History

Degrees Offered

• Master of Arts
• Master of Arts with concentration in Public History
• Accelerated Master of Arts
• Atlantis Dual Degree Master of Arts
• Doctor of Philosophy

Nature of the Program

The Department of History offers graduate courses in the history of the United States, Appalachia/regional, Europe, Africa, Asia, Latin America, world history, and public history. Courses are designed to prepare students in historiography, research methods, and interpretation. Students can select concentrations leading to preparation for careers in teaching and scholarship and as specialists for various branches of government, business, and public service. Students in the program are normally expected to pursue the degrees of master of arts or doctor of philosophy.

Faculty

Chair
• Elizabeth Fones-Wolf - Ph.D. (University of Massachusetts)

Associate Chair
• Joseph Hodge - Ph.D. (Queen’s University at Kingston)
  Director of Graduate Studies

Professors
• Katherine Aaslestad - Ph.D. (University of Illinois)
  Modern Europe, Germany
• Elizabeth Fones-Wolf - Ph.D. (University of Massachusetts)
  20th-century U.S., Social and Economic
• Robert E. Blobaum - Ph.D. (University of Nebraska)
  Eberly Family Professor of History, Modern Central and Eastern Europe
• Kenneth Fones-Wolf - Ph.D. (Temple University)
  Stuart and Joyce Robbins Distinguished Professor of History, Appalachian, Labor, Religion
• Jack Hammersmith - Ph.D. (University of Virginia)
  East Asia, Recent U.S., American Diplomatic
• Robert M. Maxon - Ph.D. (Syracuse University)
  Africa, East Africa, Colonial Kenya

Associate Professor
• Tyler Boulware - Ph.D. (University of South Carolina)
  Early U.S., Frontier, Native American
• Joseph Hodge - Ph.D. (Queen’s University at Kingston)
  Modern Britain, British Empire
• Brian Luskey - Ph.D. (Emory University)
  19th-century U.S., Social and Cultural
• James Siekmeier - Ph.D. (Cornell University)
  U.S. Diplomatic, Latin America
• Kathryn Staples - Ph.D. (University of Minnesota)
  Medieval, Women, England
• Mark B. Tauger - Ph.D. (UCLA)
  20th-century Russia/USSR, World/Comparative, Historiography
• Matthew A. Vester - Ph.D. (University of California)
  Early Modern Europe, Italy
Assistant Professor

• Joshua Arthurs - Ph.D. (University of Chicago)
  Modern Europe, Italy, Cultural
• Melissa Bingmann - Ph.D. (Arizona State University)
  Public History, 20th-century U.S.
• Ari Bryen - Ph.D. (University of Chicago)
  Ancient Greece and Rome
• Krystal Frazier - Ph.D. (Rutgers University)
  African American, Oral History
• Tamba E. M’bayo - Ph.D.
  West Africa, African Diaspora and Pan-Africanism
• Michele Stephens - Ph.D.
  Latin America, Indigenous Peoples of the Americas, Race and Gender
• Kimberly Welch - Ph.D. (University of Maryland)
  19th-century, Women, Legal

Lecturers

• Jenny Boulware - M.A. (University of South Carolina)
  U.S., Public History
• Carletta Bush - Ph.D. (WVU)
  West Virginia

Emeriti Faculty

• William S. Arnett
  Associate Professor
• Barbara J. Howe
  Associate Professor
• Elizabeth K. Hudson
  Associate Professor
• Emory L. Kemp
  Professor
• Ronald L. Lewis - Ph.D. (University of Akron)
  Eberly Chair and Professor
• Stephen C. McCluskey - Ph.D. (University of Wisconsin)
  Professor
• A. Michal McMahon
  Associate Professor
• John C. Super
  Professor

Master of Arts

The History Department offers both a regular M.A. and a M.A. with a concentration in public history. The regular M.A. offers two options: the Thesis Option or the Non-Thesis (Examination) Option. The specific features and requirements of each option are discussed below.

Admission

Students seeking admission to the regular master of arts program should have the equivalent of a bachelor’s degree in history. Applicants lacking this degree may be required to make up deficiencies. Application requirements include transcripts (a minimum of a 3.0 average in history courses is expected), three letters of recommendation, a statement of purpose, writing sample, résumé, and a combined score of 300 on the verbal and quantitative sections and 4.0 on the written section of the Graduate Record Examination General Aptitude Test (GRE).

Requirements

All students in the regular M.A. program are required to complete a minimum of thirty hours of coursework, which may include six hours of thesis research credit. No more than twelve hours (or forty percent) of the credits counted for meeting requirements can be at the 400 or 500-levels. All thirty hours may be in history, or students may select up to six hours outside of the department with the approval of the director of graduate studies. M.A. students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average to remain in good standing. The history coursework shall include a well-defined core area (United States, Europe, Africa, or an area approved by the director of graduate studies) of at least twelve hours, including one readings/research seminar sequence (HIST 701 and higher) and a minor area (United States, Europe, Africa, public history, Latin America, or an area approved by the director of
graduate studies) of six hours with at least three hours at the 600-level or higher. Also required are the department’s historiography course (HIST 700) and enrollment of all full-time students in HIST 799. Credit for this last course does not count towards the degree. In addition, individual faculty may require their students to master one or more languages to demonstrate proficiency in particular research methods (quantitative analysis, paleography, GIS, etc.) or to develop other skills as necessary for their areas of study and thesis projects.

Students may elect to do either a thesis or non-thesis (examination) option. Thesis students will complete a substantial piece of original research in their field. Non-thesis students will gain breadth and depth in a field but will not focus on the production of original research as a primary goal of their degree program.

**Thesis Option**

Students who choose the thesis option are required to write a master’s thesis in consultation with their main faculty advisor. The thesis must be based on original research that demonstrates a critical engagement with the secondary literature and is developed in multiple chapters. Students must first prepare a thesis prospectus, which must be approved by their thesis committee, before writing and successfully defending the thesis in an oral examination. A maximum of six hours of credit for HIST 697 can be taken for writing the thesis.

**Non-Thesis (Examination) Option**

Students not wishing to pursue further graduate study in history may choose the non-thesis (examination) option. Students who choose the non-thesis option must take one readings/research seminar sequence (HIST 701 and higher) plus an additional readings seminar (HIST 701 and higher) as part of their thirty credit hours of coursework. They cannot count thesis research credits as part of their thirty credit hours of coursework. In addition, students who choose the non-thesis option are required to take an oral examination. The examination will be taken in the last semester of enrollment. The oral examination will be conducted by a committee of three faculty members with whom the student has completed coursework and must include the student’s major faculty adviser.

**Atlantis Dual Degree Master of Arts**

The department also participates, together with Collegium Civitas of Warsaw, Poland and the University of Tartu in Estonia, in a unique transatlantic multidisciplinary dual degree M.A. program in East-Central European area studies. Supported by a US-EU Atlantis grant, students from both sides of the Atlantic are awarded stipends to spend two academic semesters overseas and will complete relevant coursework at all three institutions. They also have the opportunity to acquire language training and gain valuable experience through professional internships.

**Admission**

Students apply for admission to the Atlantis program as they would for the regular M.A. in history. The statement of purpose should highlight relevant background and reasons for interest in the East-Central European region. Students should have an undergraduate degree in relevant disciplines and programs such as history, Slavic and East European studies, international studies, geography, and/or political science. For qualifying students from history, however, the accelerated master of arts (four+one track) is also available. Otherwise, they must meet the same criteria for admission as applicants to the regular M.A. program.

**Requirements**

Students will complete the equivalent of sixty U.S. credit hours: thirty hours in the history program at WVU, fifteen hours in the international relations program at Collegium Civitas, and fifteen hours in the Baltic studies program at the University of Tartu. Master’s theses will be defended at one of the two European institutions with the participation of WVU history faculty. The dual degrees, in history from WVU and in international relations or Baltic studies from one of the two European institutions, are awarded once credit hour and degree requirements are met at all three institutions.

**Public History**

The department offers a thirty-six hour master of arts with a concentration in public history and a Ph.D. minor field in public history. Public historians are trained to conduct historical research and interpret the past for a variety of audiences. They generally work in museums, heritage sites, historic preservation, and archives as consultants and for the federal government.

**Admission**

Students apply for admission to the public history concentration as they would for the regular M.A. in history. The statement of purpose should highlight relevant background and reasons for interest in public history. Students in public history should have an undergraduate degree in history. Applicants lacking this degree may be required to make up deficiencies.

**Requirements**

The public history program consists of thirty hours of coursework, of which no more than twelve hours may be at the 400 or 500-levels and the remainder at the 600 and higher level plus a six-hour internship (HIST 614). Normally, half the courses will be public history courses and half will be selected from other history offerings. Students must take one readings/research seminar sequence (HIST 701 and higher). Relevant coursework may be taken in another discipline with the approval of the director of public history. There is no foreign language requirement for public history students. All full-time public history students are expected to enroll in HIST 799. Credit for this course does not count toward the degree.
Doctor of Philosophy

Admission

Students seeking admission to the doctor of philosophy program should have the equivalent of a M.A. in history. Application requirements include a transcript (a minimum of a 3.0 average in graduate history courses is required), three letters of recommendation, and a combined score of 300 on the verbal and quantitative sections and a 4.0 on the written section of the Graduate Record Examination General Aptitude Test (GRE). Students should also include a statement of purpose, an example of their written work, and a résumé as a part of the application.

Requirements

The Ph.D. degree program in history requires the following: (1) completion of two readings/research seminar sequences (700 and above) beyond those offered for the M.A., (2) enrollment in HIST 799 for all full-time students who have not yet taken their comprehensive examinations, (3) passing both parts of the Ph.D. comprehensive examination (oral and written) administered by a committee of faculty members (normally at the end of a full-time student’s second year of study), (4) preparation of a dissertation prospectus, which must be approved by the student’s dissertation committee, (5) preparation of a dissertation based on original investigation, and (6) successful defense of the dissertation in a final examination. In addition, individual faculty advisers may require their students to master one or more languages to demonstrate proficiency in particular research methods (quantitative analysis, paleography, GIS, etc.) or to develop other skills as necessary for their fields of study and dissertation projects.

Fields of Study

A candidate must offer a program of study in four fields; at least three fields must be in history while the other may be in a related field with the approval of the director of graduate studies. Doctoral students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average to remain in good standing. Fields available in the department include, but are not limited to, Europe, United States, Africa, Latin America, and Appalachia/regional. Students may also take a minor field in East Asia, world history, or public history. At least one field must be in a geographic area outside the major field of concentration for dissertation work.

Dissertation work should normally be in United States history, European history, Appalachia/regional, or modern Africa. Students working in these areas, either at the M.A. or Ph.D. level, have the opportunity to study with adjunct professors and faculty from other departments and universities.

Cultural Resource Management Certificate

The Eberly College of Arts and Sciences also offers an interdisciplinary graduate-level fifteen-hour certificate in cultural resource management (CRM) that is coordinated by the Department of History. Most CRM students earn the graduate certificate in conjunction with a M.A. in history, public administration, recreation parks and tourism, geography, design, art history, or one of several other related graduate degree programs. The requirements for the CRM certificate consist of twelve credit hours of coursework and a three-hour internship or an individual research project (HIST 620). All CRM students must successfully complete HIST 600. Students who are currently admitted to or enrolled in a graduate degree program must register their intent to earn the CRM certificate with the CRM coordinator during the semester prior to their internship. Students who wish to pursue the graduate certificate independent of a graduate degree program must be admitted as non-degree graduate students prior to registering their intent to earn the CRM certificate. Each student is expected to maintain an average GPA of 3.0.