

**Department of Romance Languages**  
**An overview of changes to the MA program adopted by faculty in 2017**

**Website currently under revision to reflect the changes**

**COURSEWORK**

Students pursuing an M.A. in French, Italian, or Spanish must complete **at least one** 4-credit graduate-level course in each of the historical and literary periods defined in the MA program.

**MA INDEPENDENT SUMMER READING AND MA FORUM**

In fall term, students will register for a 4-credit, PASS/NO PASS RL 605 with the Director of Graduate Studies as instructor of record. This course number corresponds to independent summer reading and MA forum.

**INDEPENDENT SUMMER READING**

The purpose of this required independent reading course is to motivate students to begin reading during the summer following their first year in the M.A. program in preparation for the M.A. exams that will take place in the spring term of their second year.

For the MA Summer Reading, the student will have to prepare **a list of 10 works** subject to Faculty approval and submitted no later than Week 10 of Spring term prior to the Independent Summer Reading Assignment. The books must belong to no more than two of the periods defined by the M.A. program, and five of the books must be taken from the Departmental Reading Lists. At least one of the texts should be a literary history or a similar text about the period. This approved list (signed by faculty, either MA advisor or faculty with expertise in the historical/literary period) will be submitted to the Director of Graduate Studies before the end of the spring term.

During the first week of Fall term (Friday), students will submit a Dossier containing:

- Reader Responses to Primary Sources
- Annotated Bibliography for Secondary/Critical Source(s)

The format of reader responses and annotated bibliography is explained in the Graduate Student Manual

Dossiers are distributed evenly among all faculty for feedback and Pass/No Pass evaluation.

**FALL FORUM**

In second year (*third or fourth week of the fall term*), students will present a conference paper based on a course paper selected to be developed as their MA essay. The rationale is for students to practice different modalities of academic engagement: initial research paper; conference paper in English; final MA essay.

Substantive peer and faculty feedback on the conference paper is expected to be incorporated by students during the revision process for the MA Essay.

This Forum will last one afternoon (often 12 - 4 pm), and will be organized as an academic panel discussion. There will be a chair for each session, a discussion will follow the presentations, and the department will provide refreshments. All MA students, tenure track faculty (unless on leave or at a conference), and all supportive PhD students will attend.

Presentations will be 15 minutes long and will be delivered in English.

At the end of the presentations or on a subsequent day, faculty members will meet to evaluate the presentations. Students will receive four PASS/NO PASS credits for the RL 605 course.

If the faculty members find that a presentation was deficient, they will recommend that the student do supervised reading with the faculty specialist in the period before being assigned a grade and receiving course credit.

### **MA EXAMS**

In consultation with their advisor, students prepare lists for exams in four areas. Three must be literary periods. The fourth may be an additional literary period OR applied linguistics OR cinema studies.

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### **FAQ**

***Can courses on cinema and applied linguistics count to fulfill a period requirement?***

-> No, cinema and applied linguistics do not represent “a period” and do not satisfy a period requirement, such a period 4.

***Can my independent summer reading be on sources in applied linguistics or films?***

-> No, independent summer reading focuses on primary and secondary sources that are period specific, not on applied linguistics or cinema.

***Can my MA forum presentation and MA essay be on cinema and applied linguistics?***

-> Yes, if you’ve written a paper on applied linguistics or cinema that you wish to develop into your MA essay, this will be your Forum presentation.

***Can my second MA exam (close reading) be on applied linguistics or cinema studies?***

-> No. Your list for applied linguistics or cinema is for the first exam where you’ll have a choice of 2 questions based on your list.

***Can LING and LT courses taught in English count as the applied linguistic option?***

***Can CINE courses taught in English count as the cinema option?***

-> The Linguistic option is best covered with RL and SPAN offerings (ex: SPAN 520, 524, 525, 528). The Cinema option is best covered with RL, ITAL, FR or SPAN courses with a cinema focus.

But with your advisor's approval, two courses taken outside of RL can be used toward the MA degree.

The goal is to prepare for the exam *and* develop proficiency in the target language. If you have opted for applied linguistics or cinema in lieu of a period, and courses outside the department helps with preparation and expertise, then it makes good sense. Your advisor will help determine how best to achieve the right coverage for the exams and language proficiency.