History

Faculty

Chair

Professors


Associate Professors
Stover, Justin Dolan. Assistant Professor, History. B.S. 2003, Central Michigan University; M.A. 2005, National University of Ireland, Dublin; Ph.D. 2011, Trinity College (Dublin). (2012)

Assistant Professors


Professors Emeriti
Christelow, Allan. Professor, History. 1983-2013

Christelow, Stephanie. Professor, History. 1990-2015

Hatzenbuehler, Ronald. Professor, History. 1972-2013

Owens, John “Jack” B. Professor, History. 1975-2011

Swanson, Merwin. Professor, History. 1972-2002

Master of Arts in History

Mission: The MA in History trains students to explore established and emerging historical problems. The curriculum integrates traditional and interdisciplinary approaches to historical research with the development of digital and other professional skills needed to complete digital and other applied historical research projects. Students take courses in historical methods, digital history, research methodology, and professional development. An MA in History prepares students to use their historical, digital, and applied training in a variety of teaching, research, and other positions, including museums, consulting firms, non-profit organizations, government agencies, or further graduate study for academic careers.

Learning Outcomes
1. MA students will understand major trends, theories, and approaches in the field of History:
2. MA students will analyze and synthesize ongoing scholarly conversations in History and situate their arguments and projects in these contexts;
3. MA students will understand the range of digital resources available to historians and be able to use their chosen resources in producing and presenting research;
4. Students will define, research, and complete a significant research project within History studies, and be able to describe and justify their project in written and presentation formats;
5. Students will be able to apply their Historical learning to work in professionally-related academic, nonprofit, or business-sector contexts.

Degree Structure & Requirements

The program offers both a thesis-track and a non-thesis-track.

- In addition to required coursework, the thesis-track requires students to produce a written thesis based on their research that features a significant digital component.
- In addition to required coursework, students on the non-thesis track undertake a written exam and presentation on their independent research project.
- Both thesis and non-thesis options require students to present their research to the department and to pass an oral defense.

Digital Element

In order to develop a digital voice, which promotes both students' marketability and mastery of current trends in the field, students' research and its application must incorporate the digital humanities. This may take a variety of forms including the application of geographic information systems (GIS), spatial analysis, digital media and production, 3D modeling, documentary production, web design, digital network analysis, data visualization, or another medium or method approved by the Graduate Director. The Graduate Director or faculty supervisor will help guide the development and direction of a student's digital element.

Coursework

A minimum of 30 credit hours of graduate work is required to complete the program. Fifteen of these credits must be at the 6600-level.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 6605</td>
<td>Introduction to Graduate Studies in History</td>
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<td>HIST 6610</td>
<td>Introduction to Digital Humanities</td>
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<td>HIST 6600</td>
<td>Graduate Proseminar</td>
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<td>HIST 6623</td>
<td>Global Idaho</td>
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<td>or HIST 6664</td>
<td>Graduate Internship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Digital or Other Professional Development Electives</td>
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Beyond the required program components above, students must take at least one graduate-level course that will develop their ability to use digital tools in research (such as a course in geographic information systems), or an additional course that will further develop their academic and professional marketability (such as grant writing).

**Coursework Limitations**

Students may count up to six credits from outside the History department toward their degree, as approved by the Graduate Director.

Students may count up to six thesis credits (HIST 6650) or six independent research project (HIST 6645) credits toward the total required credit hours for the degree.

**Presentation and Oral Defense**

There will be a final departmental presentation and oral examination for each student. For students pursuing the thesis option, the examination will be based on the thesis. For those with the non-thesis option, the written and oral examination will be based on the independent research project. The non-thesis examination will focus on both the scholarship in the field of digital history and the student's topic of focused research.

**Separate GIS Certificate**

Geographic information systems (GIS) is a powerful tool used for historical research, as well as for conducting analysis across a wide range of public and private sector applications. Training and experience with GIS is a highly marketable job skill. Many of our most successful graduates have combined an emphasis in historical GIS in the MA in History program with a Postbaccalureate GeoTechnology Certificate, offered by the ISU Geosciences Department. Students must apply separately to the certificate program. Students may count up to six credits of GIS Certificate courses towards the MA in History, with approval of the Graduate Director. The combined programs usually add at least one semester to the time of completion.

**Admission Requirements**

The student must apply and meet all criteria for admission to the Graduate School. In addition, applicants must comply with the following departmental requirements:

1. Through the Graduate School Application system, applicants must submit three names of references to provide letters of recommendation, at least two of which should be from individuals familiar with their academic work.
2. Through the Graduate School Application system, applicants must submit a statement of interest regarding their historical studies and academic goals. Particular attention should be given to explaining how these interests and goals relate to the program.
3. Applicants should have at least 12 credits of previous course work in history.

**Five-Year BA/MA Program:**

Undergraduate students at ISU and BYU-Idaho may apply to enter the MA program during their fourth year, completing both degrees within as little as five years. Interested students should contact the department directly and students must apply by March 31 in their junior year.

**Courses**

**HIST 5505 Problems in History:** 3 semester hours.

A thorough consideration of historical problems, particularly from a comparative perspective. Designed to give deeper insight into problems, issues, and topics which are treated more generally in other courses. May be repeated with different content.

**HIST 5511 Intro to Museum Studies:** 2 semester hours.

History, philosophy, purposes, organization and administration of museums. Practical work in collections management and museum interpretation. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus.

**HIST 5518 US History for Teachers:** 3 semester hours.

U.S. history from indigenous cultures through modern America. Based on Idaho Department of Education Standards for High School Students. PREREQ: Permission of instructor.

**HIST 5520 Topics in U.S. History:** 3 semester hours.

Examines topics and themes in U.S. history not covered in other courses. Repeatable with different topics. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus.

**HIST 5521 Federal Indian Relations:** 3 semester hours.

A survey of the social, cultural, environmental, and political history of Idaho from pre-contact indigenous cultures to the present, emphasizing Idaho's relations to other states and regions in the West.

**HIST 5522 Women in North American West:** 3 semester hours.

Comparative examination of the varied experiences of women in the North American West. Analyzes perceptions of women and women's views of themselves, women's activism, and women's cultural activities. Places special emphasis on the use of non-textual historical sources in uncovering the past lives of North American western women. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus.

**HIST 5523 Idaho History:** 3 semester hours.

An interdisciplinary course on culinary and environmental history. This course emphasizes global good exchanges and their influences on food practices and consumption. May be period, theme-, or topics-based. Coursework may include the preparation and analysis of historical recipes. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus. D

**HIST 5524 North American West:** 3 semester hours.

History of the North American West from pre-contact indigenous cultures to the present, with an emphasis on exploration, settlement, ethnic groups, borderlands, environment, federal policy, and cultural depictions.

**HIST 5529 Foreign Relations since 1900:** 3 semester hours.

An introduction to the history of international relations in the twentieth century. This course emphasizes the impact of wars on various peoples and cultures, anti-colonialism and the rise of the so called 'Third World,' and the processes of political, cultural and economic 'globalization.'

**HIST 5530 Global Environmental History:** 3 semester hours.

Comparative examinations of historical interactions between humans and environmental factors in various time periods and regions throughout the world, and an assessment of their impacts on historical change.

**HIST 5531 Topics in Global History:** 3 semester hours.

Examines from a transregional or transnational perspective topics and themes in global history not covered in the survey. Topics may include revolutions, culture and art, imperialism, and approaches to world history. Repeatable with different topics. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus.
HIST 5532 U.S. Environmental History: 3 semester hours.
Cultural, social, and political analysis of historical interactions between humans and environmental factors in North America. Includes an assessment of the roles of conservation, energy, resource use, land management, urban and rural development, disease, and food. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus. D

HIST 5533 History of Energy: 3 semester hours.
Considers the history of energy sources—including biomass, fossil fuels, nuclear and renewables—as driving forces of change in culture, society, and politics. Examines technological innovation as well as the ways people resisted, embraced, and adapted to the changing role of energy in their everyday lives. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus. D

HIST 5535 History of Colonialism: 3 semester hours.
Thematic study of colonialism as a historical phenomenon. Topics may include: settler colonies, anti-colonial movements, cross-cultural interaction, post colonialism, and borderlands. Specific, evaluated graduate level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus. D

HIST 5536 Slavery in History: 3 semester hours.
History of Slavery. Topics include global, comparative, transnational, or national contexts. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus. D

HIST 5537 Families in Former Times: 3 semester hours.
History of the family, marriage patterns, domestic lives. May be theme- or topics-based. Examines changes in the relationships within families and the changing role of the family in society. Repeatable with different topics. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus.

HIST 5539 Women in World History: 3 semester hours.
Interdisciplinary study of the history of women and women's rights in different world regions, involving the social constructs of gender, race, and class. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus. D

HIST 5540 History of Revolutions: 3 semester hours.
Explores revolutions in historical contexts. Themes may include liberal democratic, constitutional, communist, and anti-colonial revolutions. Historical period and global region may vary. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus. D

HIST 5543 Topics in European History: 3 semester hours.
An examination of periods or topics in European social, cultural, and economic history and their transnational or global impacts. Repeatable with different topics. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus.

HIST 5545 Modern Ireland: 3 semester hours.
Major events in Irish history, from the eighteenth to the twenty-first century, focusing on Ireland's political, economic, and cultural development. Explores Ireland's relation with Great Britain and Europe, themes of nationalism and Unionism, rebellions, the Northern Ireland Troubles, and the global Irish diaspora. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus. D

HIST 5546 Topics in Ancient History and Culture: 3 semester hours.
Examines themes or topics in Ancient History not covered in other courses. Repeatable with different topics. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus. D

HIST 5548 Topics in Medieval History and Culture: 3 semester hours.
Examines themes or topics in Medieval history and culture in greater depth than or not covered in other courses. Repeatable with different topics. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus.

HIST 5551 Topics in Latin American History and Culture: 3 semester hours.
Examines topics and themes in Latin American history and culture, not covered in the survey. Topics may include Latin American environmental history, indigenous movements, revolutions, culture and art, and cultural movements in Latin America. Repeatable with different topics. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus.

HIST 5552 Topics in Asian History and Culture: 3 semester hours.
Examines topics and themes in Asian history and culture not covered in other classes. Repeatable with different topics. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus.

HIST 5554 Topics in Middle East History and Culture: 3 semester hours.
Examines topics and themes in Middle East history and culture not covered in other classes. Topics may include Iraq and Iran, intellectual history of Islam, early modern empires. Repeatable with different topics. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus.

HIST 5555 Topics in African History and Culture: 3 semester hours.
Examines topics and themes in African history and culture not covered in other classes. Topics might include wars and revolutions, African intellectuals, or colonialism. Repeatable with different topics. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus.

HIST 5556 Independent Study:US: 1-3 semester hours.
Selected readings in areas and periods not covered by the regular curriculum offerings. 1-3 credits. May be repeated. PREREQ: Previous upper-division course work in the subject area, with a minimum grade of A- and GPA of 3.5 in all History courses. Permission of instructor and approval of the department chair.

HIST 5562 Independent Study:Europe: 1-3 semester hours.
Selected readings in areas and periods not covered by the regular curriculum offerings. 1-3 credits. May be repeated. PREREQ: Previous upper-division course work in the subject area with a minimum grade of A- and GPA of 3.5 in all History courses. Permission of instructor and approval of department chair.

HIST 5565 US Political History: 3 semester hours.
Study of the political history of the United States involving a discussion of theories of popular voting behavior, critical elections, and political party systems. Equivalent to POLS 5565.

HIST 5571 Historical Geography of Idaho: 3 semester hours.
Influences of geography and geology on Idaho's economic, political and cultural history. May be team taught, and includes field trips, discussion sections. Equivalent to GEOL 5571 and POLS 5571.

HIST 5574 Islam in the Modern World: 3 semester hours.
This course covers Islamic trends and movements in a global setting from the eighteenth century to the present. Islam will be considered in a wide range of national and transnational contexts with special attention on the interaction between Islam, society, and politics. Repeatable with different topics. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus.

HIST 5578 History of Empires: 3 semester hours.
Thematic study of one or more empire in world history. May include a study of empires and imperialism in the modern and/or pre-modern period, such as the Roman, Ottoman or British empires. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus. D
HIST 5579 History of Disease, Medicine, and Society: 3 semester hours.
Topics or theme-based course in the history of medicine, disease, and public health, and the associated perceptions, treatments, policies, and effects on society both within the medical community and by the public at large in Europe and the Americas since the 16th century. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus.

HIST 5586 History Field Seminar: 3-9 semester hours.
Combines historical study with experiential learning involving intensive on-location study or multiple site or archive visits. Repeatable with different topics. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus. PREREQ: Permission of instructor.

HIST 5591 Seminar: 3 semester hours.
Reading, discussion, and preparation for research papers on selected topics.

HIST 5599 Experimental Course: 1-6 semester hours.
This course is not described in the catalog. The course title and number of credits are announced in the class schedule by the scheduling department. Experimental courses may be offered no more than three times. May be repeated.

HIST 6600 Graduate Proseminar: 3 semester hours.
Introduction to graduate studies. Focus on contemporary historiographical debates, with emphasis on understanding significant developments in the profession. May be repeated with different topics. PREREQ: Admission to the Historical Resources Management Program.

HIST 6605 Introduction to Graduate Studies in History: 3 semester hours.
An introduction to major trends, theories, approaches, and shifts in the discipline of History. Also introduces graduate-level research methods and topics in professionalization, such as conference applications and presentations. PREREQ: Classified Graduate Status or permission of the instructor.

HIST 6610 Introduction to Digital Humanities: 3 semester hours.
Explores the developing field of digital humanities, approaching humanistic inquiry with digital tools, (e.g. software and media platforms). Students survey foundational and new literature in the field, and learn and evaluate multiple tools for discovery, analysis, and presentation of data. Emphasis placed on students developing their own projects.

HIST 6620 Research and Writing Seminar: 3 semester hours.
This course focuses on the skills of research and writing through the process of researching and writing a significant paper or writing project, such as a graduate thesis chapter. D

HIST 6621 Seminar Interdisciplinary Topics in Social Sciences: 3 semester hours.
Examination of selected topics in the social sciences from the analytic orientations and perspectives common and peculiar to the disciplines of political science, economics, sociology, and history.

HIST 6623 Global Idaho: 3 semester hours.
An examination of issues and events in modern world history that enrich public understanding of Idaho history. Students apply various research methods and contribute to an ongoing, collaborative digital platform project that highlights regional, national, international, and transnational connections between Idaho and the wider world. PREREQ: Classified Graduate Status or permission of the instructor.

HIST 6642 Conferences and Grants: 3 semester hours.
Emphasizes visual and oral skills for disseminating research to professional audiences. Students will develop and organize a campus-wide colloquium highlighting graduate research. Provides an introduction to grant writing with a focus upon funding sources for the social sciences and humanities.

HIST 6645 Independent Research Project: 1-6 semester hours.
Individual research project employing Geographic Information Systems. Topic selected by the student. 1-6 credits. May be repeated up to six credits. PREREQ: Permission of instructor who will direct the project and of the student's Historical Resources Management Graduate Committee.

HIST 6650 Thesis: 1-9 semester hours.
Open to students seeking the M.A. in Historical Resources Management with the thesis option. 1-9 credits. May be repeated.

HIST 6664 Graduate Internship: 3-12 semester hours.
Supervised experience in the application of historical research and professional skills, such as digital expertise of grant writing, to a historical project in a collaborative work environment. Up to three (3) credits count toward degree requirements. Repeatable up to 9 credits. PREREQ: Permission of instructor who will direct the internship.

HIST 6699 Experimental Course: 1-6 semester hours.
This course is not described in the catalog. The course title and number of credits are announced in the class schedule by the scheduling department. Experimental courses may be offered no more than three times. May be repeated.