

# History, B.A.

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## Degree Offered

- Bachelor of Arts

## Nature of the Program

The Department of History offers courses focusing on a variety of world regions and time periods. Degree requirements insure that majors obtain an acquaintance with the history of several such regions and periods and develop skills in research and writing. Majors and non-majors may qualify for membership in Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honorary.

Students who earn a degree in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences must complete the University requirements, the College requirements for their specific degree program, and their major requirements.

## Minors

All students have the possibility of earning one or more minors; follow the link for a list of all available minors and their requirements (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/minors/>). Please note that students may not earn a minor in their major field.

## Career Prospects

The bachelor of arts with a major in history is designed to prepare students for careers in teaching, business, and government, and for graduate work in history, law, and related social sciences and humanities.

## 3+3 Program

The Department of History participates in the 3+3 Program with WVU's College of Law, which is an opportunity for qualified undergraduate students to earn their bachelor's degree and law degree in six years instead of seven years. Students accepted into the 3+3 program begin taking classes at WVU Law in what would be their fourth year of college. Students participating in this program must meet certain eligibility criteria and progress benchmarks. For questions regarding your eligibility, please contact your department advisor.

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## FACULTY

### CHAIR

- Kate Staples - Ph.D. (University of Minnesota)

### ASSOCIATE CHAIR

- Matthew Vester - Ph.D. (University of California)

### PROFESSORS

- Joseph Hodge - Ph.D. (Queen's University at Kingston)  
Modern Britain, British Empire, decolonization, international development, Africa
- Brian Luskey - Ph.D. (Emory University)  
19th-century U.S., social and cultural
- Jason Phillips - Ph.D. (Rice University)  
Eberly Professor of Civil War Studies, Civil war and reconstruction, southern history, 19th-century U.S.
- James Siekmeier - Ph.D. (Cornell University)  
U.S. diplomatic, modern Latin America
- Matthew A. Vester - Ph.D. (University of California)  
Early modern Europe, Italy, France

### ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

- Melissa Bingmann - Ph.D. (Arizona State University)  
Public history, 20th-century U.S.
- William Gorby - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)  
West Virginia, Appalachia, Immigration
- Tamba E. M'bayo - Ph.D. (Michigan State University)  
West Africa, colonial and postcolonial, African diaspora and Pan-Africanism
- Kate Staples - Ph.D. (University of Minnesota)

Medieval, gender, England, material culture

- Jessica Wilkerson - Ph.D. (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill)  
Joyce and Stuart Robbins Chair, Appalachia and the South, Women, Gender, and Sexuality, 20th-c U.S., Labor and Working Class History

## ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

- Max Flomen - Ph.D. (UCLA)  
Early American History, Native American History
- Sean Lawrence - Ph.D. (University of California, Santa Cruz)  
Germany, colonialism, Middle East, environment, political economy
- Austin McCoy - Ph.D. (University of Michigan)  
20th-Century U.S., African-American, labor, social movements
- Betsy DiSalvo Osborne - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)  
Social Studies Education, Education
- Devin Smart - Ph.D. (University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign)  
Africa, World/Global, environmental

## EMERITUS FACULTY

- William S. Arnett - Ph.D. (Ohio State University)
- Robert E. Blobaum - Ph.D. (University of Nebraska)
- William I. Brustein - Ph.D. (University of Washinton)
- Elizabeth Fones-Wolf - Ph.D. (University of Massachusetts)
- Kenneth Fones-Wolf - Ph.D. (Temple University)
- Jack Hammersmith - Ph.D. (University of Virginia)
- Barbara J. Howe - Ph.D. (Temple University)
- Elizabeth K. Hudson - Ph.D. (Indiana University)
- Ronald L. Lewis - Ph.D. (University of Akron)
- Mary Lou Lustig - Ph.D. (Syracuse University)
- Robert M. Maxon - Ph.D. (Syracuse University)
- Stephen C. McCluskey - Ph.D. (University of Wisconsin)
- A. Michal McMahon - Ph.D. (University of Texas)
- John C. Super - Ph.D. (University of California, Los Angeles)
- Mark B. Tauger - Ph.D. (University of California, Los Angeles)

## Admissions for 2026-2027

- First Time Freshmen are admitted directly to the major.
- Students transferring from another WVU major or from another institution with a 2.0 overall GPA are admitted directly to the major.

Major Code: 1449

[Click here to view the Suggested Plan of Study \(p. 6\)](#)

## General Education Foundations

Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEF requirement. (<http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef/>)

NOTE: Some major requirements will fulfill specific GEF requirements. Please see the curriculum requirements listed below for details on which GEFs you will need to select.

Code	Title	Hours
<b>General Education Foundations</b>		
F1 - Composition & Rhetoric		3-6
ENGL 101 & ENGL 102 or ENGL 103	Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research Accelerated Academic Writing	
F2A/F2B - Science & Technology		4-6
F3 - Math & Quantitative Reasoning		3-4
F4 - Society & Connections		3

F5 - Human Inquiry & the Past	3
F6 - The Arts & Creativity	3
F7 - Global Studies & Diversity	3
F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree)	9
Total Hours	31-37

Please note that not all of the GEF courses are offered at all campuses. Students should consult with their advisor or academic department regarding the GEF course offerings available at their campus.

## Degree Requirements

Students must complete WVU General Education Foundations requirements, Eberly Edge Program requirements, major requirements, and electives to total a minimum of 120 hours.

## Departmental Requirements for the B.A. in History

- **Calculation of the GPA in the Major:** A minimum grade of C- is required in all courses applied to major requirements. If a course is repeated, all attempts will be included in the calculation of the GPA, unless the course is eligible for a D/F repeat.
- **Writing and Communication Requirement:** The History Bachelor of Arts is a **SpeakWrite Certified Program™**. SpeakWrite Certified programs incorporate and develop students' written, verbal, visual, and mediated communication skills across the curriculum.
- **Secondary Concentration:** Students must complete a minor outside of History or a second major.
- **Residence Requirement:** Students must complete a minimum of 18 credits at WVU; a minimum of 6 of those 18 credits must be at the upper-division level (courses numbered 300 or above).
- **Capstone Requirement:** The university requires the successful completion of a Capstone course. Students majoring in History will complete HIST 484 to satisfy this requirement.

## Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	University Requirements	57
	Eberly Edge Requirements	15
	History Major Requirements	48
	Total Hours	120

## University Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	General Education Foundations (GEF) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 (31-37 Credits)	
	Outstanding GEF Requirements 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 5 or 7	22
HIST 191	First-Year Seminar	1
	General Electives	34
	Total Hours	57

## Eberly Edge Program Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	EDG 1: Data and Society	3
	EDG 2: Effective and Civil Communication	3
	EDG 3: Ethics and Civil Responsibility	3
	EDG 4: Global and Regional Perspectives (fulfilled by the Africa, Asia, and Latin America Major Requirement)	
	EDG 5 Practicing Arts & Sciences (ARSC 380)	3
	EDG 6: High Impact Experience	3
	Total Hours	15

## History Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Introductory History Courses</b>		<b>12</b>
HIST 302	Practicing History	
Select three courses:		
HIST 101	European History: Antiquity to 1600	
HIST 102	European History since 1600	
HIST 104	Latin America: Past and Present	
HIST 105	The Middle East	
HIST 106	East Asia: An Introduction	
HIST 152	Growth of the American Nation to 1865	
HIST 153	Making of Modern America: 1865 to the Present	
HIST 179	World History to 1500	
HIST 180	World History Since 1500	
<b>History Concentration</b>		<b>18</b>
Take at least one course in all three of the following regions, with twelve of the total 18 hours at the 300 or 400 level.		
<b>United States</b>		
HIST 210	Modern Military History	
HIST 215	History Through Public History Sites	
HIST 224	Climate Change: A Global History	
HIST 250	West Virginia	
HIST 256	History of the American Revolution: 1763-1790	
HIST 257	Rise and Fall of the US Republic	
HIST 259	The United States: 1865-1918	
HIST 261	Recent America: The United States since 1918	
HIST 264	American Indian History	
HIST 358	United States Cultural History: 1819-1893	
HIST 360	America in the 1960's	
HIST 365	The Vietnam War	
HIST 375	Film and History	
HIST 409	Field Methods in Historic Preservation	
HIST 412	Introduction to Public History	
HIST 442	Eighteenth Century America	
HIST 445	History of American Women	
HIST 451	African-American History-1900	
HIST 452	African-American Since 1900	
HIST 453	Civil War and Reconstruction	
HIST 454	The Coming of the United States Civil War	
HIST 456	The Gilded Age in US History	
HIST 459	United States History: New Deal to Great Society	
HIST 460	World War II in America	
HIST 463	American Foreign Relations to 1941	
HIST 464	American Foreign Relations 1941 to Present	
HIST 468	The Old South	
HIST 470	United States Civil Rights Movement	
HIST 473	Appalachian Regional History	
HIST 477	Working Class America	
HIST 478	American Immigration History	
<b>Europe</b>		
HIST 201	History of Ancient Times: Stone Age to the Fall of Rome	
HIST 203	Introduction to Medieval Europe	
HIST 204	Renaissance and Reformation	

HIST 205	Absolutism & Enlightenment
HIST 207	Revolutionary Europe
HIST 209	Twentieth Century Europe
HIST 210	Modern Military History
HIST 211	The Mediterranean 1200-1800
HIST 215	History Through Public History Sites
HIST 217	History of Russia to 1917
HIST 218	History of Russia: 1900-Present
HIST 220	The Holocaust (The Holocaust)
HIST 221	History of Modern Germany
HIST 224	Climate Change: A Global History
HIST 313	France from 1450 to 1750
HIST 314	France Since 1815
HIST 317	German Central Europe, 1648-1900
HIST 318	Twentieth Century German Central Europe
HIST 330	History of Italy, 1200-1800
HIST 346	Women, Gender, and Kinship in Premodern Europe
HIST 414	The Great War, 1914-1918
HIST 415	Early Modern Law & Society
HIST 416	The French Wars of Religion
HIST 417	World War II in Europe
HIST 419	Revolutionary Russia: 1900-1953
HIST 420	USSR and After: 1953 to Present
HIST 421	Hitler and the Third Reich
HIST 422	Twentieth-Century Germany from Weimar to Bonn
HIST 424	Britain 1455-1603
HIST 430	Living and Dying in Medieval Europe
HIST 432	Eighteenth Century Britain: 1715-1832
<b>Africa, Asia, and Latin America</b>	
HIST 201	History of Ancient Times: Stone Age to the Fall of Rome
HIST 215	History Through Public History Sites
HIST 224	Climate Change: A Global History
HIST 241	Latin America: Culture, Conquest, Colonization
HIST 242	Latin America: Reform and Revolution
HIST 319	Myth and Culture in Pre-colonial Africa
HIST 320	Pre-Colonial Africa
HIST 321	Colonial Africa and Independence
HIST 325	Modern China
HIST 348	The International Middle East
HIST 350	The Aztec, Maya, and Inca
HIST 365	The Vietnam War
HIST 370	Latin America and the World
HIST 428	East Africa Since 1895
HIST 433	West Africa to 1885
HIST 434	West Africa from 1885
HIST 435	History of Chinese Thought
HIST 437	Africa in World History
HIST 439	History of Modern Mexico
HIST 440	Mexican Law from Montezuma to El Chapo
<b>Capstone Experience</b>	
HIST 484	Historical Research-Capstone
<b>Secondary Concentration/ Minor (fulfills the F8 requirement)</b>	

Students must complete a minor, double major, or dual degree

Total Hours 48

## Suggested Plan of Study

The plan below illustrates a plan of study with a minor.

### First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
HIST 191		1 ENGL 101 (GEF 1)	3
HIST Intro Course 1		3 HIST Intro Course 2	3
F2B		4 EDG 1: Data and Society	3
F5		3 F3	3
General Elective		4 F4	3
		15	15

### Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ENGL 102 (GEF 1)		3 HIST Concentration Area 1	3
HIST 302		3 HIST intro Course 4	3
HIST Intro Course 3		3 F6	3
EDG 2: Effective and Civil Communication		3 EDG 3: Ethics and Civil Responsibility	3
F7		3 Minor Course 1	3
		15	15

### Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
HIST Concentration Area 2		3 HIST 3/400-level	3
HIST Concentration Area 3 at 3/400-level (EDG 4)		3 HIST 3/400-level	3
ARSC 380 (EDG 5)		3 Minor Course 3	3
Minor Course 2		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
		15	15

### Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
HIST 3/400-level		3 HIST 484 (Capstone and Writing)	3
Minor Course 4		3 EDG 6: High Impact Experience	3
General Elective		3 Minor Course 5	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
		15	15

Total credit hours: 120

## Suggested 3+3 Program Plan of Study

### First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
HIST 191		1 ENGL 101 (GEF 1)	3
HIST 302		3 Foreign Language 102	3
Foreign Language 101		3 HIST Intro Course 1 (GEF 5)	3
General Elective		2 HIST Intro Course 2	3
GEF 2		3 GEF 3	3
GEF 4		3	
		15	15

**Second Year**

<b>Fall</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Hours</b>
ENGL 102 (GEF 1)		3 ECAS Fine Arts Requirement (GEF 6)	3
Foreign Language 203		3 Foreign Language 204	3
HIST Intro Course 3 (GEF 7) (Non-western and ECAS GI. St. and Div. Req.)		3 HIST Concentration Area 1	3
Minor Course 1		3 HIST Concentration Course Area 1	3
GEF 2		3 Minor Course	3
		15	15

**Third Year**

<b>Fall</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Hours</b>
HIST Concentration Area 1		3 HIST 484 (Capstone)	3
HIST Concentration Area 2		3 HIST Concentration Area 2	3
Minor Course 3		3 HIST Concentration Area 3	3
Minor Course 4		3 Minor Course 5	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
		15	15

**Fourth Year**

<b>Fall</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Hours</b>
LAW 641		1 LAW 675	1
LAW 686		4 LAW 703	4
LAW 700		3 LAW 707	4
LAW 705		3 LAW 711	2
LAW 709		4 LAW 725	4
		15	15

Total credit hours: 120

**Degree Progress**

- Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA overall and a minimum of a 2.00 GPA in History every semester (with a 2.0 in HIST required for graduation).
- All majors must meet with their History adviser every semester.

Students who do not meet these benchmarks may be removed from their major.

**Major Learning Outcomes****HISTORY**

Upon successful completion of their undergraduate degree in **History**, students will demonstrate competence in the following ways and areas:

1. Students will be able to explain and analyze the histories of a variety of geographical and chronological contexts.
2. Students will be able to identify and analyze primary sources, based on familiarity with the historiography and methodologies covered in their courses.
3. Students will be able to evaluate and analyze secondary sources, based on familiarity with the historiography and methodologies covered in their courses.
4. Students will be able to produce analytically-driven written and oral work based on the critical evaluation of evidence.
5. Students will be able to research and write scholarly papers that develop an argument on a defined historical topic, based on primary and secondary sources and that relates their work to the historical literature.