Department of History

The graduate programs in the Department of History (M.A. in History, Certificate in Public History) are designed to serve the diverse needs of graduate students, whether they seek a solid grounding in graduate study as preparation for entry into doctoral programs, wish to earn a degree as part of their professional development, or are interested in pursuing careers as public historians, archivists, or librarians. By emphasizing an appreciation of the past in all of its complexities and the interconnectedness of knowledge about it, the graduate programs in History seek to instill in students a sense of curiosity and to develop critical thinking, communication, and analytical skills - skills relevant to a variety of careers.

Reflecting the missions of Georgia Southern University and the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, the department fosters a culture of close engagement with students, combines theory with practice, and extends the learning environment beyond the classroom to promote life-long learning and growth.

History Degree


History Certificate


HIST 5030G Selected Topics in History
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Topics will vary with individual professor. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment (s) determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 5030, HIST 5030S.

HIST 5130G American Indian History
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A survey of the history of American Indians from pre-contact to the present, supplemented by case studies from a number of regions.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 5130.

HIST 5133G Revolutionary America
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
An intensive study of themes in Revolutionary American history (from 1763 to approximately 1790), including the growing rift between Britain and its colonies, the roles of women and African-Americans, and the origins of American identity. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 5133.

HIST 5134G Civil War and Reconstruction
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
An examination of the sectional polarization of the 1850's, the impact of war on the southern and northern home fronts, and the trauma of reconstructing the Union. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 5134.

HIST 5136G Recent America: U.S. Since 1945
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Surveys the history of the United States from World War II to the present, including social, political, and economic developments. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 5136.

HIST 5137G The Antebellum South
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
The social, intellectual, cultural, economic, and political history of the American South to 1861 with an emphasis on Georgia's role. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 5137.

HIST 5138G The New South
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
The social, intellectual, cultural, economic, and political history of the post-Civil War South with an emphasis on Georgia's role. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 5138.

HIST 5230G Advertising and Culture
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Surveys the business of selling consumer goods from the nineteenth century to the present with analysis of how advertising became a cornerstone of the consumer culture and how ads historically have communicated images of the American dream. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 5230.

HIST 5232G Working Class History in the United States
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
An examination of the social, cultural and political history of the working class in the United States since industrialization. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 5232.

HIST 5233G The American City
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
An examination of American urban development from the colonial period to the present with particular attention paid to migration, architecture, technology, politics, transportation, and urban culture in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 5233.

HIST 5234G Piracy in the Americas, 1500-1750
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course focuses on the history of piracy in the Americas during the Golden Age of Piracy, a period that ranges from European contact to the mid-1700s. It is an age marked by exploration, colonization, overseas trade, endemic religious conflicts, expansive empires, and refractory fiefdoms. Spain and Portugal began the exploration, overseas trade and conquest of this period, but their successes quickly led their northern neighbors, particularly the French, English, and Dutch, to cast their covetous eyes upon slowmoving, inbound treasure fleets of their southern neighbors; creating an elaborate game between predators and prey. The interactions that developed between predators and prey will be the primary subject of this course.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 5234.
HIST 5236G Religion, Empire, and Revolution in the Eighteenth Century
Credit Hours: 0 Lecture Hours: 0 Lab Hours.
This course will follow the so-called long eighteenth century -- an era of great historical change and globalization -- through the many religious, intellectual, and scientific achievements associated with the rise and fall of European empires in the Atlantic World from c. 1650-1815. This era culminated in revolutionary movements that included the American, French, Haitian, and the Latin American Revolutions, events which arguably influenced much of nineteenth- and twentieth-century global history. This course proceeds through an examination of various topics associated with this important crucible of global modernity: such topics may include religious change and the Enlightenment, imperial competition and absolutism, debates over race, slavery and gender equality, slavery in the Enlightenment, and the Age of the Democratic and Atlantic Revolutions. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor which undergraduates will not be required to do.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 5236.

HIST 5322G The Reformation
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Focusses on the breakup of western Christian unity in the sixteenth century, particularly on the formation of Lutheran and Calvinist denominations and the social, political, and economic consequences for all European through the seventeenth century. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 5332, RELS 5332, RELS 5332G.

HIST 5335G World War II
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
The Second World War from its origins to its consequences. The military campaigns are covered, but there is also emphasis on the personalities, the technology, the national policies, and the effect of the war on the home fronts. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 5335.

HIST 5336G Revolutionary France
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
An examination of the causes, course, and consequences of the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Eras. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 5336, HIST 5336S.

HIST 5339G Britain and the World
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course focuses on the diplomatic, economic, colonial, environmental or cultural relationships between the British Isles and the broader world since 1485. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 5339.

HIST 5430G Modern France
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
An examination of the history of France from the fall of Napoleon Bonaparte in 1815 to the present. It will examine the political, diplomatic, cultural, economic, social, intellectual, and artistic developments which have shaped France in the modern era. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 5430.

HIST 5530G 20th Century Russia
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A survey of the history of Russia in the 20th century. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 5530, HIST 5530S.

HIST 5531G Modern Japan
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Japan through the Tokugawa period to its nineteenth century emergence from isolation and its growth as a world power with emphasis on traditional culture, industrialization, and post-WW II society. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 5531, HIST 5531S, INTS 5531, INTS 5531G, INTS 5531S.

HIST 5532G Modern China , 1600 to 1949
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course not only offers a general survey on the history of modern China from the rise of the Qing dynasty in 1644 to the establishment of the People’s Republic of China in 1949, but also introduces students to the historiography of modern China and requires students to analyze and discuss related theoretical issues. Graduate students will be given extra assignments determined by the instructor which undergraduates will not be required to do.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 5532, INTS 5532, INTS 5532G.

HIST 5533G Economic Rivals: U.S.-EC-Japan
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Contrasts the historical development of business in the U.S., European Community, and Japan from preindustrial times to the present, emphasizing how culture, economics, and politics have shaped business growth and international trade, creating rival capitalists. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 5533, INTS 5533, INTS 5533G.

HIST 5534G Contemporary China
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course focuses on China’s unique historical trajectory of modernization from 1949 to the present. It consists of a series of topical lectures on changes in China’s politics, economy, society, and culture, with special emphasis on important events such as the Great Leap Forward, the Cultural Revolution, China’s Post-Mao Reforms, the 1989 Tiananmen Incident, and the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Graduate students will be given extra written assignments determined by the instructor that integrate more articles and books in their research and will be required to show greater sophistication in primary source analysis.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 5534.

HIST 6631 Advanced Topics Public History
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
In this course, students will develop advanced proficiency in the professional practice of Public History through readings and experiential learning that will prepare them to present historical knowledge to a public audience. Topics vary. May be repeated for credit.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 5431.

HIST 7630 The Historian’s Craft
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This seminar introduces graduate students to professional aspects of teaching and pursuing research in history, including historiography, preparing a curriculum vitae, fundamentals of classroom teaching and tutoring.

HIST 7631 Readings in American History
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A reading colloquium in which topics will vary with individual professor.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 7631S.

HIST 7631S Readings in American History
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A reading colloquium in which topics will vary with individual professor.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 7631.

HIST 7633 Readings in European History
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A reading colloquium in which topics will vary with individual professor.
HIST 7635  Readings in Non-Western History
3 Credit Hours.  3 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
A reading colloquium in which topics will vary with individual professor.

HIST 7638  Research Seminar
3 Credit Hours.  3 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
Topics vary with individual professor.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 7638S.

HIST 7638S  Research Seminar
3 Credit Hours.  3 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
Topics vary with individual professor.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 7638.

HIST 7639  Studies in Georgia History
3 Credit Hours.  3 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
Engages a variety of selected topics in Georgia History.

HIST 7651  Seminar in Public History
3 Credit Hours.  3 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
In this course, students will explore the latest research, theories, and best practices in the field of Public History through readings, discussions, and written assignments. Topics include but are not limited to: museums; oral history; film, new media, and historical knowledge; popular publishing; national parks; visual history; archives; historical preservation.

HIST 7661  Seminar in Museum Studies
3 Credit Hours.  3 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
This course provides an introduction to the history and development of museums and the professionalization of the field. It covers the structure and nature of curatorial, education, and administrative work in museums and theoretical and practical issues facing museums today. The course will provide an overview of current method and theory in material culture studies. Students will visit and evaluate museums and virtual exhibits and study major exhibit controversies and debates about the politics of historical memory and exhibition. Readings and discussions will provide a basis for a hands-on section of the course where student teams will create small case exhibits that transmit and display historical knowledge.

HIST 7791  Graduate Internship in History
1-6 Credit Hours.  0 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
This course is designed to give graduate students applied history experiences in museums, historical societies, historical sites, or other venues approved by the History Department Chair. Maximum of 3 credit hours may apply toward the M.A. degree for students pursuing the thesis option; maximum of 6 credit hours may apply toward the M.A. degree for students pursuing the non-thesis option. This course will not substitute for thesis credit or non-thesis project credit required for the M.A. degree.

HIST 7830  Historical Writing
3 Credit Hours.  0 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
Techniques of writing and editing manuscripts based on original historical research.

HIST 7831  Independent Study in History
3 Credit Hours.  3 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
Topics vary with professor.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 7831S.

HIST 7831S  Independent Study in History
3 Credit Hours.  3 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
Topics vary with professor.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 7831.

HIST 7990  Non-Thesis Project in History
1-6 Credit Hours.  1-6 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
This course focuses on planned research and writing directed by student's advisor. Intended for graduate students pursuing the non-thesis option in the M.A. program in History and/or students pursuing the graduate Certificate in Public History. This course can count as an elective for M.A. students only if they are also pursuing the graduate Certificate in Public History.

HIST 7999  Thesis
1-12 Credit Hours.  0 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
Planned research and writing directed by student's thesis advisor.