DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Liberal Arts Building 4210F
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Programs of the Department

The Department of History offers the following programs: the major in History; the History-Secondary Education track, for students planning to teach history at the secondary level; the minor in History; and the minor in Human Rights & History. Each of these programs encourages students to explore the study of history in depth. Students who major in History develop strong skills in writing, research, and critical thinking, abilities that are highly prized by employers in a wide variety of fields. History graduates have an excellent foundation for successful careers in most areas of business, consulting, public service, and government agencies, as well as in archival management, library science, historical preservation, museology, and teaching. The skills acquired can also serve as fine preparation for graduate work.

The department offers courses in the fields of American, European, Asian, African, Latin American, Middle Eastern, and World history. Courses can be chronological, topical, or national in scope, and special offerings include courses in women's, ethnic, business, social, and cultural history.

All courses offered encourage an appreciation of the historical past through lecture/discussion, reading, analysis, and writing. Because history explores all aspects of human endeavor, History courses touch upon the insights of all disciplines from the historical perspective.

The Human Rights & History minor (HUMR) is a program intended to help students contextualize human rights historically. The minor is open to students in any major and is a good choice for students planning careers in government, law, the non-profit sector, social justice, and public service of any kind.

Internships and volunteering are great ways to apply what one has learned and to move toward acquiring employment after graduation. History offers many internship and volunteering opportunities including, but by no means limited to, the Maryland Center for History and Culture, Baltimore City Archives, Baltimore Museum of Industry, Jewish Museum of Maryland, Towson University Archives, the B&O Railroad Museum, and the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum.

The department participates in interdisciplinary programs with International Studies, Social Sciences, and Women's and Gender Studies; the minors in African and African American Studies, Jewish Studies, Ancient Mediterranean Studies, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Studies; and in Interdisciplinary Studies, tracks in American Studies, African and African American Studies, Comparative Ethnic Studies, Latin American and Latino/a Studies, Metropolitan Studies and Asian Studies.

Special Recommendations for Majors and Minors

Students must declare their majors and minors in the department. The major or minor should be declared during the second term of the freshman year or at the beginning of the sophomore year. Students will be given major/minor forms listing additional rules for a History major/minor. They will also be assigned an academic adviser who will help in preparing a program of courses. Students should consult their advisers regularly. Students also must update their records each term. A History minor who wishes to complete an internship must have completed 15 units of the required courses in History.

Advanced Placement

The department awards credit through the Advanced Placement Program of the university for scores of 3, 4 or 5 only.

Departmental Honors and Activities

The History Department sponsors the Theta Beta Chapter of the national history honor society, Phi Alpha Theta. The society presents lectures, films, and other programs. Students may inquire about membership requirements at the department office.

The History Department Honors Program allows undergraduates to develop their critical thinking and historical skills in a rigorous and collaborative environment that guarantees personal attention. The program is a two-semester sequence of independent study, the culmination of which is the writing of a senior thesis—a significant scholarly research paper prepared under the close supervision of a faculty mentor.

The department also offers travel-study courses that in the past have introduced students to China, Japan, Mexico, Vietnam, and several European countries.

Awards

The Disabled American Veterans Prize in History is awarded to a graduating senior History major who demonstrates excellence on the basis of GPA and merit.

The Mary Catherine Kahl Prize is awarded annually to a History major or minor of outstanding promise who has not yet been graduated. An essay in History written by the nominees is submitted as an integral part of the prize competition.

The Sander Senior Prize in History is awarded to a graduating senior who has been accepted to a graduate program in History or a related field.

The Matthews Prize is awarded to junior or senior History majors who demonstrate excellence based on GPA and merit.

The Arnold Blumberg Prize is awarded annually to the senior History major who has compiled the most outstanding record in the field of European history.

The Douglas D. Martin Sr. History Award provides scholarship support for undergraduate History majors with a minimum of 85 units who have demonstrated an interest in the study of Western U.S. history or native peoples.

The Distinguished Presidential Scholarship in History is based on academic merit. It is awarded to outstanding juniors and is typically offered every other year.

Majors

- Major in History
- Major in History-Secondary Education

Minors

- Minor in History
- Minor in Human Rights and History

Faculty

Professors: Nicole Dombrowski Risser, Benjamin Fisher (Graduate Program Director), Alhena Gadotti, Elizabeth K. Gray, Kimberly Katz, Christian Koot (Chairperson), Michael Masatsugu, Oluwatoyin Babatunde Oduntan, Karen Oslund, Akim Reinhardt, Robert Rook, Erik Ropers

Associate Professors: Gilbert Chen, Victoria McAlister, Marcio Siwi, Benjamin Zajicek

Assistant Professors: Ezgi Cakmak, Kelly O'Donnell, Jillian Stinchomb (Philosophy & Religious Studies)

Assistant Teaching Professor: Christophher England, Paul Stephenson, Amanda Walter

Teaching Professor: John Mancini