HISTORY, PHD

for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in History

chair of department: Dana Rabin
director of graduate studies: Carol Symes
department website: http://www.history.illinois.edu
department faculty: overview of grad college admissions & requirements: https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply
college website: https://las.illinois.edu/
department office: 309 Gregory Hall, 810 South Wright Street, Urbana, IL 61801
phone: (217) 244-2591
e-mail: history@illinois.edu

Graduate Degree Programs in History

History, MA (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/history-ma)
optional concentrations:
African American Studies (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/concentration/african-american-studies)
Medieval Studies (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/concentration/medieval-studies)
History, PhD (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/history-phd)
optional concentrations:
African American Studies (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/concentration/african-american-studies)
Medieval Studies (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/concentration/medieval-studies)
Teaching of Social Studies, MA
Joint degree:
History, MA and Library & Information Science, MS (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/is_las/history-ma-library-information-science-ms)

The Department of History offers graduate courses leading to the Doctor of Philosophy degree, complete details of which may be found in the Graduate Studies section of the department's web site. Students are not normally admitted to a terminal master's degree program.

Admission

Applicants should have a minimum of 20 semester hours of undergraduate work in history and cognate disciplines with an overall GPA of 3.25 in the last two years. Applicants who have a master's degree should have a grade point average of 3.5 for previous graduate-level work. All applicants are required to submit Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores (verbal, writing, and quantitative are mandatory; history is optional). All applicants are required to submit a writing sample. Language preparation may be weighted heavily, depending upon the field of specialization. Foreign students whose native language is not English need a paper-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of at least 600 (250 on the computer-based test). Most successful applicants have GRE verbal scores of over 80% and/or TOEFL scores of over 630 (260 computer). Only in exceptional circumstances are students admitted for the spring term. The department is not currently admitting to the Teaching of Social Studies program. For additional details refer to www.history.illinois.edu/graduate/prospective/ (http://www.history.illinois.edu/graduate/prospective).

Graduate Teaching Experience

Although teaching is not a general Graduate College requirement, experience in teaching is considered an important part of the graduate experience in this program.

Facilities and Resources

The extraordinary University Library is the department's main research facility; within it, the History, Philosophy & Newspaper Library, the Rare Book Room, and the area studies libraries (Slavic, Africana, Latin American, Asian Libraries) all serve faculty and students with expert bibliographers and focused collections. Among other special collections much used by historians are Afro-Americana and Women's Studies; the library is also a major repository for government documents.

Financial Aid

Financial aid is almost always awarded on an academic-year basis. Applications by incoming students are considered with admission applications. All fellowships and assistantships include a stipend plus tuition and service fee waiver.

Both University and department endowment fellowships are available to entering students and to advanced doctoral students embarked on their research or the writing of their dissertations. Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships may support first- and second-year students who have special interests in foreign area studies. Entering students from underrepresented groups may be awarded one- to three-year Graduate College Fellowships. The Illinois Consortium for Educational Opportunity Program (ICCEP) offers renewable fellowships to underrepresented minority students who are Illinois residents and plan academic careers within the state. Half-time teaching assistantships are the department's primary form of financial aid for graduate students in the Ph.D. program. Students who progress satisfactorily toward their degrees and demonstrate effective teaching will have their teaching assistantships renewed for a second, and usually a third, year.

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In certain circumstances, a student in British history may substitute courses in quantitative skills for the second language. For the preliminary examination, the candidate customarily offers three fields in history – one major and two minor fields. At least one of these must be a "geographical/chronological field" and one must be a "comparative/thematic" field. One must involve a period of time before 1815. At least two geographical areas must also be represented by the fields offered for the examination. One of the three fields may be in a specialization outside the Department of History or may be a "constructed" field specially designed by the candidate in consultation with field examiners and the major advisor.

Entering with approved M.S./M.A. degree

Code Title Hours
HIST 598 (2 hours per term) is required of candidates who hold teaching assistantships during each semester they hold an appointment; students with research assistantships may enroll for HIST 596 for 2 hours credit per semester during the assistantship.
HIST 593 Approaches to History & HIST 594 and Intro Historical Writing 8
Research seminars (or HIST 596), under the direction of at least two faculty members (may be reduced by one four-hour course at the discretion of the advisor)  
Three additional courses at the 500 level  
HIST 591 History and Social Theory  
HIST 597 Reading Course (Oral History)  
Another methods course in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies  
To fulfill the minimum requirement of 64 or 96 graduate hours, 16 graduate hours in disciplines other than history may be applied.

Language Requirement: The department requires proven competence in two foreign languages for the Ph.D. degree, except for students of US History who must demonstrate competence in one foreign language. Language competence means the ability to read and comprehend a foreign language well enough to paraphrase a scholarly article in English. Students admitted into the Ph.D. program are expected to demonstrate competence in the second language within four semesters and always before they take their last prelim exam. A major advisor may require a student to acquire a reading knowledge of more than two languages, or more than one for US History students.

HIST 599 Thesis Research (32 max applied toward degree)  

Total Hours 96

Other Requirements  

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<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Other requirements may overlap</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qualifying Exam Required</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preliminary Exam Required</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam/Dissertation Defense</td>
<td>Required</td>
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<td>Required</td>
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<td>Dissertation Deposit Required</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Minimum GPA:</td>
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1 For additional details and requirements refer to the department's graduate degree requirements (http://www.history.illinois.edu/graduate/current/requirements) and the Graduate College Handbook (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook).

Entering with approved B.S./B.A. degree

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<tr>
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<td>Three additional courses at the 500 level</td>
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<td>HIST 591</td>
<td>History and Social Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 597</td>
<td>Reading Course (Oral History)</td>
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Information listed in this catalog is current as of 03/2020