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

- Kate Staples - Ph.D. (University of Minnesota)
  Medieval, Gender, England, Material Culture

ASSOCIATE CHAIR

- Matthew Vester - Ph.D. (University of California)
  Early Modern Europe, Italy

PROFESSORS

- 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
- 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.
- Matthew A. Vester - Ph.D. - (University of California)
  Early modern Europe, Italy

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

- Melissa Bingmann - Ph.D. (Arizona State University)
  Public history, 20th-century U.S.
- William Gorby - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
  West Virginia, Appalachia, immigration
• Sheena Harris - Ph.D. (The University of Memphis)
  Race, Class, Gender, Education, Black Women's Organizations, Hip-Hop Feminism
• Joseph Hodge - Ph.D. (Queen's University at Kingston)
  Modern Britain, British Empire, decolonization, international development, Africa
• 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, modern 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. Taucher - Ph.D. (UCLA)
  20th-century Russia/USSR, world/comparative, historiography
• Jessica Wilkerson - Ph.D. (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill)
  Joyce and Stuart Robbins Chair, Appalachia and the South, Women, Gender, and Sexuality, 20th-c U.S., Labor and Working Class History

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
• Brooke Durham - Ph.D. (Stanford University)
  Modern Europe, French Empire, North Africa, decolonization
• Max Flomen - Ph.D. (UCLA)
  Early American History, Native American history
• Sean Lawrence - Ph.D. (University of California, Santa Cruz)
  Germany, colonialism, Middle East, environment, political economy
• Austin McCoy - Ph.D. (University of Michigan)
  20th-Century U.S., African-American, labor, social movements
• Devin Smart - Ph.D. (University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign)
  Africa, World/Global, environmental
• Jennifer Thornton - Ph.D. (University of California, Riverside)
  Public History

EMERITI FACULTY
• Katherine Aaslestad
  Professor
• William S. Arnett
  Associate Professor
• Elizabeth Fones-Wolf
  Professor
• Kenneth Fones-Wolf
  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
• Mary Lou Lustig
  Professor
• Robert M. Maxon
  Professor
• Stephen C. McCluskey
  Professor
• A. Michal McMahon
Admissions

M.A. IN HISTORY

Students seeking admission to the M.A. in History should have a bachelor’s degree in history or related discipline. Applicants with a degree in a different subject area may be required to make up deficiencies. A minimum grade point average (GPA) or 3.0 in history courses is expected.

Transatlantic Option: Students who wish to pursue the transatlantic program in international history and security studies should apply to the M.A. in History. The statement of purpose should highlight relevant background and reasons for interest in the international history and security studies program. Prospective students must meet the same criteria for admission as applicants to the M.A. program.

M.A. IN PUBLIC HISTORY

Students seeking admission to the M.A. in Public History should have a bachelor’s degree in history or related discipline. Applicants with a degree in a different subject area may be required to make up deficiencies. A minimum grade point average (GPA) or 3.0 in history courses is expected. The statement of purpose should highlight relevant background and reasons for interest in public history.

PH.D. IN HISTORY

Students seeking admission to the doctor of philosophy program should have the equivalent of an M.A. in History. The statement of purpose should indicate your goals as a history graduate student and the area in history in which you expect to concentrate. A minimum grade point average (GPA) or 3.0 in history courses is expected.

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. Direct admission 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. 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.

List of Admission Requirements:

• See the steps to apply for admissions and access the application here (https://graduateadmissions.wvu.edu/how-to-apply/)
• Transcripts from all institutions attended
• Three letters of recommendation written by people in a position to evaluate your academic strengths
• Resume that indicates your past education, professional and voluntary experiences
• Statement of purpose that indicates your goals as a history graduate student and the area in history in which you expect to concentrate. Applicants must clearly indicate which graduate program they are seeking admission to (the M.A. in History, M.A. in History with Transatlantic Option, M.A. in Public History, the Ph.D. in History, or Ph.D. in History with direct admission).
• Writing sample that is a piece of original research, such as a senior honors or master's thesis, major capstone or research seminar paper, or a term paper written for an advanced history course
• GRE scores are not required but will be considered if they are provided

International Applicants:

• See the steps to apply for admissions and access the application here (https://graduateadmissions.wvu.edu/how-to-apply/)
• International applications should view additional requirements here (http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/graduateeducationatwestvirginiauniversity/internationaltext) and here (https://graduateadmissions.wvu.edu/how-to-apply/apply-for-2020-2021/international-graduate-applicant/)
• Language proficiency is required in order to hold a graduate teaching assistantship. See here (https://elli.wvu.edu/testing-resources/english-proficiency-gtas/).

Application Deadlines:

• The graduate programs in History admit for the fall semester only
• Completed applications to the Ph.D. should be received by January 15th
• Completed applications for the M.A. program, for those who wish to be considered for funding, should be received by February 1st
• Completed applications for the M.A. program, without consideration for funding, should be received by April 1st
• Exceptional Ph.D. applicants may be nominated by the History program for competitive University Fellowships. Qualified applicants will be notified if they are nominated. More information on WVU fellowships can be found here (https://graduateeducation.wvu.edu/fellowships/).
Certain application requirements may be waived based on a preliminary review of an application by the program.

**Admission Requirements 2023-2024**

The Admission Requirements above will be the same for the 2023-2024 Academic Year.

Major Code: 1449 (M.A., Ph.D., both in History)

Major Code: 14C7 (M.A. in Public History)

For specific information on the following program, please see the link to the right:

- History, Ph.D.

**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**

Student will be evaluated annually by the program coordinator. 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 dismissed 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.

**COURSES**

**HIST 517. German Central Europe: Empires, States and Nations, 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. Twentieth Century German Central 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 558. United States Cultural History 1819-1893.** 3 Hours.
Examines the cultural panics 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 593. 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 605. Historical Administration and Governance. 3 Hours.
Exploration of professional standards, governance, grant writing, and financial sustainability for leadership roles in historical societies, archives, museums, and other cultural agencies that collect and preserve historical material. Through examination of institutional histories, students will compare models for shaping institutional policy, procedures, planning, and visioning.

HIST 609. Field Methods in Historic Preservation. 3 Hours.
Outlines professional historic preservation fundamentals associated with inquiry, documentation and analysis. A variety of research approaches expose students to both primary and secondary sources that are typically utilized when conducting reconnaissance or intensive level historic surveys or in preparing HABS/HAER or NRHP documentation.

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 History 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 620. Practicum in Cultural Resource Management. 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 691. Advanced Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Investigation of advanced topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

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

HIST 697. Research. 1-9 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 in Early Modern History 3 Hr. 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 in 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 707. War and Society in a Transnational Context. 3 Hours.
The course examines the broad theme of War and Society in a transnational context from the late 1600s to Cold War. The course is designed to help graduate students establish a foundation for further research, to provide opportunities to strengthen their command of European history as a teaching field and to enhance their ability to think comparatively about historical topics.

HIST 717. Readings In Modern European History. 3 Hours.
The object of this course is to familiarize graduate students with the main themes and approaches in the historiography of Modern Europe from the Enlightenment to the end of the twentieth century. (May be repeated once.).
HIST 718. Seminar in Modern European History. 3 Hours.
A research seminar in selected topics in modern 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 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 in Latin American History. 3 Hours.
Critical examination of selected sources and topics for understanding and interpreting Latin American history. (May be repeated once.).

HIST 731. Readings in American History: 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 in American History: 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 757. Readings in United States 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 in United States 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 in United States 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 in United States 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 in United States History: 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 in United States History: 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 United States Diplomatic History. 3 Hours.
Readings in U.S. Diplomatic History with an emphasis on the 20th century.

HIST 766. Seminar in United States Diplomatic History. 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. Readings in Appalachian Regional History. 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. Seminar in Appalachian Regional History. 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 782. Readings in United States 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 in 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 in 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 788. Seminar in World 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 789. 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 History Online. 3 Hours.
Designed to provide graduate students with the training to create an online course in History and prepare them to deliver it. Through class discussions and meetings with the instructor, students will be exposed to software tools to implement sound pedagogical practice online, different approaches to online instruction, and standards guiding online teaching in Higher Education. (Grading will be P/F).

HIST 791. 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 792. Directed Study. 1-6 Hours.
Directed study, reading, and/or research.

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

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

HIST 796. Graduate Seminar. 1-3 Hours.
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. 1-9 Hours.
PR: Consent. Research activities leading to thesis, problem report, research paper or equivalent scholarly project, or dissertation. (Grading may be S/U.).

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.