CULTURAL STUDIES GRADUATE GROUP
DEGREE REQUIREMENTS
Revisions: June 2006, February 2009
Approved by Graduate Council: May 20, 2009

M.A. PROGRAM

1) Admissions Requirements
There are no admissions to the MA program directly. A PhD student who voluntarily
separates from the Ph.D. program may petition for a change of degree objective to the
MA.

2) MA Plan I
Plan I requires 30 units of graduate and upper division courses, of which at least 12 units
must be graduate courses in the major field. A thesis is required.

3) Course Requirements - Core and Electives (30 units total)

a) Core Courses (23-28 units):
   CST 200A Histories of Cultural Studies (4)
   CST 200B Theories of Cultural Studies (4)
   CST 200C Practices of Cultural Studies (4)
   CST 250 Research Seminar (4)
   CST 290 Cultural Studies Colloquium (1) (6 units required)
   CST 299 Directed Research (variable 1-6)

b) Elective Courses (2-7 units minimum):
   This is a partial list of regularly offered courses that are of interest to Cultural
   Studies students. Each quarter before course registration begins, the titles and
   expanded course descriptions of seminars being taught in other programs and
   departments are solicited and then circulated to the Cultural Studies graduate
   students.

   ANT 210 Aspects of Culture Structure
   CRI 200A Approaches to Critical Theory
   CST 208 Studies in Nationalism, Transnationalism, and Late Capitalism
   CST 214 Studies in Political and Cultural Representations
   CST 295 Special Topics: U.S. Empire: Citizenship, War and 9/11
   CST 295 Special Topics: Space, Race and Gender and Colonialism
   CST 299D Dissertation Research (variable units, 1-12)
   HIS 201Q Cross-Cultural Women’s History
   STH 250 Research in Social Theory and Comparative History
   WMS 200A Current Issues in Feminist Theory

c) Summary
   A candidate’s total program for the MA degree must include a minimum of 30
   units of graduate and upper division courses and seminars. A maximum of 12 of
the 30 units may be in upper division courses. This is in addition to the Cultural Studies Colloquium, CST 290, or Research, CST 299. Typically, students will enroll in approximately 10 units of 299 to enable them to complete research for their thesis. Additionally, the student is required to have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 throughout all graduate work at U.C. Davis. Candidates are expected to take the first year sequence (CST 200 A, B, and C), a second year Research Seminar CST 250, and 6 units of Cultural Studies Colloquium, CST 290, over 6 quarters. A minimum course load is 12 units each academic quarter.

4) Special requirements - none

5) Committees
   
   **Thesis Committee**
   The student, in conjunction with the Graduate Adviser, nominates faculty for a thesis committee consisting of three members. The chair and one other reader must be members of the graduate group. After the Graduate Adviser approves the thesis topic, the Graduate Adviser will nominate a thesis reading committee. The Dean of Graduate Studies will appoint the committee, in accordance with Graduate Council and Graduate Studies policies. The student will then write his/her thesis and submit it to the committee for review and approval.

6) Advising Structure and Mentoring
   
   **The Graduate Advisers**
   The Cultural Studies Graduate Group uses a “Cohort Advising” system in which students have a different Graduate Adviser for each phase of their study. This cohort system ensures that the Graduate Adviser is attuned to the emphases and focus of each stage of the degree program through to graduation and job placement. Graduate Advisers work closely together (insuring consistency) and work in concert with the student’s choice of Chair of Qualifying and Dissertation Committees.

   **First Graduate Adviser:** During the student's first quarter in residence, the Graduate Group in Cultural Studies Executive Committee assigns students to a Graduate Adviser, who is responsible for approximately fifteen students each. That Graduate Adviser oversees the student’s progress for two years.

   Students are required to see the Graduate Adviser to whom they are assigned at the very beginning of each quarter, and as needed. If the Graduate Adviser is not available for any reason, students may confer with the Chair of the Graduate Group. If students wish to request a change of graduate adviser, they may consult the Graduate Group Chair.

   **The Graduate Adviser** verifies the student's progress toward completion of the degree. The Graduate Adviser and the thesis committee evaluate the student's progress in the specific fields of emphasis by reviewing performance in courses, and progress towards completion of the thesis. Students develop a study plan in close consultation with the Graduate Adviser and the major professor. No formal plan of study is required to be submitted by a specific date.

   **The Major Professor** normally supervises the student’s research and serves on the Thesis Committee.
The **Mentoring Guidelines** can be found in the graduate student handbook at [http://culturalstudies.ucdavis.edu/materials/](http://culturalstudies.ucdavis.edu/materials/)

7) **Advancement to Candidacy**
Every student must file an official application for Candidacy for the Degree of Master of Arts after completing one-half of their course requirements and at least one quarter before completing all degree requirements. The Candidacy for the Masters Degree form can be found online at: [http://www.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/forms/](http://www.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/forms/) A completed form includes a list of courses the student will take to complete degree requirements. If changes must be made to the student’s course plan after s/he has advanced to candidacy, the Graduate Adviser must recommend these changes to Graduate Studies. Students must have their Graduate Adviser and thesis committee Chair sign the candidacy form before it can be submitted to Graduate Studies. If the candidacy is approved, the Office of Graduate Studies will send a copy to: the thesis Committee Chair, the appropriate graduate staff person, and the student. If the Office of Graduate Studies determines that a student is not eligible for advancement, the department and the student will be told the reasons for the application’s deferral. Some reasons for deferring an application include: grade point average below 3.0, outstanding “I” grades in required courses, or insufficient units.

8) **Thesis Requirements**
There is no required length for a thesis, but it will generally be 50 or more pages long, exclusive of tables, figures and references. The style of referencing and footnoting is decided in consultation with the adviser. It must also conform to the University's formatting requirements, a copy of which is available from the Graduate Coordinator.

All committee members must sign the thesis title page to certify their satisfaction with the thesis. In case the committee members cannot reach a unanimous decision to accept the thesis, but a majority is favorable, the majority and minority should report their separate opinions of the thesis’ merit to the Dean of Graduate Studies. The Dean will refer this information to the Administrative Committee of the Graduate Council for a final decision.

If the quality of the thesis is unacceptable, the committee should give the student a clearly specified period of time to improve the thesis, usually one quarter or more. If, after that period of time, the thesis is still unacceptable to a majority of the committee, the majority may recommend to the Dean that the student be disqualified from further graduate study.

**Filing the Thesis**
The student is responsible for observing the filing dates and preparing the thesis according to the proper format. Candidates are encouraged to submit the thesis electronically. Instructions for electronic submission can be located on the Graduate Studies [Website](http://www.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/students/degree_candidates.html).

**Dates**
For a schedule of filing dates and instructions on thesis preparation, go online to: [http://www.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/students/filing.html](http://www.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/students/filing.html).
For a general calendar of deadline dates applicable to master’s students, go online to: http://www.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/students/calendar.html.

These dates are also available in the UC Davis General Catalog.

**Forms**

The following two documents must accompany the thesis and can be found online:
- *University Library Release Form*, http://www.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/forms
- *Graduate Program Exit Information Form*, http://www.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/students/degree_candidates.html.

9) **Normative Time to Degree**
The Normative Time to Degree for the MA program is 6 quarters (two years).

10) **Typical Time Line and Sequence of Events**

**Year 1**
- First year sequence, CST 200 A-C (12 units)
- Graduate seminars and advanced course work (24 units)
- Cultural Studies Colloquium, CST 290 (3 units)

**Year 2**
- Graduate seminars and advanced course work (20 units)
- Research Seminar, CST 250 (4 units)
- Cultural Studies Colloquium, CST 290 (3 units)
- Directed Research, CST 299 (12 units)
- Complete the thesis

11) **PELP and Filing Fee status.**
Information about PELP (Planned Educational Leave) and Filing Fee status can be found in the Graduate Student Handbook: http://www.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/publications/
PH.D. PROGRAM

1) Admissions Requirements
Graduate Studies Application (including a statement of purpose and personal history statement), a minimum 3.0 GPA, GRE Scores taken within the last 5 years, three letters of recommendation, official transcripts from institutions attended, and a writing sample (10-20 pages) or multi-media project. Applications are due by December 1.

2) Dissertation (Plan B)
When a student advances to candidacy, she/he, in consultation with the Graduate Adviser proposes names for a dissertation committee with at least three members. At least two members, including the chair, must be members of the Graduate Group. The Chair shall be the Major Professor. In accordance with Graduate Council and Graduate Studies policies, the committee is appointed by the Dean of Graduate Studies. At the discretion of the Dissertation Committee, a final oral examination may be held. An exit seminar is not required.

3) Course Requirements
Clusters: Davis faculty doing Cultural Studies work have particular strengths in the following areas: 1. Gender and Sexualities, 2. Race, Ethnicities, and Cultural Representation, 3. Politics, Religion, Communities, and Cultural Representation, 4. Popular Culture, 5. National Cultures, Transnationalism, and Globalization, 6. Science and Society, 7. Historical Studies, 8. Rhetoric and Critical Theory, and 9. Disability Studies. These cluster names, however, serve to identify areas of expertise and are not meant to formally delineate fields of emphasis or subprograms. In consultation with their Graduate Adviser, each student draws on these clusters and traditional departmental and programmatic curricula, in order to develop her/his plan of study.

We provide core courses to teach the critical skills needed to do Cultural Studies work and to compete for jobs in several fields. In addition, students and their assigned Graduate Adviser design individualized programs of advanced study from the many advanced courses being offered from a Cultural Studies perspective on the Davis campus.

a) Core Courses: 34 units
CST 200A Histories of Cultural Studies (4)
CST 200B Theories of Cultural Studies (4)
CST 200C Practices of Cultural Studies (4)
CST 250 Research Seminar (4)
CST 270A-C Individually Guided Research in Cultural Studies (4 each) (12 units required)
CST 290 Cultural Studies Colloquium (1 each) (6 units minimum)
b) Elective or Recommended Courses: 24 units
This is a partial list of regularly offered courses that are of interest to Cultural Studies students. Each quarter before course registration begins, the titles and expanded course descriptions of seminars being taught in other programs and departments are solicited and then circulated to the Cultural Studies graduate students.

ANT 210  Aspects of Culture Structure
CRI 200A  Approaches to Critical Theory
CST 208  Studies in Nationalism, Transnationalism, and Late Capitalism
CST 214  Studies in Political and Cultural Representations
CST 295  Special Topics: U.S. Empire: Citizenship, War and 9/11
CST 295  Special Topics: Space, Race and Gender and Colonialism
CST 299D  Dissertation Research (variable units, 1-12)
HIS 201Q  Cross-Cultural Women’s History
STH 250  Research in Social Theory and Comparative History
WMS 200A  Current Issues in Feminist Theory

Summary: 64 graded units minimum
A candidate's total program for the Ph.D. degree must include a minimum of 64 graded units of graduate courses and seminars relevant to his/her teaching and research interest. Twelve of these units may be from upper division undergraduate courses. The 64 graded unit minimum includes Individually Guided Research in Cultural Studies (CST 270 A-C) and the Research Seminar (CST 250) but not the Cultural Studies Colloquium (CST 290) or Dissertation Research (CST 299D) which are graded S/U.

The student must pass a preliminary exam, take 6 units of Cultural Studies Colloquium over 6 quarters, produce a satisfactory dissertation prospectus, pass a qualifying exam, produce a satisfactory dissertation, and maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 throughout all graduate work at U.C. Davis in order to be eligible for the PhD. A minimum course load is 12 units each academic quarter.

d) First Year Sequence
During the first year, students take the three required courses, CST 200A, CST 200B, and CST 200C, in consecutive quarters. These courses introduce students to basic Cultural Studies concepts, issues, and arguments within the field. CST 200A introduces students to the multiple histories and traditions of Cultural Studies. CST 200B introduces students to the significance of and challenges to critical theory in Cultural Studies. CST 200C introduces students to the approaches, perspectives, and methodologies of Cultural Studies, such as critical ethnography, deconstruction, and psychoanalysis.
e) **Second Year Sequence**
During the second year, students pursue a course of study approved by their Graduate Adviser consisting of 12 units per quarter. Students are required to enroll in the Research Seminar (CST 250): in this course they a) revise a previously written paper with the intention of submitting it for conference presentation or publication; b) learn to critique and review peer research and writing; c) attend UC Davis professional development workshops on academic publishing and careers in higher education.

4) **Special Requirement: Language**
Given the comparative and global interest of Cultural Studies and given the fact that knowing more than one language is a valuable asset in obtaining teaching positions; students are required to have a fluent reading knowledge of a language other than English. Ideally, this language should be one relevant to the field of dissertation research.

Students may satisfy this requirement either by passing an upper-division undergraduate course in the language with a grade of B or better or by passing the Foreign Language Proficiency Exam. The language requirement must be completed before the student is approved to take the Qualifying Examination. Students passing the language requirement with course work taken at another institution must demonstrate that this course work is sufficiently recent to provide a useful working knowledge of the language for scholarly purposes.

5) **Committees**

a) **Admissions Committee**
Once the completed application, all supporting material, and the application fee have been received, the application will be submitted to the Admissions Committee. The Admissions Committee consists of 8 graduate program faculty and 2 graduate group students. Based on a review of the entire application, a recommendation is made to accept or decline an applicant’s request for admission. That recommendation is forwarded to the Dean of Graduate Studies for final approval of admission. Notification of admissions decisions will be sent by Graduate Studies. Applications are accepted through December 1 for the next Fall’s entering class.

b) **Examination Committee**
The student, in consultation with his/her major professor and graduate advisor, nominate 5 faculty to serve on the Qualifying Examination Committee. Three of the five faculty are the student’s CST 270 instructors. These nominations are submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies for formal appointment in accordance with Graduate Council policy (DDB 80. Graduate Council B.1.). The major professor cannot serve as Chair of the Qualifying Examination committee.
6) Advising Structure and Mentoring

The Graduate Advisers
The Cultural Studies Graduate Group uses a “Cohort Advising” system in which students have a different Graduate Adviser for each phase of their study. This cohort system ensures that the Graduate Adviser is attuned to the emphases and focus of each stage of the degree program through to graduation and job placement. Graduate Advisers work closely together (insuring consistency) and work in concert with the student’s choice of Chair of Qualifying and Dissertation Committees.

First Graduate Adviser: During the student's first quarter in residence, the Graduate Group in Cultural Studies Executive Committee assigns students to a Graduate Adviser, who is responsible for approximately fifteen students each. That Graduate Adviser oversees the student’s progress for two years.

Second Graduate Adviser: After the first two years, the student moves on to the Graduate Adviser who oversees the cohort for the next two years.

Third Graduate Adviser: After advancement to candidacy, the student is assigned to the third Graduate Adviser who oversees students that have advanced.

Students are required to see the Graduate Adviser to whom they are assigned at the very beginning of each quarter, and as needed. If the Graduate Adviser is not available for any reason, students may confer with the Chair of the Graduate Group. If students wish to request a change of graduate adviser, they may consult the Graduate Group Chair.

The Graduate Adviser verifies the student's progress toward completion of the dissertation and the degree. The Graduate Adviser, the qualifying examination committee, and the dissertation committee evaluate the student's progress in the specific fields of emphasis by reviewing performance in courses, and the qualifying exam and by making recommendations to the Graduate Adviser. Students develop a study plan in close consultation with the Graduate Adviser and the major professor.

No formal plan of study is required to be submitted by a specific date.

Major Professor
The Chair of the Dissertation Committee is the Major Professor, and cannot be the Chair of the QE Committee. The major professor must be selected by the time of the qualifying examination.

The Mentoring Guidelines can be found in the graduate student handbook at http://culturalstudies.ucdavis.edu/materials/

7) Advancement to Candidacy
Expected time to candidacy is nine quarters. The student is eligible for Advancement to Candidacy after successful completion of all graduate program degree requirements and after passing the Qualifying Examination. The student must file the appropriate paperwork with the Office of Graduate Studies and pay the candidacy fee in order to be officially promoted to Ph.D. Candidacy.
8) Dissertation Requirements

a) Exit Seminar
There is no exit seminar requirement for Cultural Studies students.

b) Preliminary Exam
At the end of the first year students take a preliminary exam. The exam covers material from the three core seminars (CST 200A-C). The preliminary exam is written and graded by the three professors who teach the 200 series and is overseen by the program chair or one of the Graduate Advisers. The members of the preliminary exam committee read the preliminary exam and each reader submits a written report and votes (pass/fail) on the examination. Faculty submit reports to the Executive Committee who makes a decision in the case of a split vote. In certain split vote cases, the student may be asked to re-take the exam in part or in whole. Students who fail all three sections may not re-take the exam. Successful completion of this exam permits the student to continue the Ph.D. program.

c) Directed Research and Qualifying Exam
During the third year, the student enrolls in up to three quarters of Individually Guided Research in Cultural Studies (CST 270 A-C) that result in the production of a dissertation prospectus. The dissertation prospectus frames the purpose and scope of the dissertation project, sets it in the context of relevant scholarship, and provides a chapter outline and a working bibliography. Defense of the prospectus forms part of the Qualifying Examination.

The Qualifying Examination is an oral exam that focuses on three fields. The examination fields are composed of reading lists in three thematic areas that provide the critical, theoretical, and/or historical contexts of the dissertation; they range considerably beyond the focus of the dissertation, and position the student's research interests in relation to the larger field. The thematic areas are defined in consultation with the 270 series professors and the Graduate Adviser and approved by the Chair of the Examination Committee. It is the responsibility of the Chair to inform the other members of the Qualifying Examination Committee of the nature of the three thematic areas.

Timing of the Exam: Students must complete their 270 series and must schedule their qualifying examination at the end of the 3rd quarter of the 3rd year (9th quarter.)

The Graduate Council’s Administrative Committee has approved Cultural Studies’ request for an exception to the Doctoral Qualifying Examinations Policy requirement to have an external (to the graduate group) member on the QE committee. The qualifying exam committee consists of five examiners (one in each of the 3 areas—typically, the 270 series professors—plus another member and the chair). At least three members of the qualifying exam committee should be selected from the Cultural Studies Graduate Group faculty. The qualifying exam committee chair does not have to be a member of the graduate group. While the dissertation chair (major professor) may serve on
the QE committee, s/he may not chair the examination. If a student is participating in a designated emphasis program, they will be required to have committee members who are affiliated with that program as well (check with the D.E. program for specifics). The entire qualifying exam committee must be approved and recommended to Graduate Studies by the CST Graduate Adviser.

In accordance with Graduate Council and Graduate Studies policies, the student, in conjunction with the Graduate Adviser, recommends names for the Qualifying Examination Committee to the Graduate Studies Dean. The Qualifying Examination Committee should reflect both the specific areas of dissertation research and the broader aims of the examination. Successful completion of the Qualifying Examination allows the student to advance to candidacy.

9) **Normative Time to Degree**

“Normative time” is the number of years considered to be reasonable for completion of a particular doctorate program by a well-prepared full-time student. The Cultural Studies program has established a normative time of six years (18 quarters) for a student who enters the program with either a B.A. or M.A. degree to complete the Ph.D.

**UC Davis Graduate Studies Time Requirement for Completion of Degree Studies:** While normative time establishes the time frame in which our program expects most students to complete the degree, the university allows for a more extended period of time before dismissal. UCD Graduate Studies policy states: “Students will have four calendar years after the date they pass their Qualifying Examination (QE) to submit their dissertation. At this time, if a student has not submitted his/her dissertation to Graduate Studies, this student will receive a notice from Graduate Studies that s/he is placed on probation, and has one year from that date to submit the dissertation. If not submitted within one year, the student will no longer be allowed to enroll the following quarter and will be dismissed. The clock is “set” from the date of passage of the QE, not the time the student officially advances to candidacy through submission of the form to Graduate Studies…."

Students who do not complete their coursework at satisfactory or higher are subject to disqualification. Expected time to candidacy is recommended at nine quarters. Full time students in Cultural Studies normally complete the requirements for a Ph.D. within five to seven years of full time work.

10) **Typical Time Line and Sequence of Events**

Full time students must be enrolled in 12 units each quarter. These units may include 299s (which are graded S/U).

**Year 1**
- First year sequence, CST 200 A-C (12 units)
- Graduate seminars and advanced course work (24 units)
- Cultural Studies Colloquium, CST 290 (3 units)
- *Preliminary exam required*
**Year 2**
Graduate seminars and advanced course work (32 units)
Research Seminar, CST 250 (4 units)
Cultural Studies Colloquium, CST 290 (3 units)

**Year 3**
Individually Guided Research in Cultural Studies CST 270 A-C (12 units)
Graduate seminars and advanced course work (24 units)
* dissertation prospectus and qualifying exam by the end of the third quarter

**Years 4-5**
Optional: Dissertation Research, CST 299D
* dissertation required

11) **PELP and Filing Fee status.**
Information about PELP (Planned Educational Leave) and Filing Fee status can be found in the Graduate Student Handbook:
http://www.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/students/handbook/1.html

12) **Satisfactory Progress to Degree**
Satisfactory Progress in Cultural Studies is determined by considering several factors that measure academic progress. At the end of each year, each student will meet with his/her adviser to review progress in the program. Based on this review, the adviser will write a report indicating that a student is making either Satisfactory, Marginal or Unsatisfactory progress. In addition to academic progress, all students must adhere to the academic code of conduct in order to remain in good standing.

Satisfactory Progress indicates that the student is moving forward in the program in a timely manner and is meeting or exceeding all of the expectations of the Graduate Group.

Requirements for Satisfactory Progress for first year students:
- 3.5 GPA in the required core courses (200A, 200B, 200C).
- Satisfactory completion of at least 24 graded units.
- Satisfactory completion of preliminary examination.

Requirements for Satisfactory Progress for continuing students:
- Cumulative GPA of 3.3 in all classes
- Completion of the qualifying examination no later than the end of the 9th quarter. Students who need to retake any portion of the qualifying examination must do so by the end of the following quarter.
- Satisfactory completion of units appropriate to time in the program.
Marginal Status is a cautionary status that is used to let a student know that he/she is not fully meeting all of the expectations of the program. A Marginal Status is assigned if a student is:

- Carrying one incomplete for more than one quarter
- Has completed less than the recommended number of academic units

Unsatisfactory Progress indicates that a student has not made the expected progress towards his/her degree objective and automatically places the student on Probationary Status. A student on probation for more than 3 quarters may be separated from the program. Any of the following criteria will warrant assigning a student an Unsatisfactory Progress Report:

- Carrying two or more incompletes for more than one quarter
- A GPA of less than 3.3 in all classes
- A GPA of less than 3.5 in all required core classes
- Not successfully completing the QE exam by the end of the 4th year.

Grounds for Dismissal:

- Violation of the academic code of conduct.
- Probationary Status for more than 3 quarters.
- Failure to advance to candidacy by the end of the first quarter of the 5th year (some exceptions may be granted by the chair under specific circumstances on a case by case basis).

Recommendations for dismissal are made to the Dean of Graduate Studies.

**Voluntary Separation:** Students who are working towards the PhD and are not on academic probation, and who have fulfilled all the MA degree requirements (including completion of an approved thesis), may request they be awarded the MA degree if they decide to voluntarily leave the PhD program prior to completion by using the Change of Objective form.

**Block Grants and Academic Progress:** Block grant awards are available to students who meet all of the following criteria:

- Maintain university requirement of 3.0 GPA
- Register, enroll, and maintain a minimum of 12 units
- Are not on program probation for 3 or more quarters
- Stay within normative time for completion of degree
- File a FAFSA to receive support