

The Department of History seeks to provide a superior liberal arts education for undergraduates, including students enrolled in general education courses and History majors. Its courses seek to educate students in general historical knowledge; in reading, writing, and critical thinking; in the methods of historical research; and in the understanding of the uses of technology and information management. The Department offers a broad range of survey courses in European, American, Latin American, Asian, African History, and the History of Science for students from throughout the University seeking to fulfill their university and/or college liberal arts requirements. In these courses, students can achieve an informed appreciation of their own and different cultures and become more thoughtful and responsible members of a global society. The Department also teaches additional courses in these fields for students in the College who major in History and for interested non-majors. It is also a leading participant in interdisciplinary programs across campus, including Women's and Gender Studies, International Studies, African-American Studies, Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, the Honor's Program, and the Residential College.

The History Department considers graduate education a central part of its mission, and in its M.A. in History it seeks to encourage greater understanding and sophistication in the knowledge of History, the ability to communicate in writing and orally, the ability to understand and interpret complex historical phenomena, and the ability to research in primary sources. With concentrations in American History, European History and Public History, the Master's Degree program in History provides training in history research and writing and in museum studies and historic preservation. The Department's Ph.D. program is designed to train scholars and teachers of U.S. History within a broader context of the Americas, Europe, and Africa. The core philosophy of the Ph.D. program is to internationalize U.S. History, which will give graduates specific strengths increasingly in demand in today's job market.

The Department expects its faculty to be active teacher-scholars. The Department encourages and fosters research activities by Department members, providing funds for conference presentations, supporting library purchases, and other forms of support for active, continuous, and recognized research. Faculty members participate in national and international learned societies, publish original research findings in articles and books, and bring up-to-date scholarly research into their classrooms.

The Department supports the achievement of the University and College missions through the service Department members provide on a wide variety of University and College committees. By its participation in many outreach programs to schools, local civic organization, and clubs and by its sponsorship of and involvement in many public lectures, the Department serves the surrounding community.