

UMSL History

Have you ever wondered?

Why St. Louis became the Gateway to the West?
What caused the fall of the Roman Empire?
How women won the right to vote?
What made the Vietnam War so controversial?
Whatever happened to the Harappans?

If so, then the Department of History at UM-St. Louis wants you!

The Department of History is looking for undergraduate and MA students who are educational adventurers — “Ed-Venturers” with the same spirit of curiosity in seeking new discoveries, experiences and opportunities as the early pioneers who passed through the Gateway to the West. Every student and all academic subjects have a history, and our department’s innovative new curriculum appeals to majors and non-majors alike who seek to know how their present lives have been shaped by the past, giving them greater confidence and understanding in dealing with the future. Not knowing the events that influenced family, community, nation and the world before a person’s birth can be as confusing as joining in the middle of a conversation about an unfamiliar topic.

Why UMSL?

- We provide you with access to a prestigious faculty. The regular faculty members in History hold the PhD and publish extensively in their field of specialization. At UMSL, you study history with teachers who write textbooks read by college students across the nation.
- At advanced levels of coursework, History students get their hands dusty by rummaging through archives and libraries in search of primary source documents. In the capstone senior seminar course, students write an original piece of historical scholarship.
- Close working relationships with the St. Louis Mercantile Library, the Missouri Historical Society, the Missouri State Archives and other local historical agencies allow our students to earn course credit for internships and gain first-hand experience in jobs that connect the study of history to exciting careers.
- We train more social studies teachers than any other institution in the area. Regional educators praise our social studies certification program for its focus on history content and practical experiences in high school classrooms.
- Whether you work full-time or go to school full-time, our expansive schedule of courses will fit your needs. If you have difficulty getting to campus during daytime hours, you can fulfill your History requirements through our evening and online offerings. If you want to complete your degree quickly, take advantage of our summer courses.
- In sum, history study offers a combination of affordability, flexibility and high quality education unmatched in the St. Louis region.

Career Outlook

If you enjoy history and want to make it your life’s work, consider a career in history education. We are the premier institution in the St. Louis area for training elementary, junior high and high school teachers. Graduates of our MA program are faculty members of colleges and universities across the nation. If you do not wish to teach, there are plenty of other jobs for well-trained historians; a growing interest in regional history has created employment opportunities in museum, archival and preservation work.

You might be surprised at the wide array of non-history related jobs for which we prepare students. As history detectives who travel through time to solve old mysteries, our professors cultivate skills of archival research, critical thinking, reading comprehension, analytical writing and articulate oral expression that are essential to success in a vari-

ety of professions. A recent report by the Center on Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University revealed that the average salary for history majors was the highest of all graduates in the humanities “and better than students in a majority of the other fields.”* This finding explains why our graduates have gone on to successful careers in business, law, banking, library science and foreign service.

Aside from career preparation, majoring in history has “practical” value with regard to personal fulfillment in the love of learning for a lifetime. Once they appreciate how and why professional historians research and write, our graduates continue to read scholarly books for pure enjoyment.

What We Study

A Unique Curriculum

Faculty members in the Department of History have pioneered a distinct perspective on the past that links the dynamics of change in local settings to major world events. By exploring the past from metropolitan, regional, national and transnational perspectives, we provide the contexts for understanding a variety of cultures and countries on every continent across many centuries.

These are a few of the most popular courses we teach on a regular basis:

- Rome: Empire and Republic
- The Age of the Renaissance
- The African Diaspora
- St. Louis and the West
- The Civil War Era
- American Indian History
- Sex in America

Know St. Louis

The historians at the largest public metropolitan university in the region are particularly qualified to “Teach St. Louis” — its people and its past — because of their original research and significant publications on a variety of regional topics in every era.

Here are some of the topics on which students have conducted original research:

The St. Louis World’s Fair of 1904
The Lynching of Cleo Wright in Sikeston, Missouri
The St. Louis Cholera Epidemic
The Punk Rock Scene in 1970s St. Louis
The Desegregation of St. Louis Schools

Degrees and Programs

At the bachelor’s level, the department offers the **BA in history** and, in cooperation with the College of Education, the **BA in history with teacher certification** and the **BS in education with an emphasis in social studies**.

If you enjoy history but don’t want to fully immerse yourself in the study of the past, perhaps the History Minor is for you. With only six classes, you can add a **History Minor** to your degree.

If you are planning to pursue an MA degree in History, our 2+3 Program can shave an entire year off your studies. You save both money and time. By substituting 5000-level course for your 3000-level undergraduate requirements, the 2+3 Program enables students to receive both their BA and MA degrees in 5 years (or even sooner if you take summer courses.) To get the most out of this program, it is advisable to apply before the beginning of your junior year.

At the graduate level, the department offers an **MA in history** with work in Metropolitan, Regional, National and Transnational history. It also offers an **MA with a concentration in Museum Studies**.

General Education Requirements

History majors must meet the University and College general education requirements. History courses that will satisfy the University’s requirement are:

- HIST 1001, American Civilization
- HIST 1002, American Civilization

HIST 1003, African-American History
HIST 1004, The History of Women in the United States
HIST 2007, The History of Missouri
HIST 3002, United States History: Revolution and the New Nation, 1763 to 1815
HIST 3041, Topics in American Constitutional History

Students may take any language to fulfill the College's foreign language requirement. Majors may not take required history courses on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.

Degree Requirements

Bachelor of Arts in History

Students are encouraged to move from introductory courses at the 1000 to more advanced content-oriented courses at the 2000 level then to skill oriented courses at the 3000 and 4000 levels.

At the 1000 level, majors must take one course in U.S. History:

HIST 1001, American Civilization to 1865
HIST 1002, American Civilization 1865 to present
HIST 1003, African-American History
HIST 1004, The History of Women in the United States

Plus one course in European History:

HIST 1030, The Ancient World
HIST 1031, Topics in European Civilization: The Emergence of Western Europe to 1715
HIST 1032, Topics in European Civilization: 1715 to the Present

Plus One course in African, Asian, Latin American, or World History:

HIST 1041, East Asian Civilization
HIST 1042, East Asian Civilization
HIST 1051, Latin American Civilization
HIST 1052, Mexican Civilization
HIST 1061, African Civilization to 1800
HIST 1062, African Civilization Since 1800
HIST 1064, The African Diaspora Since 1800
HIST 1075, World History to 1500
HIST 1076, World History Since 1500

Plus two additional courses at the 1000 level on any subject

2000 level courses offer in-depth historical content. At the 2000-level, students may count between one and three 3-credit courses toward their major. At least one of the courses at this level must be in the fields of African, Asian, or Latin American History

In addition, all students must take: 2999 Introduction to Historical Inquiry (4 credit hours)

3000 level courses are designed primarily for majors and focus on developing historical writing and thinking skills. At the 3000 level, students may count between two and four 3-credit courses toward their major.

4000 level courses allow history majors to demonstrate mastery over historical thinking, writing and research skills. Courses at this level should be taken once students have completed all other requirements for the major. Students must take:

4004, Senior Seminar (five credit hours)

Majors must complete at least 39, but not more than 45, hours in history with no grade below C. Courses 4011 and 4012 do not count toward the major. After fulfilling the general education and specific major degree requirements, students take the remaining 30 hours required to complete the BA or BS degrees from courses, from one or more of the following or their-quality equivalents at other institutions, if the appropriate department has evaluated them as being of university-level quality: anthropology/archaeology, art (appreciation, history, studio), biology, chemistry, communication, criminology and criminal justice, economics, English, foreign languages/literatures, history, mathematics/computer science, music (appreciation, history, performance), philosophy, physics and astronomy/geology, political science, psychology, social work, sociology, business, education, engineering and interdisciplinary.

Undergraduate majors must complete a residency minimum of 15 hours of 2000/3000 level History courses including History 4004) (5 credit hours) at UMSL.

Minor in History

Students may minor in history by taking 19 hours of history courses as follows:

1. One course numbered 1001–1099 in each of the following areas: United States history, European history and either Asian, African, Latin American or World history (9 credits)
2. Two courses numbered 2000–2998 (6 credits)
3. History 2999 (4 credits)

No course in which a grade below a “C” is received shall count toward a minor.

Bachelor of Arts with Teacher Certification

For information, refer to the College of Education section in the on-line University of Missouri–St. Louis Bulletin: Undergraduate, Graduate and Professional Catalogue.

Bachelor of Science in Education: Emphasis in Social Studies

The requirements are the same as for the BA degree except students fulfill the College of Education general education requirements rather than those of the College of Arts and Sciences. For information, refer to the College of Education section in the on-line University of Missouri–St. Louis Bulletin: Undergraduate, Graduate and Professional Catalog.

Pre-Law Track

With excellent training in research, analysis and writing, a History major is excellent preparation for law school. Many UMSL History majors have gone on to successful careers in law. The pre-law track offers the following cluster of courses as the basis for a solid application to law school:

- HIST 1001, American Civilization to 1865
- HIST 1002, American Civilization since 1865
- HIST 2004, United States History: The Civil War Era
- HIST 2017, African American History: From Civil Rights to Black Power
- HIST 2041, Topics in American Constitutional History
- HIST 2043, History of Crime and Justice

General Education Requirements

History majors must meet the university and college general education requirements. History courses that will satisfy the university’s state requirement are:

- HIST 1001, American Civilization to 1865
- HIST 1002, American Civilization since 1865
- HIST 1003, African-American History
- HIST 1004, The History of Women in the United States
- HIST 2007, The History of Missouri
- HIST 2041, Topics in American Constitutional History

Who Do I Contact?

For more information on studying History at UMSL, visit our website at: umsl.edu/~umslhistory. Here you will find links to our annual newsletter, our scholarship applications and our public programs. For more specific advice please consult our Undergraduate Advisor, Dr. Priscilla Dowden-White, padhist@umsl.edu, 516-5723 and our Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Deborah Cohen, Deborah.Cohen@umsl.edu, 516-5735. We look forward to hearing from you.