

Master of Arts in History

Administrative Unit

This program is administered by the Office of Graduate Studies and Research through the Faculty of History, Department of History, College of Arts and Sciences.

Objectives

The Master of Arts program in History accommodates a wide range of student aspirations, both professional and personal. With strong emphasis on the literature of history, research techniques, and writing skills, graduate study in history will benefit teachers, museum and archives personnel, prospective candidates for PhD degrees in history, and college graduates wishing to pursue the subject for intellectual enrichment.

Admission Requirements

Candidates who have not completed at least 18 undergraduate semester credits in history will be required to enroll in additional courses to complete their preparation for graduate work.

Options

Students may specialize in either United States or World history. They may choose between the thesis option and the non-thesis option.

Core Requirements

Candidates for the Master of Arts degree in History must complete 36 credits of graduate work, of which no more than one course may be at the 4000-level. Included in these 36 hours is at least three but no more than six units of History 6300 (The Historian's Craft). The student may repeat 6300 if the regional emphasis in the second offering differs from the first offering. For example, if one took 6300 with an emphasis on American history, one may take 6300 again if the second course emphasizes Latin American or World history.

Students who elect to write a thesis in United States history will complete:

1. 21 credit hours in United States history, including at least two reading course and one research course at the 6300-level.
2. At least nine credits in non-US history from more than one subject area.
3. Six hours upon acceptance of a thesis.

Students who elect the non-thesis option in United States history will complete:

1. 21 credit hours in United States history, including at least two reading and two research courses at the 6300-level.
2. At least nine credits in non-US history from more than one subject area.
3. A maximum of six credits in history or a related field.

Students who elect the thesis option in World history will complete:

1. At least 15 credit hours in World history, including at least one reading and one research course at the 6300-level.
2. At least 15 additional hours in the United States history, including at least one reading and one research course at the 6300-level.
3. Six hours upon acceptance of a thesis; a foreign language may be recommended.

Students who elect the non-thesis option in World history will complete:

1. At least 15 credit hours in World history, including at least one reading and one research course at the 6300-level.
2. At least 15 additional hours in United States history, including at least one reading and one research course at the 6300-level.
3. A maximum of six credits in History or related field; a foreign language may be recommended.

MA degree candidates who select the non-thesis option must pass an oral and a written examination. MA degree candidates who elect to write a thesis must pass an oral defense of their thesis. There is no general foreign language requirement for the master's degree in history. However, when mastery of a language is requisite to purposeful study, the demonstration of language skills may be required. For example, candidates writing a thesis on a topic in Latin American history must demonstrate the ability to comprehend written Spanish with reasonable accuracy.

Special Program Features

Within the requirements for the Master of Arts degree in History, considerable individualization of programs is possible. The particular strengths of the curriculum are in Early American History to 1900, Twentieth Century America, Mexican History, European History, and African History.

Program Recommendations

All students should include one research course at the 6300-level during the first 12 hours of their graduate work.

Professional Certification Preparation

Students who desire teacher certification should consult the School of Education for requirements.

Course Listings

HIST 6300 The Historian's Craft (3)

Introduction to historical theory and historical methods. May be repeated once, if regional emphasis differs in the second course from the student's first course

HIST 6301 Industrial Revolutions (3)

Comparative study of processes of industrialization in North America, western Europe, Russia/USSR, and east Asia. Topics for discussion include the role of the state, development of new social structures and industrial cultures, and possible preconditions for industrialization

HIST 6302 Democratization (3)

Trans-national comparison of processes of democratization and political modernization. Topics will include forms of democratic states, as well as why some states develop fascist, authoritarian or Communist structures

HIST 6303 Nationalism (3)

Comparative study of the social, cultural, and political processes in the formation of nation-states and of national identities.

HIST 6306 Africa (3)

Issues in African history. (Topic may vary)

HIST 6311 Modern Mexico (3)

Historical literature relating to major developments and problems of modern Mexico.

HIST 6312 Mexican Revolution (3)

A study of the causes and ramifications of the most significant events in 20th century Mexican history.

HIST 6313 Mexican Immigration (3)

A study of Mexican immigration to the United States, beginning in the late 19th century and preceding to the present.

HIST 6319 Studies in Latin American History (3)

Historical literature relating to major developments and problems of Latin America, including modern Mexico, modern South America and colonial Latin America. May be repeated.

HIST 6335 Modern Germany

Selected topics in modern German history, emphasizing social, political, and economic changes. Course typically will cover either Germany 1871-1933 (Imperial Germany and Weimar) or 1945-present (Federal Republic and GDR).

HIST 6336 Third Reich and Holocaust (3)

Historical literature and issues related to Nazi Germany and the Holocaust

HIST 6338 Research in World History (3)

Methodology and tools for historical research and directed research on special topics in non-United States history.

HIST 6339 Studies in World History (3)

Reading, research and discussion on selected topics.

HIST 6344 Civil War (3)

Historical literature relating to major developments and problems in some aspects of the American Civil War.

HIST 6345 Reconstruction (3)

Historical literature relating to major developments and problems in some aspects of Reconstruction period.

HIST 6347 Twentieth Century America (3)

Examination of historical literature on special topics covering major developments and problems in recent United States history.

HIST 6350 Modern Texas (3)

Historical literature on the political, economic, social, and cultural development of modern Texas.

HIST 6354 Chicano/a History (3)

Historical literature on Chicano/a history from Spanish influence to the present. Themes for the course will include political activism, economic changes and labor, race relations, and gender issues.

HIST 6355 The American South (3)

Historical literature relating to major developments and problems in some aspects of the American South.

HIST 6361 American Foreign Relations (3)

Examination of historical literature on special topics which cover major developments and problems in United States foreign relations.

HIST 6363 American Military Experience (3)

Historical literature on the development of the military services and the uses of military force in United States History.

HIST 6366 Civil Rights Movement (3)

An examination of issues of racial justice in the 20th century, with emphasis on post – 1945. Topics will include the expansion of the movement from Black civil rights to include other minorities and women.

HIST 6367 Race in America and South Africa (3)

Comparative study of race relations in the United States and South Africa.

HIST 6370 American Petroleum Industry (3)

Readings and research in the history of the American petroleum industry.

HIST 6376 American Women's History (3)

Historical literature relating to the history of American women from the colonial period to the present.

HIST 6378 Research In American History (3)

Methodology and tools for historical research and directed research on special topics in American history.

HIST 6379 Studies in American History (3) (title may vary)

Reading, research and discussion on selected topics in American history.

HIST 6391 Contract Study (1-3)

For students who are pursuing independent study or research (as described in the contract study format).

HIST 6399 Master's Thesis (3 or 6)

Meets the research requirements for the thesis option in master's degree programs.