DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND ART HISTORY

B359 Robinson Hall
Fairfax Campus
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Website: historyarthistory.gmu.edu

The department offers a number of degree programs, including undergraduate majors and minors in both history and art history, traditional and accelerated MA programs in both history and art history, and a PhD in history. Additional programs include an MA in the history of decorative arts, a dual MA in art history and arts management, and a graduate certificate in digital public humanities. Additional undergraduate minors coordinated by the department include the ancient mediterranean art and archaeology minor and the Asia-Pacific and Northeast Asian studies minor. The minor in sport and American culture is offered jointly by the Department of History and Art History and the School of Recreation, Health and Tourism.

Undergraduate Programs

History

Students in the history BA study a variety of places, from Africa to Asia to the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East, and historical time periods, from Greek and Roman antiquity to the late twentieth-century. They learn to interpret and evaluate the past by analyzing a variety of sources, from historical books and novels to images, films, oral interviews, newspapers, and other texts.

History majors have the opportunity to study with faculty who are internationally known for their work on the use of technology in the study of history. They can do an internship with one of them in the Center for History and New Media or at places like the Smithsonian Institution, the Library of Congress, or one of many other institutions in the Washington, D.C. area. There are also many opportunities to study abroad while earning credit towards the history major.

Advising

Students majoring or minoring in history are advised by the undergraduate director and a team of faculty advisors. History majors are urged to discuss their program of study periodically with the director.

Bachelor’s/Accelerated Master’s Programs

MA in History

The department offers highly qualified undergraduate majors in history the opportunity to apply to an accelerated master’s degree program in history. If accepted, students will be able to earn both the undergraduate and graduate degrees after satisfactory completion of 144 credits. The BA and MA earned separately require 120 and 30 credits respectively.

MEd in Curriculum and Instruction (concentration in secondary education history and social science)

The Department of History and Art History and the Graduate School of Education jointly offer an accelerated MEd option for history majors. A BA in History and an MEd in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in secondary education history and social science can be earned after satisfactory completion of 149 credits.

Art History

The department offers highly qualified undergraduates in any major the opportunity to apply to an accelerated master’s degree program in art history. If accepted, students will be able to earn both the undergraduate and graduate degrees after satisfactory completion of 144 credits, generally within five years.

Graduate Programs

History

The department offers a master’s and a doctoral degree in history. In both programs, students select a specialization in American history, European history, or world history. Master’s degree students choose from one of five concentrations: predoctoral history, applied history, enrichment, higher education, or teaching. Doctoral students focus their studies in one of four areas: college/university teaching, new media and information technology, public and applied history, or preprofessional development.

Graduate students in history have the opportunity to take courses in new media, studying with faculty who are internationally known for their use of technology in the study of history. Many students work alongside the faculty in the Center for History and New Media, a leader in the use of digital media and computer technology to democratize history. The center uses digital media and technology to preserve and present history online, transform scholarship across the humanities, and advance historical education and understanding.

Students can do an internship in applied history at one of the many institutions in the Washington, D.C. area or study abroad while earning credit towards their degrees.

Art History

The department offers a richly interdisciplinary master’s degree in art history. It draws on faculty strengths in traditional research and new media and the vast cultural resources of the Washington, D.C. area. Students learn methods of art historical analysis, a variety of art historical interpretations, and practical applications of the field. The program places a special emphasis on the development of skills in new media, museology, and pre-professional internships - program features that are unique to this region.

The master’s degree in art history is designed to meet the needs of a student population with diverse interests and career goals. Because of the focus on skill building in traditional research as well as new media, graduates of this program have the tools necessary for independent research, professional work, and the dissemination of knowledge in art history.

The department also offers a master’s degree in the history of decorative arts. It is offered in partnership with The Smithsonian Associates and presents students with the challenge of integrating the history of the decorative arts into the study of art history and cultural studies as a whole. Students take courses in decorative arts, design history and theory, material culture, and museology. This program prepares students for employment at museums, historic organizations, and in the commercial art and design marketplace. It is also excellent preparation for a number of doctoral programs.
Funding
The department offers teaching and research assistantships, which are awarded on a competitive basis. Other sources of funding such as grants, loans, and employment on campus are also available. Students awarded assistantships must register for a minimum of six credits a semester and show satisfactory progress toward their degree.

Faculty

Department Faculty

Professor Emeriti
Bakhash, Censer, Deshmukh, ffolliott, Henriques, Horton, Jensen, Lytton, Petrik, Wade (history); Mattusch, Todd (art history)

Robinson Professors
Crew (history); Hinton (art history)

Professors
J. T. Censer, Holt, Karush, Kelly, Kierner, Landsberg, O’Malley, Robertson, Schrag, Sherwin, Smith, Stearns, Zagarri (history), DeCaroli (art history)

Associate Professors
Barnes, Bristol, Carton, Chang, Collins, Copelman, Hamdani, Hamner, Jordan, Lair, Leon, Platt (chair), Ritterhouse, Scully, Takats (history); Butler, Greet (director)

Assistant Professors
Cowan, Genetin-Pilawa, Hooper, Lebovic, Mullen, Park, Yilmaz (history); Ho, Williamson (art history)

Affiliate Associate Professors
Schrum (history)

Affiliate Professor
Wiggins (history)

Term Faculty
Elzey, Manuel-Scott, McCord, Orems, Schulze (history); Bauman, DeArmendi, Gregg (art history)

Programs

- Ancient Mediterranean Art and Archaeology Minor
- Art History Minor
- Art History, BA
- Art History, MA
- Asia-Pacific and Northeast Asian Studies Minor
- Digital Public Humanities Graduate Certificate
- History Minor
- History of Decorative Arts, MA
- History, BA
- History, MA
- History, PhD