History

Chair and Associate Professor: Heern

Professors: Marsh, Njoku

Associate Professor: Stover

Assistant Professors: Datta, MacDonald, Robey, Stango

Professors Emeriti: Christelow, Hatzenbuehler, Kuhlman, Owens, Swanson

Program Description

Master of Arts in History, M.A. (http://coursecat.isu.edu/graduate/artsandletters/history/mahistory/)

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 Students take courses in historical content, digital methods, research methodology, and professional development.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.

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. D

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. F

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. D

HIST 5520 Topics in U.S. History: 3 semester hours.
Examines topics and themes in U.S. history not covered in other courses. Repeateable 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. D

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 preparation and analysis of historical recipes. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus. D

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, borders, 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. D

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 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. 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 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 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 of 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. D

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.