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 professional skills. Students take courses in historical content, digital methods, research methodology, and professional development. An MA in History prepares students to use their historical, technical, and applied training in a variety of teaching, research, and other positions, including schools, museums, consulting firms, nonprofit 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 historical project, and be able to describe and justify their research in written, visual, and oral formats; and
5. Students will gain skills to apply their historical learning to work in academic, nonprofit, or business-sector contexts.

Degree Structure & Requirements

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

- In addition to required coursework, students on the portfolio track assemble a range of professional and scholarly projects that include at least one digital element of research or interpretation.
- 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.
- Both thesis and portfolio 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIST 6600</td>
<td>Graduate Proseminar (may be repeated)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 6620</td>
<td>Research and Writing Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital or Professional Development Course*</td>
<td>chosen from an outside department with approval from the Director of Graduate Studies</td>
<td>3-6</td>
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</tbody>
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Electives: Choose from the following to complete the credit requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIST 6605</td>
<td>Introduction to Graduate Studies in History</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 6610</td>
<td>Introduction to Digital Humanities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 6623</td>
<td>Global Idaho</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 6644</td>
<td>Graduate Internship</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 6645</td>
<td>Independent Research Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>or HIST 6650</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 55xx electives</td>
<td>content courses vary. See Graduate Catalog</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*This course will develop students’ ability to use digital tools in research (such as GIS or digital media) and/or further improve their academic and professional marketability (such as in grant writing or digital/graphic communication).

Coursework Limitations

Students may count no more than six credits from outside the History Department, including the required digital or professional development course, toward their degree, as approved by the Graduate Director.

Capstone Requirement

Student capstone projects will be a portfolio or thesis, as outlined below.

Portfolio

All new students enter the program on the portfolio path. The portfolio path showcases competency across several categories of scholarly and professional activities. Students submit a professional portfolio of their work prior to their defense. All students complete an article-length manuscript from their research as part of their portfolio, along with a historiographical essay. Details on the required elements of the portfolio are found in the History Graduate Student Handbook, located on the Department of History website (https://www.isu.edu/history/).

Thesis

The thesis path prepares students for postgraduate study. Students pursuing the thesis path must inform the Director of Graduate Studies within their first semester and submit a formal proposal by the beginning of their second semester. Details on requirements and procedures for the thesis are available in the History Graduate Student Handbook. Students pursuing the thesis will take 3-6 credits of HIST 6650.
Presentation and Oral Defense

There will be a final departmental presentation and oral examination for each student. For students pursuing the thesis option, this will be based on the thesis. For those with the portfolio option, the presentation will focus on a research article manuscript, and the oral exam will cover the portfolio. The oral defense will be administered by a committee of graduate faculty.

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 this program.
3. Applicants should have at least 12 credits of previous course work in history.

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 5517 Religion in American History: 3 semester hours.**
A survey of religion in American society and culture from ancient America through the recent past.

**HIST 5518 History for Teachers: 3 semester hours.**
Pedagogy, methods, and best practices for teaching history. Based on Idaho Department of Education standards for history teachers.

**HIST 5519 History of World Religions: 3 semester hours.**
Survey of the world's major religious traditions. Interdisciplinary study comparing and analyzing religion in world history.

**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.**
This course provides a legal-historical examination of the relationship between North American tribal peoples and the U.S. federal government between 1750 and the present. Special emphasis will be placed on Indian removal, assimilation policy, treaty negotiation, the Dawes Severalty Act, education policy, Indian reorganization policy, and termination.

**HIST 5523 Idaho History: 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 relation to other states and regions in the West.

**HIST 5524 French Revolution and Napoleon: 3 semester hours.**
An examination of the origin, course, and legacy of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic period in Europe and the world.

**HIST 5525 Women in the 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 5526 Foodways in 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 presentation and analysis of historical recipes. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus.

**HIST 5527 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. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus.

**HIST 5528 African American History: 3 semester hours.**
A thematic examination of African American History from the colonial era to the recent past. Topics include slavery, emancipation, citizenship rights, segregation, civil rights movements, and modern struggles.

**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.

**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.

**HIST 5534 Atomic Age: 3 semester hours.**
The history of nuclear science and technology, from the late 19th century until today. Considers a variety of historical perspectives, including those of the scientific community, policymakers, and popular culture.
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 5542 Witchcraft and Magic: 3 semester hours.  
Examines witchcraft and magic in their historical contexts. Topics may include religion, belief, gender, and sexuality. Historical period and region of study may vary. 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 Irish History: 3 semester hours.  
Major events in modern Irish history, from the eighteenth to the twenty-first century, focusing on Ireland's political, economic, and cultural development. Explores Ireland's relationship 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.

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 5561 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 by 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 by the department chair.

HIST 5563 Independent Study:World Regions: 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 by the department chair.

HIST 5566 World War I: 3 semester hours.  
This course explores the First World War thematically and examines social, cultural, economic, and political issues transnationally. It considers the pre- and post-war periods, the war's colonial impact, remembrance and commemoration, and the conflict's enduring historical lessons. D

HIST 5567 Cold War Culture in the U.S.: 3 semester hours.  
Examines how the international Cold War intersected with American everyday life between 1945 and 1965. Thematic units cover anticommunism, nuclear fear, civil rights, gender and sexuality, religion, and domestic life. D

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 5576 Modern Middle East: 3 semester hours.  
History of the modern Middle East, emphasizing political, social, and economic trends in the region. Topics may include imperialism, nationalism, transnationalism, constitutionalism, secularism, and state building. D

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.

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.

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 6645 Independent Research Project: 1-6 semester hours.
Individual research project leading to the development of an article manuscript or digital project. Topic selected by the student with faculty approval. 1-6 credits. May be repeated up to six credits. PREREQ: Permission of instructor.

HIST 6650 Thesis: 1-9 semester hours.
Open to students pursuing the thesis track in History. 1-9 credits. May be repeated. Graded S/U.

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.