Master of Arts in History

Program Director

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Program Description

The Department of History offers a graduate program leading to the Master of Arts degree. Its curriculum combines American, European, and Transnational/Global areas. The program prepares students who seek any of the following: doctoral study in history or related fields, advancement in secondary and elementary education with a concentration in history and the social sciences, certification in applied history, and/or additional graduate study in a variety of professional areas. The program also provides the knowledge base for those pursuing history as an avocation. The program concentrates on research and primary materials, written analysis of research results, study of important monographs in all fields of history, and training in a number of specialized fields, such as oral history and historic preservation. The department prides itself on its small classes and close personal attention to all of its master’s candidates.

Faculty Research Interests

Daniel Ayana, Ph.D., Professor
Africa; social and economic history

L. Diane Barnes, Ph.D., Professor
Nineteenth-century American history; historical editing

Brian Bonhomme, Ph.D., Professor
Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Russian history; environmental history

Eleanor Congdon, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Medieval; Renaissance; Mediterranean world; maritime history

Donna M. DeBlasio, Ph.D., Professor
Twentieth-Century US history; applied history; oral history

Thomas E. Leary, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Applied history; labor and industrial history

Martha Pallante, Ph.D., Professor and Chair
Early American studies; material culture; pedagogy

David Simonelli, Ph.D., Professor
Britain; British Empire

Helene Sinnreich, Ph.D., Professor
Germany; Judaic Studies

Anne York, Ph.D., Professor
Early modern, revolutionary and modern France; the Vietnam War; European women’s history
Admission Requirements

Regular admission will be granted to those students who:

a. Hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university
b. Have earned an undergraduate cumulative grade-point average of at least 2.75 on a 4.0 scale
c. Have a minimum of 16 credit hours of study in the field of history
d. Have submitted a score on the Graduate Record Examination
e. Have submitted a satisfactory academic writing assignment from a class
f. The above will be compiled and a score of at least 350 points must be achieved from the following calculation:
   Undergraduate GPA multiplied by 100, plus percentile scores from the verbal and written-essay sections of the GRE.
   Thus, a student with an undergraduate GPA of 3.25, a verbal GRE at 50th percentile, and written essay at 35th percentile would score 325+50+35=410. (The score for the GRE quantitative section will not be assessed.)

Students not meeting these requirements may be considered for provisional admission or non-degree status instead

Degree Requirements

The Department of History offers three options to candidates for a Master of Arts degree in history. Option I is designed primarily for students who wish to continue studies toward a doctorate. Option II is designed primarily to meet the needs and improve the effectiveness of secondary teachers. Option III, the certificate in applied history, is designed to prepare students for career opportunities in that field.

Each candidate for the M.A. in history must pass a written and an oral examination in three fields of concentration. The examination will require factual and interpretative material, as well as bibliography and historiography.

Option I

- A total of 30 semester hours of graduate credit including thesis (six semester hours)
- Completion of a course in historiography (HIST 6901) and Historical Research Methods (HIST 6900)
- A required thesis
- Successful completion of general written and oral examinations

Students working in American or British history will not, in most instances, be required to pass a foreign language examination. In areas where a foreign language is essential for research, the student will have to meet the requirement set by the department, which will include reading knowledge only (no speaking required).

Before any student under option I is allowed to take the written and oral examinations, the advisor will designate to the chair of the Graduate Committee of the Department of History which foreign language, if any, the student is required to know and how this requirement has to be met.

Students under option I are reminded that the Department of History expects that the thesis shall display a capacity for research in a variety of historical sources and the ability to interpret factual information and shall constitute a properly documented report of the completed research.

Option II

- A total of 33 semester hours of graduate credit
- Completion of a course in historiography (HIST 6901) and Historical Research Methods (HIST 6900)
- Two satisfactory (B or better) graduate seminar papers submitted to two different instructors. The papers will be deposited with the graduate program director to remain permanently on file.
- Successful completion of general written and oral examinations
- Foreign language examination is not required

Option III (Certificate in Applied History)

The M.A. in history with certificate in applied history is designed both to give students a grounding in American history and historical research at the graduate level and to introduce them to ideas and techniques useful in applied history of the built environment. Students earning the certificate may find work with state or local preservation groups, museums, or government agencies. Students choose from among three possible tracks and then complete an
additional 18 semester hours as described below. Students completing the appropriate courses may also earn the certificate only, without the MA degree, if they so wish.

- A total of 33 semester hours of graduate credit
- Completion of the coursework in one of the three tracks listed below

### Track I: Historic Preservation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIST 5806</td>
<td>American Architectural History I</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 5807</td>
<td>American Architectural History II</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 5810</td>
<td>Conservation of Historic Built Environment</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 6942</td>
<td>Introduction to Applied History</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 6943</td>
<td>Practicum in Applied History</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 6944</td>
<td>Applied History Internship</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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### Track II: Museum Studies

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIST 6941</td>
<td>American Material Culture</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 6942</td>
<td>Introduction to Applied History</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 6943</td>
<td>Practicum in Applied History</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 6944</td>
<td>Applied History Internship</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 6955</td>
<td>Museum Curation and Interpretation I</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 6956</td>
<td>Museum Curation and Interpretation II</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Track III: Applied History Sequence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIST 5806</td>
<td>American Architectural History I</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 6940</td>
<td>Oral History</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 6941</td>
<td>American Material Culture</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 6942</td>
<td>Introduction to Applied History</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 6944</td>
<td>Applied History Internship</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 6946</td>
<td>Historical Editing</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Completion of at least one course from one of the tracks listed above that is not the student’s primary track
- Completion of HIST 6900 Introduction to Historical Research Methods, HIST 6901 Historiography, at least one seminar outside of applied history, and at least one readings course
- Two satisfactory (B or better) graduate seminar papers submitted to two different instructors. One shall be from a history seminar and must be a research paper using primary sources. The other shall be based upon a paper begun in an applied history course, expanded through additional research and reading as directed by the instructor. The papers will be deposited with the graduate program director to remain permanently on file.
- Successful completion of general written and oral examinations
- Foreign language examination is not required