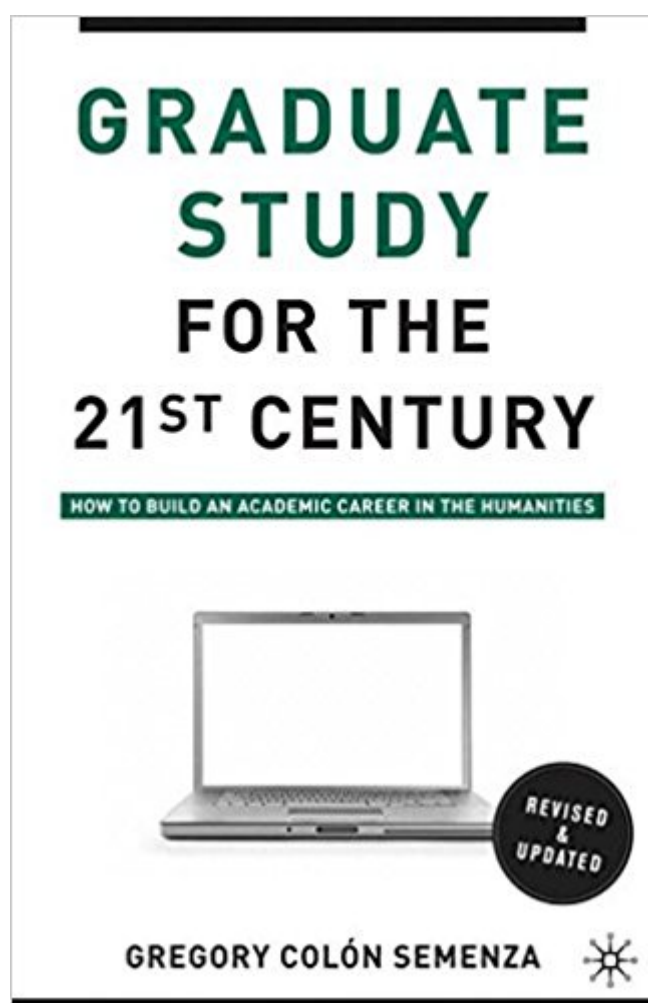


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# Graduate Study For The Twenty-First Century: How To Build An Academic Career In The Humanities



## Synopsis

In a straightforward manner, Semenza identifies the obstacles along the path of the academic career and offers tangible advice. Fully revised and updated, this edition's new material on advising, electronic publishing, and the post-financial crisis humanities job market will help students negotiate the changing landscape of academia.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

'Gregory Semenza's Graduate Study for the Twenty-first Century is a tough-minded, witty, generous discussion of how to enter the profession of scholarship and teaching. The appendices alone are worth the price of the book; Semenza provides samples of everything from course syllabi and job letters to materials on the teaching portfolio, book prospectus, conference participation everything a serious graduate student needs to succeed. The book should be required reading for graduate students and their professors.' - Barry V. Qualls, Dean of Humanities, Rutgers University, USA

Five characteristics distinguish Graduate Study for the 21st Century. First, this is a book designed solely for graduate students who wish to become professors on the tenure track; it does not spend time on alternative career paths for terminal M.A.s or Ph.D.s. Second, the unique focus on building a professorial career means that this book dedicates a significant amount of attention to professional development issues, including publishing, attending conferences, and job searching. In a straightforward and non-condescending manner, it emphasizes how a smart and informed "streamlining" approach to graduate study and teaching can lead to both a meaningful (and

relatively short) graduate career and the sort of professional accomplishments that will make you a standout on the job market. Third, *Graduate Study for the 21st Century* is the only guide that recognizes the specific needs of students in the humanities. It does not assume that the concerns of a history student (or professor) are the same as those of an individual specializing in chemistry or engineering. Fourth, this book deliberately counters the tendency of the aforementioned guides to present an image of graduate school as unrelated to and unaffected by the brutal realities of late 20th-century and 21st-century politics and corporate economics. One gets the impression from previous graduate school guides that academe is no different today from what it was fifty or seventy-five years ago. Finally, this book operates at a level of detail simply not found in any of the aforementioned works. Focusing in depth on such important practical matters as selecting the right seminars, making the most of exams, and constructing effective CV's, teaching portfolios, and job applications, the emphasis of this book is very much on how to succeed in graduate school.

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

It's difficult to find a book like this that focuses on the humanities, is substantive, and does not spend a hundred pages talking about admissions. Sure, getting into a graduate program is really important, and you should hunt down a resource for that, but this book is not trying to do that. Here, you get an in-depth discussion from someone who really knows their stuff. The book provides practical knowledge without failing to acknowledge academia's larger problems. Thankfully, I found that the book did not become a political rant or focused solely on these problems, but is grounded in the basic understanding that these problems exist and one should be aware of them. Overall, I found the book to be extremely useful. I'm currently finishing up an MA in English, looking to move on to a PhD, and I wish I had stumbled across this book a couple years ago. While I feel I have made the most of my MA experience, this book would have saved me a lot of trial and error. If you're a graduate student and scholar in the humanities who is serious about their work and making a career in academia, pick this book up. It's certainly worth a read.

This guy will not sugar coat anything. He tells you like it is, if you are going to go to graduate school for the humanities or social sciences you better read this book to know what you are getting into. Having now read this book I know that I do not want to get a PhD at all. I now know that my real ambitions would have me more akin to going into law school or maybe a Master's degree. If you are considering graduate school, wondering if a M.A or PhD is the right choice for you, or just want to get familiar with the bureaucracy of academics and hierarchy of the modern college institution this is

the book for you. It is not an easy read and expect to need the dictionary for some complex and often rarely used wording (especially if English happens to be your second or third language). It is worth the effort to understand what is being said and take the time to read this book. It could save you from many years of unsatisfying and demanding work. It may also help you decide what kind of graduate study is right for you. A great book to compliment this book with would be "Getting what you came for the smart student's guide to earning a master's or PhD". I would recommend you buy both of these books so that you can get a bit more information to make your decision making process a more informative one. After having read these books I now have a much better understanding of where I would like to go in my education.

The appendix is very very useful to anyone thinking about or currently in a doctorate program. It contains excellent examples of CVs, proposals, syllabi, etc. However the tone of the rest of the text is very pessimistic and at times discouraging. Semenza seems to have forgotten the passion involved in academia and focuses more on how you will have no free time or life outside of your studies. This book is a great reality check for those who do not know what doctoral programs are all about, but if you get the picture, then just skip to the appendix.

For those going beyond a B.A. or B.S., this serves as an excellent guide to surviving post-bac education. I could not even imagine having gone through the past two years of grad school without this de facto grad school Bible.

I bought this book after hearing about it on a graduate student forum, and I can honestly say that out of the dozen books I've purchased regarding beginning graduate study, this is hands-down my favorite. Though the author's writing doesn't particularly appeal to me, the information contained within this book is so comprehensive, so clear, and so downright helpful that I feel as if I'm going to be a huge step ahead of the game once I set foot on campus this fall (and this coming from someone who is nearly always anxious when embarking on new endeavors!). This book is like having one of those amazing advisors who sits with you over coffee, regals you about his or her days in graduate school, and then tells you how to do what he or she did -- but BETTER and MORE EFFICIENTLY. A definite must-purchase for all incoming graduate students! Highly recommended.

I really enjoyed this book for graduate school. It went over a lot of information that discussed in great detail about arrangement of seminars and conference paper building that significantly helped

me during my course.

An honest book that convinced me to stay away from graduate studies in the humanities. I read this book as part of my mentorship with a graduate English student to decide whether a PhD would be the path for me.

I agree with pretty much all the previous reviewers' sentiments. This book should be required reading for any undergraduate considering going on to graduate study. It can either disabuse them of any romanticized notions of academia or further their interest in pursuing graduate study even more. Ideally, it would do both. Too many undergrads do not know what to expect and end up unprepared. If this book keeps one student from taking out loans for a year of graduate school before they realize it's not what they thought it'd be, it would have done a service. This book is the "how-to" manual that all incoming graduate students should receive from their respective departments but don't.

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