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DEPARTMENT OF MODERN HISTORY

Discipline Profile

NATURE OF THE DISCIPLINE:

Modern History is a core Humanities discipline. Modern History as practised at Macquarie University covers a diverse and interlinked set of subject areas concerned with the interpretation of the record of experience of human society in past time. The principal areas of current teaching specialisation are Australian history, history of Europe and the West, World/Global history, and gender history. Like most Humanities academics, modern historians typically work (teach, research, publish, and gain a professional reputation) as individuals. Joint teaching and research projects, however, are not uncommon, and may become more common as pressures for institutional differentiation and concentration of 'research excellence' increase.

QUALIFICATIONS:

A doctorate in the subject or equivalent professional qualification is the expected standard of qualification for grades of Lecturer and above. Associate Lecturers are expected to have a minimum qualification of a good Honours degree in History with a doctorate in progress. If Associate Lecturers have a doctorate, they are entitled to level A, step 6 status.

TEACHING:

Teaching style: The typical teaching style of Modern History is a combination of lectures, tutorials, and seminars. Reflective critical exchange between lecturer/tutor and student is both expected and encouraged, though staff/student ratios make this ideal difficult to achieve with consistency. Willingness and ability to recognise, and use to learning advantage, the diverse cultural backgrounds of students, is valued.

Teaching load: Full-time continuing staff are expected to average 8-10 contact hours a week. As a general rule, each staff member is expected to be lecturer in charge (or co-lecturer) of an undergraduate unit each semester, and to contribute a unit to the MA by coursework program of the Department on a regular pattern of rotation. Co-ordination of large 100-level units and of Honours seminars is usually the responsibility of more senior staff (Senior Lecturer and above). If entrusted to a more junior member, it is to be interpreted as a sign of unusual professional trust.

Teaching competences: The Department relies on staff to be/become familiar with standard technology of teaching delivery. This includes, in particular, the systems and resources of the Macquarie University Online Teaching Facility. These are the platforms on which are built the Department's extensive sets of online undergraduate programs (including a full major in the Open University Australia BA program). The Department also expects staff to be systematic users of available teaching evaluation services (typically those

provided by CPD), and to be able to show evidence of creative response to student feedback.

Curriculum development: Modern History is a discipline in constant self-appraisal, both in terms of relevant subject matter and of methodology and approach, and modern historians reflect this aspect of their profession in their commitment to curriculum development. In some – unusual and outstanding – cases, this is recorded by the winning of grants and the publication of textbooks. More typically, curriculum development (the development of new study patterns, units of study, teaching materials, methods of delivery and assessment) takes place as part of normal teaching duty in consultation with colleagues and in conformity with current Department study patterns and Teaching and Learning plans.

Honours and Higher Degree Research supervision:

[NB May be claimed by applicants for promotion in support of case either for teaching or research performance – but not for both.]

The Department mounts an Honours program (including thesis supervision), and Department staff supervise Higher Degree Research students. Staff at Lecturer level and above are encouraged to undertake supervision, and ability to supervise students to successful completion is a skill highly valued. It should be noted that opportunity to supervise is shaped to some degree by availability of research resources in area of staff member's expertise. Distribution of supervision load therefore tends to be uneven and track record of individual staff needs to be evaluated in context of subject area of research specialisation.

Grade descriptions:

Associate Lecturer (Level A)

Associate Lecturers are expected to contribute to the teaching program of the Department by taking classes and delivering lectures within their area of expertise, and by assisting lecturers in other units (especially at 100 level). They are encouraged to make teaching innovations in subject material and delivery with appropriate guidance from more senior staff. They may be invited to act as lecturers in charge of units if qualified by skill and experience to do so, though this is normally an indication that they are qualified to apply for promotion. If they hold a doctorate they may be invited to participate in supervision of honours and HDR students for projects falling directly within their area of expertise.

Lecturer (Level B)

Lecturers are expected to contribute to the teaching program of the Department by demonstrating an ability to take responsibility for teaching one or more units of study, i.e., developing unit materials, presenting lectures and tutorials, taking responsibility for assessment and for unit organisation. They are encouraged to make innovations in curriculum development and delivery. They may be appointed to supervise the research of honours and HDR students.

Senior Lecturer (Level C)

In addition to the duties expected of a Lecturer, Senior Lecturers are expected to make a significant contribution to the teaching effort of the Department.

This may be evidenced, for example, by curriculum development/review, by co-ordination of a large 100-level unit, by convenorship of honours or postgraduate teaching programs, and by other contributions to the effective organisation and renewal of the Department's teaching program (including interdisciplinary teaching). Supervision of honours and HDR students is expected where there is appropriate opportunity.

Associate Professor (Level D)

Associate Professors are expected to make a significant contribution to a wide range of teaching activities of the Department and to demonstrate teaching leadership at either undergraduate or postgraduate level. This may be evidenced, for example, by major contributions to curriculum development/review, by exemplary innovations in presentation and delivery, or by a pattern of successful supervision of HDR students.

Professor (Level E)

In addition to the duties expected of an Associate Professor, Professors are expected to provide leadership and foster excellence across the teaching program of the Department. This may be evidenced, for example, by leadership in the strategic development of the Department's teaching program, by distinguished personal contribution to teaching, by leadership in maintaining academic standards, or by demonstrated ability to attract HDR students and supervise them to successful completion.

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

Historical research may be based on archival sources, published materials, material and visual culture, oral history interviews, or any combination of these. Historians publish their work in monographs, edited collections and journals, and to a lesser extent in media such as museum exhibitions, television and film, or web-based electronic forms. The principal forms in which work is published or presented include:

- a. Monographs
- b. Refereed journal articles
- c. Book chapters
- d. Edited collections (anthologies, dictionaries of biography, encyclopaedias etc.)
- e. Single- or co-authored textbooks or reference books
- f. Editions of documents or other primary sources
- g. Special issues of journals
- h. Museum exhibitions and works in other media (digital, radio, television and film)
- i. Papers in conference proceedings
- j. Conference presentations
- k. Review essays and book reviews

The term 'monograph', while literally meaning a single-authored book, is understood in the discipline as a book on a focussed topic and based on extensive research. There is great variation in the esteem in which book publishers are held. The most highly regarded are well-known or prestigious academic presses. There is also considerable variation in the reputation and

competitiveness of journals. The most prestigious are international publishers. For historians of Australia, publication by a top-ranking Australian press or journal is equivalent to international standing for non-Australian areas. The most important criterion is that books and journals be refereed. Increasingly, books and journals are being published online; some of these are published also in print form. As with print-only publications, online publications vary in quality, and it is important that they be peer-reviewed. Historians primarily publish as sole authors, although co-editing is common. Historical research is slow compared to that for other disciplines, because of the nature of archival and other work. Time taken to publish individual research is commonly measured in years. Books commonly take four or five years; significantly longer is not unusual. Major articles may take several years from research stage to publication.

Grade descriptions:

Associate Lecturers (Level A)

Will normally be beginning their academic career, and may still be completing their PhD. It is unusual in History to publish before completing the PhD. Associate Lecturers may be giving papers at conferences and departmental seminars, and may be submitting articles to journals. Once they have completed their PhD theses, they often begin revising their theses as book manuscripts, a process that typically takes several years.

Lecturers (Level B)

Will normally have completed their PhD thesis. Lecturers should be presenting papers at national conferences, and submitting journal articles. They may be working on a monograph (often based on their PhD thesis), and/or working, perhaps collaboratively, on editing collections or special issues.

Senior Lecturers (Level C)

Should have a growing number of publications, including articles in journals and/or essays in edited collections, and perhaps one or more books or an equivalent quantity of articles or essays. They may well be developing a research project different from that of their PhD thesis, and attracting research grant funding. They should be making a contribution in a defined area, and be receiving some recognition, such as invitations to national or international conferences, to examine theses, or perhaps being invited to review book and article manuscripts, or grant proposals.

Associate Professor (Level D)

Should have a distinguished record of high quality research and have made a demonstrable impact on their area of research. Associate Professors will have a substantial publication record and a sustained program of research. Their publications may include one or more books, or an equivalent number of articles in high-ranking journals, or essays in anthologies. They will have presented regularly at national or international conferences, will have received significant recognition in the profession, and will normally have attracted external grants. Their impact and recognition may be demonstrated by invitations to serve on editorial boards, or professional organizations.

Professor (Level E)

Should have an outstanding and substantial international record of high quality publications, such as books with leading presses, and articles in premier journals. Professors should be well-known both nationally and internationally, with their recognition demonstrated by, for example, invitations to give keynote lectures at national or international conferences, to contribute to books, to serve on editorial boards, and/or in executive roles in professional societies. They should have a record of attracting external grants, and of professional service such as examining theses, reviewing book and article manuscripts, reviewing grant proposals, and successful HDR supervision.

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY

All members of staff are expected to contribute to the governance and administrative responsibilities of the Department, albeit to varying degrees according to rank. Beside the Department's own administrative positions and committees, the Department must be represented within the Division of Humanities and at other levels of the university. Historians participate in running seminars, colloquia and conferences at the university, nationally and internationally. Other universities require us to contribute professionally by examining theses, and at senior levels to evaluate promotion applications, and journals and presses depend upon us to review manuscripts. The editorial and editorial board work of journals is an important area of professional contribution, as is reviewing grant applications and conducting the business of professional societies. Moreover, community outreach, such as the Department's relationship with the History Teachers' Association of Australia, and speaking to school and community groups, is vitally important to the discipline's longterm future. Historians can also be public intellectuals, writing articles for newspapers and magazines, and appearing on radio and television. Contributions in any of these directions should be credited and recognised as valuable professional service.

Associate Lecturers (Level A)

Should play a role in Department and Divisional affairs, contribute to departmental administrative work and serve on departmental committees.

Lecturers (Level B)

Should serve on departmental and divisional committees, contribute to departmental administrative work, and participate actively in planning and discussing the department's future.

Senior Lecturers (Level C)

Should be available to chair departmental committees and coordinate areas of the department's work. Should also be willing to play a leading role in divisional work, such as chairing divisional committees.

Associate Professor (Level D)

Should be willing to take leading roles at the department level, such as serving as Head of Department, or chairing departmental and divisional

committees. Should also be available to serve on university-wide committees. May be expected to contribute to the professional work of, for example, journals or scholarly societies. Expected to undertake adviser role in the Performance Management System.

Professor (Level E)

Should have demonstrated administrative competence, be willing to serve as Head of Department, and to serve on or chair divisional and university committees. Expected to take a leadership role in all areas of departmental administration and planning, and to serve as an adviser in the Performance Management System. Should be willing to undertake professional service at national and international levels.