History

Graduate Programs

2015-2016
Contents

Faculty 1

The Graduate Programs 4

The Doctor of Philosophy Degree 5

The Master of Arts Degree 8

PlusOne Program in History 11

Sample Courses 12

Our Mission:
To educate students for a life of fulfillment and accomplishment.
To create and translate knowledge to meet global and societal needs.

Northeastern University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action Title IX education institution and employer.

Tuition rates, all fees, rules and regulations, courses, and course content are subject to revision by the President and the Board of Trustees at any time.

Northeastern University is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc.

July 2015

Material subject to revision.
Faculty

Department Chair

Heather Streets-Salter, PhD, Duke University
Fields: Modern Britain/British empire, colonialism, Southeast Asia

Professors

Timothy S. Brown, PhD, University of California, Berkeley
Fields: Modern Germany, Europe, contemporary social movements

Timothy J. Cresswell, PhD, University of Wisconsin
Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs, College of Social Sciences and Humanities
Jointly appointed with the International Affairs program
Fields: cultural geography, history of urban space

William M. Fowler, Jr., PhD, University of Notre Dame
Distinguished Professor of History
Fields: American colonial, revolution, maritime, and naval history, Boston history

Laura L. Frader, PhD, University of Rochester
Fields: Modern Europe, France, gender, imperialism and colonialism

Richard M. Freeland, PhD, University of Pennsylvania
Former President, Northeastern University
Fields: American foreign policy, American education

Tom Havens, PhD, University of California-Berkeley
Jointly appointed with the Department of Languages, Literature and Cultures
Field: Japanese culture

Uta G. Poiger, PhD, Brown University
Dean, College of Social Sciences and Humanities
Fields: Modern Europe, women and gender

Harlow Robinson, PhD, University of California-Berkeley
Matthews Distinguished Professor
Graduate Program Director
Jointly appointed with the Department of Languages, Literature, and Cultures
Fields: Russian, Soviet, and East European cultural history; images of Russian American Culture
Associate Professors

Jeffrey Burds, PhD, Yale University  
*Fields: Russian studies, Ukrainian studies*

Robert L. Hall, PhD, Florida State University  
*Jointly appointed with the Department of African American Studies*  
*Fields: African American history; American colonial, social, and cultural history*

Ilham Khuri-Makdisi, PhD, Harvard University  
*Fields: Modern Middle East, intellectual and cultural history*

Katherine A. Luongo, PhD, University of Michigan  
*Fields: African and world history*

Louise E. Walker, PhD, Yale University  
*Field: Latin American history*

Assistant Professors

Victoria Cain, PhD, Columbia University  
*Fields: Public History, history of museums, American material culture*

Gretchen Heefner, PhD, Yale University  
*Fields: U.S. foreign policy, Cold War History*

Chris Parsons, PhD, University of Toronto  
*Fields: Atlantic history, environmental history*

Benjamin MacDonald Schmidt, PhD, Princeton University  
*Fields: Digital history, American intellectual history*

Philip Thai, PhD, Stanford University  
*Fields: Modern Chinese history, legal history, economic history*

Professor of the Practice

Martin Blatt, PhD, Boston University  
*Field: Public History*
Professors Emeriti

Philip N. Backstrom, Jr., PhD, Boston University
Fields: Modern English, twentieth-century European history

Charmarie Blaisdell, PhD, Tufts University
Fields: Medieval, early modern Europe, cultural Europe, political theory

Ballard C. Campbell, PhD, University of Wisconsin
Fields: American history, government and politics, comparative history

Harvey Green, PhD, Rutgers University
Fields: American cultural history, public history, material culture, literary history

Gerald H. Herman, MA, Northeastern University
Fields: European cultural history, science and technology, contemporary history, war in the 20th century, media history

Patrick Manning, PhD, University of Wisconsin
Fields: Africa, World history

Clay McShane, PhD, University of Wisconsin
Fields: Urban history, recent U.S. and social history

Anthony N. Penna, DA, Carnegie Mellon University
Fields: Environmental history, recent U.S. and world history

John Post, PhD, Boston University
Fields: Modern western economic history, population history, 20th-century world history

Raymond H. Robinson, PhD, Harvard University
Fields: American history, history of media in America, American elites, history of American transportation, American historiography

Graduate Program Administrator

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The Graduate Programs

Graduate work in History focuses on global and world history, which study the interactions among geographical regions and historical processes around the globe. Students at both the Master’s and Doctoral levels concentrate their work on the history of regions or peoples in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, or the United States, with attention to the intersections and connections between national, regional, and global developments. The Department of History also offers a Master’s degree with a concentration in Public History that emphasizes the study of topics such as material culture, historical exhibits and museums, historical agencies and archival administration. Recent doctoral students have been the recipients of major fellowships for conducting dissertation research abroad, including Fulbright, Fulbright-Hays, Social Science Research Council, and Chateaubriand Fellowships.

Research

Faculty (http://www.northeastern.edu/cssh/history/people/our-faculty) research interests cover a wide spectrum. Research projects underway include gender equality politics in the European Union; colonialism, law and culture in modern Europe; global environmental history; media in history; romantic nationalism and historical consciousness in the U.S. and Europe; Russian and Soviet music and culture; anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe; U.S. Cold War politics at home and abroad; neo-liberalism in Mexico; distance running in Japan; international debates on beauty; 1960s youth revolts; ships in the North Atlantic; empires in Southeast Asia; and popular religion in world history. Faculty are very active in publishing and a list of recently published books may be found on our website: http://www.northeastern.edu/cssh/history/tag/books/.

News about History faculty, many of whom are members of the boards of major journals, is available on our website: http://www.northeastern.edu/cssh/history/news/.

In recent years, faculty have received research funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (both for curriculum development and research), the National Program for Advanced Study and Research (China), the German Marshall Fund, the Fulbright Programs, the Annenberg/CPR Foundation, the Guggenheim Foundation, the Encyclopedia Britannica, International Research and Exchanges Board, National Council for Soviet and East European Research, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the U.S.Holocaust Memorial Museum and Archives.
The Doctor of Philosophy Degree

The PhD program focuses on global, transnational and comparative history, and trains research historians who plan to teach at the college and university level. Systematic training in theory and methodology and preparation for college teaching are distinctive features of the Northeastern program.

Studies in world history include interactions among regions; long-term historical processes; and thematic topics such as trade, migration, disease, religions, state formation, and colonialism/postcolonialism. Candidates for the PhD in world history may emphasize African, Asian, Latin American, European, or U.S. history in a global context.

Admission

The application, fee, unofficial transcripts, personal statement, writing sample, and three letters of recommendation are submitted on-line at http://www.northeastern.edu/cssh/history/graduate/apply-now/. GRE scores and are required and the only code needed is our institutional code, 3682, when you register for the exam. International applicants must demonstrate their level of English proficiency by sending the scores they received on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). The deadline for all admission materials is January 10.

Applicants may seek admission as post-baccalaureate or post-master’s degree students and are encouraged, but not required, to take the history subject test in the GRE. Applicants may be interviewed before admission. The first round of admission decisions are typically announced in mid-February. Among MA-holding applicants, preference is given to those who have completed an MA thesis or another work indicating a strong research background. Applicants should include a writing sample of previous academic work.

NOTE: Once admitted, international students must also submit a Declaration and Certification of Finances form with original supporting documents.

Program

The program emphasizes the careful mentoring of students; an oral defense to supplement written work at each major stage; supervised teaching experience (or its equivalent in fieldwork); and a dissertation combining detailed primary research, analytical depth, and broad overviews of the relevant literature. Although language study may require additional time, the department expects that most students will complete the entire graduate program in five years of study.

• Year 1 Courses (including Theory and Methodology I, Theory and Methodology II, and Introduction to Digital Humanities), selection of specialization
• Year 2 Courses, completion of MA
• Year 3 Courses, apprentice teaching, dissertation proposal, Qualifying Exam
• Years 4–5 Dissertation research and writing, lectureship
Candidates holding MA degrees at entrance follow the last four years of the program.

Faculty Committee
After matriculation, the candidate recommends to the Graduate Committee a committee of at least three faculty members to oversee his or her work and, eventually, the dissertation. At least two committee members must be selected from inside the History department.

Annual Student Progress Review
All PhD students are required to meet with their faculty advisors for an annual student progress review. The reviews will be submitted to the Department’s Graduate Studies Committee, which will determine whether satisfactory progress is being made and students are eligible to proceed to complete their graduate work. The College’s Graduate Office will receive a copy of each student’s review.

Geographical Specialization
Geographical specialization prepares candidates in three major fields, one of which must be world history. As part of the completion of these course requirements, students are obligated to take one research seminar in world history and two additional research seminars in one or more other field(s). Students are expected to write a substantial research paper of 10,000-12,000 words in these seminars. With the prior approval of the Graduate Program Director, students may take up to two courses outside of the department in other departments of the University or outside of the University.

The History Department has close ties with interdisciplinary programs in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Cinema Studies; Jewish Studies; Law and Public Policy; Asian Studies; and Latino, Latin-American, and Caribbean Studies; and with the departments of African American Studies, Sociology and Anthropology, Visual Arts, Architecture, and English.

Master’s Thesis
PhD candidates who enter the program at the post-baccalaureate level have the option to complete the MA degree with thesis.

Apprentice Teaching/Fieldwork
All PhD candidates participate in formal college teaching preparation, which includes supervised teaching in college courses related to the areas of student specialization. Public history students may substitute an additional fieldwork experience involving public education for a portion of the apprentice teaching.
Foreign Language

Candidates must develop a strong reading knowledge of the languages in which they will be conducting research. To account for the variation in language needs among fields, each candidate’s committee sets the language requirements and certifies the student’s competence. If students require training in languages not offered at Northeastern, the department helps them arrange to take courses at nearby institutions. Candidates must demonstrate foreign language competence before taking the Qualifying Exam. The language exam is offered each semester and students may take it more than once.

Dissertation Proposal

All candidates must write a formal proposal specifying the topic, resources, and research design of the dissertation and must give an oral defense of the proposal before their committees. The committee must approve the dissertation proposal before the student can take the Qualifying Exam.

Qualifying Exam

The comprehensive qualifying exam is an important step in the process of preparation for the PhD degree. The qualifying exam consists of an exam comprising each of the student’s three fields, one of which must be world history. The exams are administered by the student’s doctoral committee. Doctoral candidates are expected to pass the Qualifying Exam at the very latest by the end of the summer term of the third year of the program. The Qualifying Exam is offered each semester and students may take it twice. If the student does not pass after the second time, it is up to the department’s discretion to determine if the student should continue in the program.

PhD Candidacy

PhD Candidacy is achieved when students entering with a B.A. in History have completed 37 semester hours, those entering with an M.A. in History have completed 31 semester hours, and students have passed the Qualifying Exam.

Dissertation

The dissertation must present an original interpretation of a topic of historical significance, based on substantial primary research, a survey of the relevant literature, and skilled application of the relevant theoretical and methodological apparatus.

Lectureships

Students who are writing their dissertations may be employed for up to two years as lecturers in history, teaching introductory courses in European, American, Asian, or world history.
**Financial Aid**

Stipended Graduate Assistantships are awarded to all admitted PhD applicants for the duration of their coursework. These awards provide a tuition waiver, stipend, and student health insurance.

**The Master of Arts Degree**

**Admission**

Entering students are encouraged to start in the fall semester.

The application, fee, unofficial transcripts, personal statement, writing sample, and three letters of recommendation are submitted on-line at [http://www.northeastern.edu/cssh/history/graduate/apply-now/](http://www.northeastern.edu/cssh/history/graduate/apply-now/). GRE scores are required and the only code needed is our institutional code, 3682, when you register for the exam. International applicants must demonstrate their level of English proficiency by sending the scores they received on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). The deadline for all admission materials is February 1.

*NOTE: Once admitted, international students must also submit a Declaration and Certification of Finances form with original supporting documents.*

**Programs**

**Option 1. World History**

Master’s students are required to take Theory and Methodology I in the Fall semester of their first year and must obtain a seminar grade of at least a B before enrolling in a research seminar, and Theory and Methodology II in the Spring semester of their first year. They are required to take one research seminar.

In addition to the research seminar, seven electives (21 credits) are required of all students. Normally, the department expects students to pay particular attention to the global focus of the program by taking courses with a global, transnational, or comparative emphasis, writing a master’s thesis in a global context, and/or taking a research seminar with such a focus. After discussions with a faculty adviser, other options may be available.

With prior approval of the Graduate Program Director in History, a maximum of two graduate courses may be taken in other departments, or from U.S. graduate institutions other than Northeastern. The awarding of transfer credit from outside the University requires approval of the Graduate Program Director and Director of Graduate Student Services.
A three to six credit thesis is optional, with the approval of the Graduate Committee.

**Option 2. Public History Concentration**

One of the oldest programs of its kind in North America, Northeastern’s Program in Public History has produced more than one hundred and fifty graduates who have gone on to significant positions in historical societies, museums, archives, business, documentary film production, and other related organizations.

The Master of Arts in History with a concentration in Public History builds upon the Department of History’s rigorous program in the theory and practice of history with a series of courses taught by historians and professionals currently working in public history. Close partnerships between the History Department and a wealth of public historical organizations in Boston and New England provide students with a unique opportunity to develop strong research and writing skills in history, and a graduate program in public history that can be shaped to their interests.

The program requires 30 semester hours of academic work. Students are required to take Theory and Methodology I, Issues/Problems in Public History, and Introduction to Digital Humanities in the Fall semester. In addition to completing these courses with a grade of B or higher before enrolling in a research seminar, students must also complete three public history courses, as well as a fieldwork in public history, and two general electives.

Normally, the department expects students to pay particular attention to the global focus of the program by taking courses with a global emphasis, or taking a research seminar with such a focus. After discussions with a faculty adviser, other options may be available.

With the prior approval of the Graduate Program Director in History, a maximum of two graduate courses may be taken in other departments, or from U.S. graduate institutions other than Northeastern. The awarding of transfer credit from outside of Northeastern requires the approval of the Graduate Program Director and Director of Graduate Student Services.

A public history project is optional, with the approval of the Graduate Committee. A certificate in Public History is issued by the Department of History.

**Financial Aid**

Students in the top of the applicant pool may receive some tuition assistance.
**Feer Award**

Each year, the department offers a monetary prize to the graduate student completing the program who has achieved the highest grade-point average. The award was established in 1973 in memory of Professor Robert Feer.

**Gillis Family World History Research Awards**

This fund has been established by the Gillis Family for graduate students pursuing advanced degrees in world history at Northeastern University.

**Gilmartin Award**

The Gilmartin Award has been created in memory of Christina Gilmartin who taught Chinese History at Northeastern University until her death in 2012. The award is offered to the student who has written the best graduate paper in the History program during the academic year.

**Lucille R. Zanghi, LA’72 and James M. Dow, LA’72 Endowed History Research Award**

This fund was established by Lucille Zanghi and James Dow to support graduate students in the College of Social Sciences and Humanities in their historical research projects.
**PlusOne Program in History**

The PlusOne Program allows qualified undergraduate History majors to accelerate their study by applying graduate credits taken as an undergraduate toward both an undergraduate and a graduate degree. To apply, a student must be a first semester Junior with a QPA in History of 3.50 or higher and an overall QPA of at least 3.33. Once admitted, students may take up to 4 graduate courses while completing their undergraduate degree requirements, for a total of 12 graduate credits that apply to both the undergraduate and graduate degrees. The first course taken is Methodology (HIST 5101) and students can enroll in up to 2 graduate level courses per semester. Once the student completes the undergraduate degree requirements and is awarded the bachelors degree, the PlusOne student becomes a graduate student and enrolls in graduate courses until the masters degree is completed. The language exam requirement is waived for PlusOne students. Please consult the Graduate Program Director for further information.

**Satisfactory Academic Progress**

Satisfactory progress means satisfying requirements in the College of Social Sciences and Humanities Graduate Programs General Regulations and in the regulations specified in the departmental booklet. The College sets minimum standards for all students to fulfill. Departments and programs may have additional requirements that exceed those of the College.

Each PhD student will have an annual review of his/her progress toward the degree.

Receipt of financial support administered by the Graduate Office is contingent on satisfactory academic progress toward the degree and on meeting department-specific guidelines. See the College of Social Sciences and Humanities Graduate Programs General Regulations for further details.
Sample Courses

The following is a sample listing of departmental course offerings. Please refer to [www.northeastern.edu/registrar](http://www.northeastern.edu/registrar) for course descriptions and relevant prerequisites. Not all courses are offered each year.

**Course Name**
- Theory and Methodology 1
- Theory and Methodology 2
- Introduction to Digital Humanities
- Topics in Russian History
- Topics in Soviet History
- Topics in East European History
- Gender, Colonialism and Post Colonialism
- World War I
- Anthropology and History
- Colonial American: Eighteenth Century
- Cultural History of the U.S.
- Topics in Cultural History
- Topics in World History
- Approaches to World History
- Global Environmental History
- Revolutionary Change in a Global Context
- Life at Sea
- The African Diaspora
- Colonialism in Contemporary Africa
- Issues/Problems in Public History
- Managing Non-Profit Organization
- Historical Societies and Archive
- Historical Exhibits and Museums
- Topics in Middle Eastern History
- The Mediterranean World: Historiographic Approaches
- Historic Preservation
- Topics in Public History
- Topics in American History
- Research Seminar in Russian History
- Research Seminar in Soviet History
- Research Seminar in East European History
- Research Seminar in Gender and Society in the Modern World
- Research Seminar in Society and Culture in Modern Europe
- Research Seminar in Twentieth Century Europe
- Research Seminar in Colonial and Revolutionary America
- Research Seminar in American History
- Research Seminar in World History
Course Name
Research Seminar in Global Environmental History
Research Seminar on Genocide
Research Seminar in Western Perceptions of China
Research Seminar in Cultural History of the United States
Research Seminar in Modern Colonialisms
Research Seminar in African American History
Seminar: 1968 in Global Persepective
Seminar: Modern Colonialism
Seminar: The U.S. and the World
Directed Study in Women’s History
Practicum in Teaching
Fieldwork in History
Directed Study in Managing Non-Profit Organizations
Directed Study in Historical Societies and Archives
Directed Study in Historical Exhibits and Museums
Directed Study in Historical Editing
Directed Study in Historical Consulting
Directed Study in Historic Preservation
Directed Study in Material Culture
Directed Study in Media and History
Master’s Project in Public History
Thesis
Dissertation
Dissertation Continuation
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