History

Degrees Offered

- 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.

TRANSATLANTIC OPTION FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS

The Department of History has launched a new transatlantic program in international history and security studies in partnership with Collegium Civitas, located in Warsaw, Poland, beginning fall 2018. The program is designed as a two-year plan of study consisting of 60 U.S. credit hours, or 120 European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System credits. Students completing the program earn half of these credits at WVU and the other half at Collegium Civitas. Following a successful completion of all requirements, including the thesis defense, two master’s degrees will be conferred—one in history from WVU, and the other in international relations from Collegium Civitas.

WVU students will normally spend their first year of studies at WVU and their second year at CC. Students from Collegium Civitas will spend their first year in Warsaw and their second year in Morgantown. Defense of the joint MA thesis will be held on the premises of both institutions, physically and virtually, with participation by both WVU and CC faculty.

All requirements of the program must be met and credits transferred between the institutions before either the U.S. degree from WVU, or the European degree from Collegium Civitas can be issued. As a result, the two degrees, though coming from separate institutions, are awarded simultaneously.

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
- Jason Phillips - Ph.D. (Rice University)
  Eberly Professor of Civil War Studies, civil war, reconstruction, southern history, 19th-century U.S.
• 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.
• 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
• Tamba E. M'bayo - Ph.D. (Michigan State University)
  West Africa, colonial and postcolonial, African diaspora and Pan-Africanism
• James Siekmeier - Ph.D. (Cornell University)
  U.S. diplomatic, Latin America
• Kathryn Staples - Ph.D. (University of Minnesota)
  Medieval, gender, England, material culture
• Michele Stephens - Ph.D. (University of Oklahoma)
  Latin America, indigenous peoples, race and gender
• Mark B. Tauger - Ph.D. (UCLA)
  20th-century Russia/USSR, world/comparative, historiography

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
• Max Flomen - Ph.D. (U.C.L.A.)
  early America, Native American history
• William Gorby - Ph.D. - (West Virginia University)
  West Virginia, Appalachia
• Jennifer Thornton - Ph.D. (University of California, Riverside)
  Public History

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

Admissions

M.A. IN HISTORY

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).

**TRANS ATLANTIC OPTION**

Students desiring admission to the transatlantic program in international history and security studies should apply as they would for the regular M.A. in history. The statement of purpose should highlight relevant background and reasons for interest in the international history and security studies program. Otherwise, they must meet the same criteria for admission as applicants to the regular M.A. program.

**M.A. 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.

**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.

**DIRECT ADMISSION TRACK TO PH.D. PROGRAM**

Students who have compiled an outstanding record in an undergraduate history major may apply for direct admission to the doctor of philosophy program. They are not required to obtain a master’s degree. Admission directly to the Ph.D. program is highly selective and limited to exceptionally qualified students with superior standing in their bachelor’s degree. Students of this caliber are generally expected to have a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.9 or higher, and are generally expected to have a minimum combined score of 304 (1200 in the old scoring) on the verbal and quantitative sections (with a minimum of 158 on the verbal) and 5.0 on the written section of the Graduate Record Examination General Aptitude Test (GRE). In addition, students must provide evidence that they have experience conducting a substantial piece of original historical research, such as a senior honors thesis or major capstone paper.

**Doctor of Philosophy**

**Degree Requirements**

- **Credit Hours:** Students are required to complete a minimum number of 34 credit hours in History at the 400 level and above.

- **Grade Point Average:** Students must earn a minimum GPA of 2.75 overall, and of 3.00 in coursework applied to their graduate program in History to remain in good standing.

- **Program of Study:** A candidate must complete a program of study in four fields (a major field and three minor fields) developed in consultation with faculty field examiners.
  - Students may be required to take additional coursework depending upon their preparation in exam fields. Decisions about required coursework will be made in consultation with field examiners and the director of graduate studies.
  - At least three fields must be in History while the fourth may be in a related field with the approval of the director of graduate studies.
  - At least one of the four fields must be in a geographic area outside the student’s main area of concentration for dissertation research.

- **Comprehensive Examination:** For each of the four fields of study, students take a comprehensive examination (written and oral) based on knowledge derived from coursework and readings from a book-list prepared in consultation with the faculty field adviser.

- **Dissertation:** Dissertation work should normally be in the history of the United States, Europe, or modern Africa.

- **Additional Requirements:** Depending on their area of study or dissertation projects, graduates may be required to master one or more languages or to demonstrate proficiency in particular research methods (quantitative analysis, paleography, GIS, etc.).

- **Progress toward completion:** Students will be evaluated on a yearly basis. If adequate progress is not made, students may be placed on probation or suspended from the program. Students should complete a plan of study by the end of their second semester. Students typically complete comprehensive exams at the end of their fourth semester or beginning of their fifth semester, defend their dissertation prospectus during their fifth or sixth semester, and defend and submit their dissertation within five years of completing their comprehensive exams.

**Curriculum Requirements**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historiography Requirement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIST 700 Historiography</td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary Field:</td>
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Select at least one Reading/Seminar sequence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course 1</th>
<th>Course 2</th>
<th>Course Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIST 701</td>
<td>HIST 702</td>
<td>Readings in Medieval History and Seminar in Medieval History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 705</td>
<td>HIST 706</td>
<td>Readings in Early Modern History 3 Hr and Seminar in Early Modern History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 717</td>
<td>HIST 718</td>
<td>Readings In Modern European History and Seminar in Modern European History</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 725</td>
<td>HIST 726</td>
<td>Readings in African History and Seminar in African History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 731</td>
<td>HIST 732</td>
<td>Readings In American History: 1585-1763 and Seminar in American History: 1585-1763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 757</td>
<td>HIST 758</td>
<td>Readings in United States History: 1787-1850 and Seminar in United States History: 1787-1850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 759</td>
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<td>Readings in United States History: 1840-1898 and Seminar in United States History: 1850-1898</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 763</td>
<td>HIST 764</td>
<td>Readings in United States History: 1898-Present and Seminar in United States History: 1898-Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 765</td>
<td>HIST 766</td>
<td>Readings in United States Diplomatic History and Seminar in United States Diplomatic History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 773</td>
<td>HIST 774</td>
<td>Readings in Appalachian Regional History and Seminar in Appalachian Regional History</td>
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Select at least one additional related course:

- Any HIST at the 400, 500, 600, or 700 level

**Minor Field 1:**

Select an additional Reading/Seminar pair

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**Minor Fields 2 & 3:**

Select at least 4 courses:

- Any HIST at the 400 level
- Any HIST course at the 500 level
- Any HIST course at the 600 level
- Any HIST course at the 700 level

**Research Requirement**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIST 797</td>
<td>Research</td>
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</table>

**Total Hours:** 34
courses selected for this section should not be used for another field.

excluding hist 490, hist 697, hist 700, hist 789, hist 790, hist 797, and hist 799

degree progress

m.a. in history

students will be evaluated annually. if adequate progress is not made, students may be placed on probation or suspended from the program. all students should complete a plan of study by the end of their second semester. students who choose the thesis option should defend their thesis proposal prior to the beginning of the semester in which they intend to graduate, and submit and defend their thesis during the semester in which they intend to graduate. students who choose the examination option should take hist 795 and complete written and oral examinations during the semester in which they intend to graduate.

m.a. in public history

students will be evaluated annually by the program coordinator. if adequate progress is not made, students may be placed on probation or suspended from the program. all students should complete a plan of study by the end of their second semester. hist 614 should be completed by the end of the student's third semester in the program.

ph.d.

students will be evaluated on a yearly basis. if adequate progress is not made, students may be placed on probation or suspended from the program. students should complete a plan of study by the end of their second semester. students typically complete comprehensive exams at the end of their fourth semester or beginning of their fifth semester, defend their dissertation prospectus during their fifth or sixth semester, and defend and submit their dissertation within five years of completing their comprehensive exams.

major learning outcomes

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.

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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>course</th>
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<th>hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hist 600</td>
<td>cultural resource management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hist 620</td>
<td>practicum in cultural resource management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>graduate coursework</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total hours</td>
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