

History

Degrees Offered

- Master of Arts
- Atlantis Dual Degree Master of Arts
- Doctor of Philosophy

Nature of the Program

The Department of History offers graduate work in the history of Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, public history, the United States including Appalachia/regional, and world history. In addition to our core areas of strength, the department encourages research that is comparative and transnational in perspective and scope. Faculty research and teaching interests are clustered thematically around four areas: Gender and Kinship, Imperial and Postcolonial Societies, Labor and Political Economy, and War and Society. Our program is designed to give students flexibility to create a plan of study that matches their interests, while at the same time provide a breadth of training in different fields that will prepare students in historiography, research methods, and teaching approaches. 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.

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.

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.

FACULTY

CHAIR

- Joseph Hodge - Ph.D. (Queen's University at Kingston)
Modern Britain, British Empire, decolonization, international development, Africa

ASSOCIATE CHAIR

- Kathryn Staples - Ph.D. (University of Minnesota)
Medieval, gender, England, material culture

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
- William I. Brustein - Ph.D. (University of Washington)
European fascism, European political and religious extremism, comparative anti-Semitism
- 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 Chair in History
U.S. labor, Appalachia, immigration, religion
- Robert M. Maxon - Ph.D. (Syracuse University)
Africa, East Africa, colonial Kenya
- Matthew A. Vester - Ph.D. - (University of California)
Early modern Europe, Italy

ASSOCIATE 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.
- 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, decolonization, international development, Africa
- Brian Luskey - Ph.D. (Emory University)
19th-century U.S, social and cultural
- Jason Phillips - Ph.D. (Rice University)
Eberly Professor of Civil War Studies, 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, gender, England, material culture
- Mark B. Tauger - Ph.D. (UCLA)
20th-century Russia/USSR, world/comparative, historiography

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

- Krystal Frazier - Ph.D. (Rutgers University)
African American, oral history
- Macabe Keliher - Ph.D. - (Harvard University)
East Asia, China
- William Gorby - Ph.D. - (West Virginia University)
West Virginia, Appalachia
- Tamba E. M'bayo - Ph.D. (Michigan State University)
West Africa, African diaspora and Pan-Africanism
- Michele Stephens - Ph.D. (University of Oklahoma)
Latin America, indigenous peoples race and gender

LECTURERS

- Jenny Boulware - M.A. (University of South Carolina)
Public history
- Carletta Bush - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
West Virginia regional

EMERITI FACULTY

- William S. Arnett
Associate Professor
- Jack Hammersmith
Professor
- Barbara J. Howe
Associate Professor
- Elizabeth K. Hudson
Associate Professor
- Emory L. Kemp
Professor
- Ronald L. Lewis
Eberly Chair and Professor
- Stephen C. McCluskey
Professor
- A. Michal McMahon
Associate Professor
- John C. Super
Professor

REGULAR M.A. 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).

M.A. WITH EMPHASIS IN PUBLIC HISTORY ADMISSION

Students apply for admission to the public history area of emphasis 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.

ATLANTIS DUAL DEGREE MASTER OF ARTS 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.

PH.D. 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.

Master of Arts

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.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Minimum GPA of 3.0 is required.

HIST 799	Graduate Colloquium	
HIST 700	Historiography	3
Select an Area of Emphasis		12
Select a minor area		6
History elective		3
Select either the examination or thesis option:		6
Examination Option:		
HIST 795	Independent Study (Exam preparation)	
Additional readings seminar		
Examination		
Thesis Option:		
HIST 697	Research	
Thesis Proposal		
Thesis Defense		
Total Hours		30

THESIS OPTION

The M.A. in history (thesis or examination option) 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 of higher level. Students who choose the thesis option must take one readings/research seminar sequence (HIST 701 and higher) as part of their thirty credit hours of coursework. They are also 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.

EXAMINATION OPTION

Students who choose this 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, in their final semester students must complete comprehensive exams in their major and minor fields, based on their coursework and in consultation with a faculty advisor for each field. The comprehensive exams include a written component and an oral defense. To prepare for the exam, students may take 3 hours of independent study (HIST 795) that count toward the required 30 hours.

PUBLIC HISTORY AREA OF EMPHASIS

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. The M.A. in History with an area of emphasis in public history 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 credit-hour internship (HIST 614).

HIST 614	Internship in Public History	6
HIST 750	Public History Methods	3
HIST 613	Local History Research Methodology	3
Readings/Research Seminar Sequence (HIST 701 or higher)		6
Electives		18
Total Hours		36

Doctor of Philosophy

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.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Minimum GPA of 3.0 is required.

HIST 700	Historiography	3
Reading/Research Seminars		12
HIST 799	Graduate Colloquium	4-6
Coursework in four fields of study (major field and three minor fields)		
Comprehensive Examination		
Dissertation Proposal		
Dissertation		
Dissertation Defense		
Total Hours		19-21

FIELDS OF STUDY

A candidate must offer a program of study in four fields (a major field and three minor 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 Africa, Appalachia/regional, Europe, Latin America, and the United States. Students may also take a minor field in East Asia, public history, or world history. At least one field must be in a geographic area outside the student's main area of concentration for dissertation work. For each field of study, students take a comprehensive examination (written and oral) based on knowledge derived from course work and readings from a book list prepared in consultation with the faculty field adviser.

Dissertation work should normally be in the history of the United States, Europe, 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.

Minimum GPA of 3.0 is required.

HIST 600	Cultural Resource Management	3
HIST 620	Practicum in Cultural Resource Management	3
Graduate coursework		9
Total Hours		15

Major Learning Goals

HISTORY

Students earning a M.A. or Ph.D. in History will be able to:

- Demonstrate general knowledge of the facts, concepts, and approaches of history.
- Demonstrate the ability to understand and critically evaluate the existing literature published within their specific field of research.
- Critically analyze and assess both primary and secondary sources.
- Conduct original historical research and construct manuscripts that are coherently argued, grammatically correct, and use proper historical documentation.
- Clearly and effectively communicate the results of their research in oral and written formats.
- Abide by the ethical and professional principles of the discipline of history.