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

• Joseph Hodge - Ph.D. (Queen’s University at Kingston)
  Modern Britain, British Empire

ASSOCIATE CHAIR

• Kate Staples - Ph.D. (University of Minnesota)
  Medieval, Women, England

PROFESSORS

• Katherine Aaslestad - Ph.D. (University of Illinois)
  Modern Europe, Germany
• Robert E. Blobaum - Ph.D. (University of Nebraska)
  Eberly Family Professor of History, Modern Central and Eastern Europe
• Elizabeth Fones-Wolf - Ph.D. (University of Massachusetts)
  20th-century U.S., Social and Economic
• Kenneth Fones-Wolf - Ph.D. (Temple University) Stuart and Joyce Robbins Distinguished Professor of History, Appalachian, Labor, Religion
  U.S. Labor, Appalachia, Immigration, 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

• Joshua Arthurs - Ph.D. (University of Chicago)
  Modern Europe, Italy, Cultural
• 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
• Jason Phillips - Ph.D. (Rice University)
  Civil War, Reconstruction, Southern History, 19th-century U.S.
• 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)
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, 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. Students from both sides of the Atlantic spend two academic semesters overseas and will complete relevant coursework at West Virginia University and one of the two European 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. 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, and thirty hours in the international relations program at Collegium Civitas or the Baltic studies program at the University of Tartu. Master’s theses will be defended at one of the two European institutions and WVU. 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).
400-500 level courses  12
HIST 614  Internship in Public History  6
HIST 750  Public History Methods  3
HIST 613  Local Hist Research Methodology  3
Readings/Research Seminar Hist 701 and higher  6
Two additional 600 or 700 level courses  6
Total Hours  36

HIST 750 and HIST 613 are required courses. Students must take one readings/research seminar sequence (HIST 701 and higher) and two additional 600 or 700-level courses. 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 an 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.

COURSES

HIST 517. German Centrl Europe 1648-1900. 3 Hours.
Explores the Habsburg Monarchy and Holy Roman Empire, following devastation of 30 years of War, Enlightenment and State-building, Industrialization and Nation-building until the eve of the Great War.

HIST 518. 20th Cent German Cntrl Europe. 3 Hours.
Explores the two World Wars, Holocaust, the Cold War, National Socialist, Communist, and Democratic regimes and Austria as well as the reunification of Germany following Revolutions of 1989.
HIST 525. History of Modern China. 3 Hours.
Provides an overview of Chinese history with an emphasis on major events since the mid-19th century, placed in a broad context of the important
political, economic, social, and diplomatic events in China’s historic past.

HIST 526. History of Modern Japan. 3 Hours.
Provides an overview of Japanese history with an emphasis on major events since the mid-19th century, placed in a broad context of the important
political, economic, social, and diplomatic events in Japan’s historic past.

HIST 550. West Virginia History. 3 Hours.
Elective course for public history graduate students and cultural resource management students.

HIST 558. Us Cultural History 1819-1893. 3 Hours.
Examines the cultural panic about identity and sensibility produced by capitalism, slavery, and war in the nineteenth-century United States.

HIST 575. Hollywood and History. 3 Hours.
Examines twentieth century American culture, politics and society through film. It explores the relationship between film and history, using films as
primary sources for understanding the past and it examines how film is used in teaching history.

HIST 593A-Z. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
A study of contemporary topics selected from recent developments in the field.

HIST 600. Cultural Resource Management. 3 Hours.
PR: Consent. Explores principles and practices of managing cultural and material historic resources, with an overview of best practices, federal
requirements, and fundamental skills expected of the practitioner.

HIST 610. Historic Site Interpretation. 3 Hours.
Introduction to the craft of historic site interpretation. Readings, lectures, and field trips will explore current issues, approaches to developing meaningful
experiences for visitors, and the transmission of culture through historic places.

HIST 611. Archival Management. 3 Hours.
PR: HIST 412. Principles and practices of archival work within a laboratory context. Includes lectures and selected readings illustrated by holdings and
policies of West Virginia and Regional History Collection of the WVU Library.

HIST 613. Local Hist Research Methodology. 3 Hours.
Emphasis on research methods applicable to any locality; includes legal records, oral records, secondary sources, photographs, maps, and government
documents.

HIST 614. Internship in Public History. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. A professional internship at a historical agency. Supervision is exercised by history department faculty and the host agency. Written and
oral research report required. (Grading may be P/F.).

HIST 615. Museum Studies. 3 Hours.
Introduction to museum management and curation of collections of historic or archaeological significance. Students will learn the basic skills necessary
to work with and use museum collections.

HIST 616. History-American Architecture. 3 Hours.
Overview of American architecture and architectural styles to enable students to correctly identify building styles in the field.

HIST 619. Understanding Preservation Law. 3 Hours.
Overview of legal issues and federal regulations and guidelines in the practice of historic preservation.

HIST 620. Pract-Cultural Resource Mang. 3 Hours.
Professional placement or scholarly research project designed to be the capstone experience for students in the CRM graduate certificate program.
Placement is tailored to the area of student interest.

HIST 693A-Z. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
A study of contemporary topics selected from recent developments in the field.

HIST 697. Research. 1-15 Hours.
PR: Consent. Research activities leading to a thesis, problem report, research paper, or equivalent scholarly project, or dissertation. (Grading may be S/
U.).

HIST 700. Historiography. 3 Hours.
Core course for entering graduate students: critical survey of important contemporary approaches to history writing, methodological practices, and
current issues in the field.

HIST 701. Readings In Medieval History. 3-6 Hours.
Examination of the literature, bibliography, sources, and research methods on selected problems in medieval history, using discussion and written
reports on assigned readings. (May be repeated for a maximum of 6 hours.).
HIST 702. Seminar in Medieval History. 3 Hours.
PR: HIST 701; (Reading knowledge of Latin and a modern European language strongly recommended.) Directed examination of bibliographic sources and historiographical issues on selected aspects of the Middle Ages, leading to preparation of a research paper based on primary sources.

HIST 705. Readings: Early Modern History. 3 Hours.
Directed readings on selected major historiographical themes in European history relating to the period from the Renaissance to the French Revolution.

HIST 706. Seminar: Early Modern History. 3 Hours.
Research and writing of an article-length paper based on extensive and/or in-depth analysis of early modern primary sources. Class presentations and discussions of colleagues’ work.

HIST 708. Readings-Central European Hist. 3-6 Hours.
All students will read and discuss selected works illustrating outstanding scholarship or interpretative problems related to modern Central European History. Opportunity will be also provided for individual reading projects. (May be repeated once).

HIST 709. Seminar-Central European Hist. 3 Hours.
An intensive survey of the bibliographical aids and printed source materials available in the field. A research paper and a bibliographical essay will be presented by each student. Reading knowledge of German and French strongly recommended. (May be repeated once.)

HIST 714. Readings-Eastern European Hist. 3-6 Hours.
Intensive readings on specific topics in Russian, Soviet or East European history. Students should normally have had History 217 and 218, or their equivalents. Primarily designed for graduate students and selected undergraduates.

HIST 715. Seminar-Eastern European Hist. 3 Hours.
PR: HIST 117, 118 or equivalent. Research seminar on selected topics in Russian, Soviet, or Eastern European history. One major paper and extensive reading based on available source materials is required. (May be repeated once.)

HIST 717. Readings-Western European Hist. 3 Hours.
This course, primarily for graduate students and selected undergraduates, is designed for an intensive reading program on special problems in western European history. (May be repeated once.)

HIST 718. Seminar-Western European Hist. 3 Hours.
A research seminar in selected topics in western European history. One major paper and extensive reading based on available source material is required. A reading knowledge of the appropriate language is required, if applicable.

HIST 721. Readings In Asian History. 3 Hours.
Intensive readings in the history of East Asia (especially China and Japan) since the nineteenth century; students should normally have had HIST 425 and 426, or their equivalents; reviews, as well as bibliographical and historiographical essays, required. (May be repeated once.)

HIST 722. Seminar In Asian History. 3 Hours.
Advanced readings in East Asian history; specific emphasis on research tools and techniques; research paper based on English-language sources required; students should normally have had HIST 425 and 426 or their equivalents. (May be repeated once.)

HIST 725. Readings In African History. 3 Hours.
This course will normally focus on readings and discussion on problems in the history of pre-colonial Africa, the major works in African history, and recent interpretations in the field. (May be repeated once.)

HIST 726. Seminar In African History. 3 Hours.
The seminar will normally focus on eastern Africa in the colonial period. Location and use of source materials will be emphasized as well as economic and political developments. Students will spend considerable time in research and writing on selected aspects of eastern African history. (May be repeated once.)

HIST 729. Readings-Latin American Histry. 3 Hours.
Critical examination of selected sources and topics for understanding and interpreting Latin American history. (May be repeated once.)

HIST 730. Seminar-Latin American History. 3 Hours.
PR: Consent. Survey of Latin American historiography, location and use of primary source materials, discussion of research techniques, and the writing of a research paper. Reading knowledge of Spanish, Portuguese, or French will be helpful. (May be repeated once.)

HIST 731. Readings-Americn Hist:1585-1763. 3 Hours.
Supervised readings and reports designed to prepare students for intensive study in a seminar or for field examinations in colonial American history. (May be repeated once.)

HIST 732. Seminar-Americn Hist:1585-1763. 3 Hours.
PR: HIST 331 or consent. Directed research on colonial American history, using original and secondary materials. (May be repeated once.)

HIST 750. Public History Methods. 3 Hours.
This course provides the foundations of public history as students examine approaches to historical interpretation for public audiences. Topics will include client-driven research, commemoration, and cultural heritage tourism.

HIST 755. Readings-Americn Hist:1763-1800. 3 Hours.
Readings and reports designed to prepare students for an intensive study in a seminar or field examination. (May be repeated once.)
HIST 756. Seminar American Hist:1763-1830. 3 Hours.
PR: HIST 755 or consent. Advanced readings and research in revolutionary and early national American history. (May be repeated once.)

HIST 757. Readings-U.S.History:1787-1850. 3 Hours.
Critical examination of major works and themes on the political, economic, social, and legal formation of the nation. (May be repeated once.) (Alternate years.)

HIST 758. Seminar-U.S. History:1787-1850. 3 Hours.
Directed research in early United States history. Research will include primary and secondary sources. (May be repeated once.) (Alternate years.)

HIST 759. Readings-U.S.History:1840-1898. 3 Hours.
Survey of interpretative literature on Sectionalism, Civil War, Reconstruction and Gilded Age. Assignments are both oral and written reports on assigned readings and a critical essay on some aspect of American historiography for this period.

HIST 760. Seminar-U.S. History:1850-1898. 3 Hours.
Directed research in mid-and late 19th century American history, including guidance in methods of research and manuscript preparation. (May be repeated once.)

HIST 763. Readings-U.S.Hist:1898-Present. 3 Hours.
Readings and class-led discussion of one paperback book per week, and preparation of a paper based on these books and the class discussion of them. (Course may be repeated for credit.)

HIST 764. Seminar-U.S. Hist:1898-Present. 3 Hours.
Directed research in recent American history including guidance in methods of research and manuscript preparation. May be repeated once.

HIST 765. Readings in US Diplomatic Hist. 3 Hours.
Readings in U.S. Diplomatic History with an emphasis on the 20th century.

HIST 766. Seminar in US Diplomatic Hist. 3 Hours.
Directed research in the history of U.S. foreign policy with emphasis on 20th century including guidance in methods of research and manuscript preparation.

HIST 773. Rdng-Appalachian Regional Hist. 3 Hours.
A course for graduate students and seniors in the history of West Virginia and neighboring states, which form what is known as the Trans-Allegheny or Upper Ohio region. (May be repeated once.)

HIST 774. Sem-Appalachian Regional Hist. 3 Hours.
A seminar for graduate students in the history of West Virginia and neighboring states, which form what is known as the Trans-Allegheny or Upper Ohio region. (May be repeated once.)

HIST 775. Readings-Science & Technology. 3-6 Hours.
Examination of the literature, bibliography, and sources on selected topics in the history of science and technology. Class discussions and written reports on assigned topics. (Course may be repeated for credit.)

HIST 776. Seminar-Science & Technology. 3 Hours.
PR: HIST 775 or consent. Research seminar in the history of science and technology. Discussion of methods and sources; presentation and critique of research papers based on primary sources. (Course may be repeated for credit.)

HIST 782. Readings-U.S. Social History. 3 Hours.
The objective of the course is to establish for graduate students usable frames of reference for selected topics in social history by examining the ways in which historians have written about these topics. (Course may be repeated for credit.)

HIST 785. Readings-Environmental History. 3 Hours.
Examines broad themes including settlement patterns, attitudes toward nature, the rise of ecological science, and agricultural and industrial practices. Explores historiographical and methodological issues. (May be repeated once.) (Alternate years.)

HIST 786. Seminar-Environmental History. 3 Hours.
Directed research involving primary and secondary sources. Will focus on regional case studies and examination of broad intellectual and policy themes. (May be repeated once.) (Alternate years.)

HIST 787. Readings in World History. 3 Hours.
Core course for teaching concentration in world history; review of selected exemplary and recent readings in world history; evaluation of textbooks and teaching materials; composition of syllabi, lectures, and assignments.

HIST 790. Teaching Practicum. 1-3 Hours.
PR: Consent. Supervised practices in college teaching of history. Note: This course is intended to insure that graduate assistants are adequately prepared and supervised when they are given college teaching responsibilities. It will also present a mechanism for students not on assistantships to gain teaching experience. (Grading will be P/F.)

HIST 791A-Z. Advanced Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Investigation of advanced topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses.
HIST 792A-Z. Directed Study. 1-6 Hours.
Directed study, reading, and/or research.

HIST 793A-Z. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
A study of contemporary topics selected from recent developments in the field.

HIST 794A-Z. Seminar. 1-6 Hours.
Special seminars arranged for advanced graduate students.

HIST 795. Independent Study. 1-9 Hours.
Faculty supervised study of topics not available through regular course offerings.

HIST 796. Graduate Seminar. 1 Hour.
PR: Consent. Each graduate student will present at least one seminar to the assembled faculty and graduate student body of his or her program.

HIST 797. Research. 1-15 Hours.
PR: Consent. Research activities leading to thesis, problem report, research paper or equivalent scholarly project, or dissertation. (Grading may be S/U.)

HIST 798. Dissertation. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. This is an optional course for programs that wish to provide formal supervision during the writing of student reports (698), or dissertations (798). Grading is normal.

HIST 799. Graduate Colloquium. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. For graduate students not seeking coursework credit but who wish to meet residency requirements, use of the University’s facilities, and participate in its academic and cultural programs. Note: Graduate students who are not actively involved in coursework or research are entitled, through enrollment in their department’s 699/799 Graduate Colloquium to consult with graduate faculty, participate in both formal and informal academic activities sponsored by their program, and retain all of the rights and privileges of duly enrolled students. Grading is P/F; colloquium credit may not be counted against credit requirements for masters programs. Registration for one credit of 699/799 graduate colloquium satisfies the University requirement of registration in the semester in which graduation occurs.

HIST 900. Professional Development. 1-6 Hours.
Professional development courses provide skill renewal or enhancement in a professional field or content area (e.g., education, community health, geology). The continuing education courses are graded on a pass/fail grading scale and do not apply as graduate credit toward a degree program.

HIST 930. Professional Development. 1-6 Hours.
Professional development courses provide skill renewal or enhancement in a professional field or content area (e.g., education, community health, geology). These tuition-waived continuing education courses are graded on pass/fail grading scale and do not apply as graduate credit toward a degree program.