important to get a good start on the MRP by the spring, with the aim of a timely completion in August.

Suggested Timeline:

- \* Autumn and Winter Semesters: develop MRP research question and sources in consultation with supervisor(s), where possible develop the historiographical background for the MRP and appropriate research methods, locate primary sources
- \* April-July: research and write the MRP
- \* May: select and contact potential examiner second reader based on MRP subject
- \* Mid-July: submit full draft to supervisor
- \* Early August: revise the draft, complete any additional research/reading as required
- \* Mid-August: submit MRP to the Graduate Coordinator
- \* End of August: deposit final formatted copy to the Department

(revised 08/18)