

# College of Arts and Science

## Department of History

The MU history department offers students a record of teaching excellence and distinguished scholarship that makes it one of the best units on campus. Seven of our faculty have won Kemper Teaching Awards, the most prestigious teaching prize on campus. In addition, its members have been awarded over a dozen other teaching prizes at the campus and college levels and from various University organizations.

On the research front, history department faculty members have published widely. A steady stream of books and articles have enriched our understanding of many areas of human history, with a number of prestigious book prizes coming to departmental authors from the leading historical organizations in the United States. The result is one of the best public university history departments in the country and the opportunity for undergraduates to enjoy a rich, diverse learning experience.

### **Our Strengths**

The Department of History offers a selection of course work befitting a major research university. Students can choose from a wide variety of classes in the history of the United States, Europe (from ancient Greece to the present), Africa, Latin America and Asia. A major thrust of our curriculum concerns the cultural, social and political evolution of these regions and peoples. But specialized courses in topics such as women's history, history of science, diplomatic history, religious history and African-American history also provide a strong influence in our curriculum.

While some of our introductory courses are large lectures, those classes feature small, weekly discussion sections that bring personal contact between student and instructor. Most of our courses are much smaller, allowing ample opportunity for interaction with faculty. All history majors are required to take an undergraduate seminar on a specialized topic where 10–15 students conduct research projects under the direct supervision of a faculty member. This provides students the opportunity to participate directly in formu-

lating, researching, and writing an original paper in a professional context.

In addition, many of our best students participate in the MU Honors College and the departmental honors program. The former allows students to enroll for special honors sections and courses along with other highly motivated classmates. The latter involves the completion of a senior honors thesis under the guidance of a faculty adviser. Successful completion of the departmental program produces the notation "BA in History, with honors" on diplomas and transcripts.

### **Majoring in History**

The Department of History expects its majors to develop four general skills and competencies: (1) a broad understanding of developments in human history; (2) specialized knowledge in historical areas of personal interest; (3) the ability to think critically by defining problems, evaluating evidence, and reaching sound conclusions and 4) the ability to write clearly and persuasively in communicating that critical thought to others. It aspires to prepare students for their future lives by helping them develop the intellectual tools to deal with the demands of both career and citizenship. History, we believe, provides the knowledge and perspective to cope successfully with a challenging world.

### **Degree Requirements**

The bachelor of arts degree requires 120 semester hours, including:

- Approximately 55 hours to satisfy basic skills, general education requirements and foundation requirements in English composition; foreign language; mathematics; biological, physical and math-

ematical sciences; behavioral sciences; social sciences; and humanities and fine arts.

- The Department of History requires 33 hours in history.
- Approximately 30–35 hours of electives, based on personal interests or goals. A student may use some of these hours to complete a minor in a field other than history, a double major or a dual degree.
- History courses must include:
  - A. Introductory courses in three of the following four areas:

*United States' to circa 1865*

*United States since circa 1865*

*Europe from antiquity to present*

*Third World (Africa, Asia and Latin America)*

- B. At least one additional course numbered above 1000 from the following three areas:

*Europe*

*United States*

*Third World*

- C. Three electives at the 3000 level or higher from any field

- D. Six hours from a capstone block

Sample courses in the four respective areas above:

- a.) Introductory courses

*Surveys of American History to 1865 and Since 1865*

*History of Modern Africa*

- b.) Area-specific courses

*Europe in the 19th Century*

*Twentieth-century America*

*History of Mexico*

c) History electives

*African-Americans in the 20th Century*

*The Early Middle Ages*

*Age of the Reformation*

d) Capstone block

*Undergraduate Seminar in European History*

*Revolutionary France, 1789–1851*

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### Advising

The senior academic adviser provides advising for history majors, minors and prospective students. Students in the Department of History also are assigned to a faculty mentor who can help them with information concerning history careers, including graduate school information.

MU's Career Center is another valuable source of information of which students are encouraged to take advantage.

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### History Organizations

Undergraduates may participate in the MU chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, an international honors society in history, as well as the History Club, which offers students interested in history academic, career-related and social activities.

Recent guest speakers include alumnus R.D. Ross on "History — the Bridge from the Past to Your Future"; Professor Robert M. Collins, whose topic was "Why Study History?"; and Assistant Professor Carol Anderson, who spoke on "Origin, Purpose and Importance of Black History Month."

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### Value of a History Degree

The most heavily trod career paths branching out from MU's Department of History lead to graduate work at first-rate schools across the country, including Georgetown, William and Mary, and MIT; law schools at the "University of Michigan, MU and Yale; and, beyond that,

the widest variety of professions, including journalism, medicine, investment banking, museum management, advertising, computer programming, real estate, government service, politics and many others.

Among well-known alumni who majored in history are Tom Berenger, actor and Academy Award nominee; C.D.B. Bryan, journalist and novelist; and Bee Skelton, U.S. Representative from Missouri.

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### Missouri Admission

The University admits students on the basis of their chances for success here. The main criteria are the high-school curriculum, test scores and class rank.

Applicants are expected to have followed a college-preparatory program with at least 17 units of credit, as follows (one unit equals one year):

*Four units of English*

Two units emphasizing composition or writing skills are required; one unit may be in speech.

*Four units of mathematics*

Acceptable courses include algebra I, geometry, algebra II, pre-calculus/trigonometry/analytic geometry, calculus and math analysis. Courses such as computer math, programming, consumer math and accounting are not acceptable.

*Three units of science*

At least one must be a laboratory course, such as earth science, biology, chemistry or physics. Courses such as general science and agricultural science are not acceptable.

*Three units of social studies*

Examples are world history, American government and principles of democracy.

*Two units in a single foreign language*

*One unit in fine arts*

If you want to major in history, consider preparing with additional advanced history courses or a summer internship at a hometown historical society or a museum.

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### Scholarships

The department offers several undergraduate scholarships. Students must have completed 55 hours and be a declared history major to be eligible. Further information can be obtained from the Undergraduate Advising Office, 103 Read Hall.

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### Further Information

For information about the history program, call or write:

Senior Academic Adviser

Department of History

University of Missouri

101 Read Hall

Columbia, MO 65211-7500

Phone: 573-882-2069

Fax: 573-884-5151

Web: [history.missouri.edu](http://history.missouri.edu)

For information about applying to MU, call or write:

Office of Admissions

230 Jesse Hall

Columbia, MO 65211-1300

Phone: 573-882-7786

800-225-6075 (toll free in Missouri and Illinois)

Fax: 573-882-7887

E-mail: [mu4u@missouri.edu](mailto:mu4u@missouri.edu)

Web: [www.missouri.edu](http://www.missouri.edu)

*The University of Missouri does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, disability or status as a disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam era. For more information, call Human Resource Services at 573-882-4256 or the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights.*

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