

M.A. in History

The study of history involves the study of all human thought and action, ranging from the economic and the political to the psychological and the artistic. Combining the perspectives and methods of the social sciences and the humanities, it seeks to comprehend the problems and challenges faced by individuals and societies in the distant and recent past, nearby and far away. This understanding of the human experience provides the historical perspective so necessary for explaining the present.

In the process of making sense of our collective and individual past, the student of history develops research, analytical and communication skills which can be drawn upon in a variety of careers in journalism, teaching, law, business, public consulting, research, museum and records management, genealogy, library service and government service.

The Master of Arts degree in History is designed to provide students with a program of advanced intensive courses leading to specializations in such areas as United States, Latin American, European, African, Asian and local history. Apart from the final requirement of either a master's thesis (and oral defense) or examinations in three fields (written and oral), the master's program contains flexibility sufficient to meet the varying personal, professional and academic needs of the candidate. The Graduate Coordinator and the Supervisor of the thesis or field committee provide assistance and direction toward achieving the student's academic objectives.

History at Sonoma State

As one of the University's original departments, the History Department has developed a wide-ranging and diversified program. Courses are offered from all periods: Ancient, Medieval, Modern and Contemporary, in the major cultures and nations of Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas; and in such areas as social, cultural, economic and military history. Changing needs and interests have led to topical courses in women's history, local history, ethnic history, comparative biography, and current methodologies. The department may also offer various lecture series and experimental courses.

In addition to lecture and seminar courses, graduate students are encouraged to take advantage of independent research projects (special studies), teaching and research-assistance options, and internships. Experiences in "applied history" can help provide entry into potential jobs, professional positions and careers; students interested in teaching may develop teaching skills and experience within the graduate program framework.

The Master of Arts Program in History

The M.A. degree in History is a 30-unit program. Requirements include at least 15 units of 500-level coursework; of these, two seminars and the final project are mandatory. Students may apply up to 15 units of upper division work (at the 300 or 400-level) toward the M.A. degree.

Graduate seminars and upper division classes are generally small, offering individualized attention, guidance and interaction between faculty and students. Graduate students are expected to recognize various methodologies and perspectives of historical inquiry and interpretation, and to master the techniques of history writing and research. Opportunities for independent study (8 units maximum) and teaching or research-related work, conjointly with faculty (2 units maximum), are available.

Admission to the University

Application for graduate admission to the University should be made through the Office of Admissions and Records. Official transcripts of B.A. degree and relevant post-B.A. work are required, as well as GRE test scores.

Requirements for Admission

1. B.A. degree from an accredited institution. Students with undergraduate majors in fields other than history are expected to complete at least one prerequisite course.
2. Grade point average of 3.00 or better in the undergraduate history major (and in previous graduate courses attempted) as evidenced by transcripts furnished. Grade point average of 3.20 or better in history for non-majors.
3. Completion of the general test Graduate Record Examination with scores acceptable to the departmental Graduate Studies Committee.
4. Three letters of recommendation; completion of program application and personal statement; writing sample.
5. Completion and acceptance of separate application for admission to the University (Office of Admissions and Records). GRE test scores required.
6. Favorable recommendation for admission by the departmental Graduate Studies Committee after review of the complete file. This confers advancement to classified standing as a graduate student.

The selection committee reviews applications twice a year. Materials required should reach the graduate coordinator by either September 15 or February 15. **Applications must be reviewed by the time that 16 units (maximum) applicable to the program have been completed.*

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." George Santayana, Life of Reason.



Requirements for the M.A. Degree

1. Advancement to candidacy form (M.A. in History) signed and submitted to graduate office.
2. Grade point average of 3.00 or better for all work attempted in graduate status and in all work approved as a part of the specific pattern of study. With the approval of the student's committee chair and the graduate advisor; a maximum of 9 units of postgraduate transfer or extension credit (or any combination of the two) may be included as part of the student's specific pattern of study. All courses are to be taken for letter grade.
3. All requirements for the M.A. degree in history, including language and conditional requirements stipulated at the time of admission to candidacy, must be satisfactorily completed within seven years from the time the first course is completed. Completion of requirements form must be signed and submitted to the graduate office.
4. With the approval of the student's committee chair and the departmental graduate advisor; the satisfactory completion of one of the following two options:

The History M.A. Program

Master's Thesis Option

(chosen in consultation with committee chair):

Course	Units
Courses at the 300 or 400 level.....	15
Graduate courses at the 500 level (including two seminars)	9
HIST 599 Master's Degree Thesis Research	6
Total units required for the M.A.	30

Field Examination Option

(chosen in consultation with committee chair):

Courses at the 300 or 400 level.....	15
Graduate courses at the 500 level (including two seminars).....	14
Field Examination Reading and HIST 598 Research.....	1
Total units required for the M.A.	30

History Department Faculty

Judith E. Abbott, Ph.D., University of Connecticut.
Medieval and Ancient Roman History.

Stephen Bittner, Ph.D., University of Chicago
Modern Russian and Modern European History.

Randall Dodgen, Ph.D., Yale University
Asian and Pacific Rim History.

Steve Estes, Ph.D., University of North Carolina
20th Century United States History.

Mary Halavais, Ph.D., University of California, San Diego.
Early Modern Europe, Spain and Latin America.

Michelle Jolly, Ph.D., University of California, San Diego.
U.S., California, and Women's History.

Robert A. Karlsrud, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles.
U.S. Labor and Social History; Secondary Education.

Kathleen Noonan, Ph.D., University of California, Santa Barbara.
British Isles, Europe, Colonial American History.

William H. Poe, Ph.D., Brandeis University.
Ancient Mediterranean Archaeology.

Clarice Stasz, Ph.D., Rutgers University.
U.S. Social and Cultural History.

Theresa Alfaro Velcamp, Ph.D., Georgetown University
Mexican, Latin American, Borderlands History.

D. Anthony White, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles.
Latin American History.

We hope this information will be helpful. Official requirements of all majors and programs are published in the Sonoma State University catalog. Sonoma State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution and has a strong commitment to the principal of diversity. A member of the California State University

