

West Chester University Department of History



Graduate Student HANDBOOK

2024-2025

This booklet contains merely supplement information. See these websites:

<http://catalog.wcupa.edu/graduate/arts-humanities/history/>

<https://www.wcupa.edu/arts-humanities/history/>

https://www.wcupa.edu/_admissions/SCH_DGR/newGradStudents.aspx

<https://www.wcupa.edu/academicEnterpriseSystems/training/student.aspx>

<https://www.wcupa.edu/academicEnterpriseSystems/training/financialTermsConditionsAgreement.aspx>

<https://www.wcupa.edu/infoservices/>

Word Processing package

Each West Chester University student has access to free software downloads:

<https://www.wcupa.edu/infoservices/office365/>

**PUBLIC SAFETY (issues with your car, safety concerns, or getting into a locked classroom:
610-436-3311**

INTRODUCTION

The Pennsylvania State legislature authorized West Chester University of Pennsylvania to grant graduate degrees in 1959. With 19 full-time faculty members, the Department has specialists in many areas of European and American History as well as African, Asian, Latin American and Middle Eastern studies. The Department believes that close interaction between faculty and students is an integral part of graduate education. As part of that philosophy, the faculty of the History Department values both excellent teaching and solid research.

This handbook supplements the Graduate Catalog, detailing rules and regulations germane to the History graduate program (remember, however, that the university catalog is the definitive authority on all university programs and policies). Become familiar with both the handbook and catalog. Along with advisement from faculty, they are your guides to graduate studies at West Chester University.

History Graduate Program Goals

All graduate history courses emphasize the five graduate learning outcomes established by the Department of History:

Outcome #1: Graduate students in history will be able to refine and deepen content knowledge of historical eras, change over time, and key historical concepts;

Outcome #2: Graduate students in history will be able to understand, analyze, and synthesize major historiographic themes and debates;

Outcome #3: Graduate students in history will be able to refine and deepen understanding and application of current research methodologies in history, including theory, historiography, interdisciplinary approaches, and analyses of primary and secondary sources;

Outcome #4: Graduate students in history will be able to connect historical and historiographic knowledge to broader contexts and audiences;

Outcome #5: Graduate students in history will be able to communicate knowledge of history at a professional level in reasoned arguments supported by historical evidence and an appreciation of multiple causes, effects, and perspectives.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY FACULTY AND STAFF

Staff

Ms. Jean BAUER, Departmental Secretary. Office: 702 Wayne Hall. Telephone 610-436-2201. There is a reason why we list Ms. Bauer first. She is the glue that holds this department together. She is a great help to students with questions or requests, but she is a very busy woman upon whom you should not place unreasonable demands.

Faculty

Dr. Cecilia L. CHIEN, Professor, Ph.D., Harvard University, 1994. Office: 309C Anderson Hall / 730 Wayne Hall. Telephone: 610-436-2995. Dr. Chien is the Department's East Asia specialist (Ph.D., Harvard). During her graduate studies, she traveled in East Asia and lived in Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan for several years. Before coming to WCU in 2005, she taught for 10 years in Hong Kong during its transition from British colony to Chinese sovereignty. Dr. Chien's first book was a study of merchant-state relations as seen in middle-imperial China's salt industry from the 10th-13th centuries. Her new research involves regional and family history. Her ancestor, the king of a wealthy kingdom in the Yangzi delta in the 10th century, is the centerpiece of contemporary efforts to promote cultural heritage, nationalism and identity, environmental conservation, and global tourism. Dr. Chien teaches courses on pre-modern and modern East Asia, East Asian history and film, the Asian American diaspora, and world civilizations. She has encouraged and mentored dozens of students to participate in programs for English teaching overseas, study abroad, and other exchanges. She aims to spread the word on how the rich cultural traditions of Asia in the curriculum enhance liberal arts education and promote cross-cultural understanding in today's mobile world of diverse societies.

Dr. Éric FOURNIER, Professor, Ph.D., University of California-Santa Barbara, 2008. Assistant Department Chairperson. Office: 715 Wayne Hall. Telephone: 610-436-2168. Born and raised in Québec, Canada, Dr. Fournier completed his dissertation at the University of California, Santa Barbara on "Victor of Vita and the Vandal "Persecution": Interpreting Exile in Late Antiquity" in August 2008. Prior to his doctoral program at UCSB, Dr. Fournier completed his M.A. in ancient history and B.A. in classics and history, both at Université de Montréal (Canada). He has presented numerous papers at national conferences and published recent articles in the field of late antique history. Dr. Fournier presently works at preparing his dissertation for publication. His research explores claims of persecution in Late Antiquity, North African Christianity, the role of rhetoric in historiographical representations of "reality", Imperial/Royal courts and residences of the late antique and medieval world, interactions between Church and "state" in the late Roman world. He is a hockey fan and was an alpine skiing instructor for ten years.

Dr. Jonathan FRIEDMAN, Professor, Ph.D., University of Maryland, 1996. Director of Graduate Holocaust and Genocide Studies Program. Office: 723 Wayne Hall. Telephone: 610-436-2972. After spending a number of years with Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation and the National Holocaust Memorial Museum, Dr. Friedman joined West Chester's faculty in 2002 as Director of the Holocaust/Genocide Education Center. His main areas of specialization include modern European, modern German, and modern Jewish history, but he has also broadened out from there since finishing his Ph.D. to include LGBT history and the history of music and film. His current research involves a good deal of intersectionality, whether that is the intersection of gay and Jewish identity or the intersection of popular culture and representations of race, religion, class, and gender. He has published numerous books on subjects ranging from the Holocaust to gay and Jewish performance, and I am currently working on a monograph entitled *Haunted Laughter: Comedic Representations of Adolf Hitler, The Third Reich, and the Holocaust in Film and Television*.

Dr. Brenda GAYDOSH, Professor, Ph.D., American University, 2010. Graduate Coordinator. Office: 721 Wayne Hall. Telephone: 610-436-0734. This is Professor Gaydosh's second career. She earned a B.S. degree in Mathematics in 1980 and worked as an actuarial analyst for 15 years. In her late 30s, Brenda returned to school, earning her M.A. in history from West Chester University (1999) and Ph.D. in history from American University (2010). Dr. Gaydosh has presented numerous papers including several internationally. She was the group leader for two EF College Study Tours: "The Holocaust in Europe," in summer 2012 and "WWII in Western Europe" in summer 2013. She also traveled with students to Rwanda in 2014 and 2019. Dr. Gaydosh earned promotion to Associate Professor of History in 2014 and Professor in 2020. Dr. Gaydosh's research interests lie in the history of the Catholic Church in 20th-century Germany. She published a biography, Bernhard Lichtenberg: Roman Catholic Priest and Martyr of the Nazi Regime, in 2017 and edited Connections: Memoirs of an American Historian in the Communist East Bloc in 2019. Her current research focuses on the Catholic bishop of Berlin from 1961-1979.

Dr. Steve GIMBER, Associate Professor, Ph.D., American University, 2000. Office: 719 Wayne Hall. Telephone: 610-436-2237. Dr. Gimber earned his doctorate in U.S. history from the American University in Washington, D.C. and a Master's degree in American Studies from the University of Pennsylvania. He received his B.A. in history from Glassboro State College (now Rowan University) in 1988 and taught as an adjunct professor of history at his alma mater for several years. Dr. Gimber's specialty lies in early American history, and he teaches courses on Colonial America, Revolutionary America, History of the Early Republic and the United States surveys. Some of his scholarship can be seen on ExplorePAhistory.com. He is also the coordinator for the American Studies concentration and minor.

Dr. Wayne HANLEY, Professor, Ph.D., University of Missouri, 1998. Office: 709 Wayne Hall. Telephone: 610-436-2201 (or x-2681). Wayne Hanley is a professor of history and holds a doctorate in modern European history from the University of Missouri-Columbia (1998) with a specialty in Revolutionary France. He received his B.A. in history from the University of Missouri-Rolla (1985) and M.A.s from Central Missouri State University at Warrensburg, Missouri (history, 1987 and English, 1990). Prior to joining the faculty of West Chester University in Fall 2000, Dr. Hanley was an adjunct professor of history and director of an educational professional development center at the University of Missouri-Rolla and an assistant professor of history at Lincoln University (Missouri). He is author of *The Genesis of Napoleonic Propaganda, 1796-1799* (Columbia University Press, 2005; e-book, 2003), editor of *Napoleonic Scholarship* (the journal of the International Napoleonic Society), numerous articles on various aspects of literature and French history, and has presented papers on both history and literature at academic conferences. He is the winner of the American Historical Association's 2000 Gutenberg-e Prize and a recipient of the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award (2018). He is currently working on a biography of one of Napoleon's marshals, Michel Ney. When not doing professor things, Dr. Hanley can be found sailing on the Chesapeake.

Dr. Lisa A. KIRSCHENBAUM, Professor, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley, 1993. Office: 731 Wayne Hall. Telephone: 610-436-2997. Professor Kirschenbaum has long combined a serious commitment to research with enthusiasm for teaching. While completing her PhD at University of California, Berkeley (1993), she taught middle and high school students at Oakwood School, an independent school in southern California. Since coming to West Chester in 1996, she has developed classes in Soviet and Russian history as well as thematic courses that transcend national boundaries. Professor Kirschenbaum's research explores how people come to represent and understand their life stories as part of history, focusing on the linkages between individual, private lives and the momentous, often traumatic events of Russia's twentieth century. She has published three books: *Small Comrades: Revolutionizing Childhood in Soviet Russia, 1917-1932* (RoutledgeFalmer, 2000); *The Legacy of the Siege of Leningrad, 1941-1995: Myth, Memories, and Monuments* (Cambridge

University Press, 2006); and *International Communism and the Spanish Civil War: Solidarity and Suspicion* (Cambridge University Press 2015). Professor Kirschenbaum's research has been supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies, the International Research and Exchanges Board, and the Penn Humanities Forum. In 2009, Professor Kirschenbaum was awarded the West Chester University Trustees' Achievement Award.

Dr. Robert J. KODOSKY, Professor, Ph.D., Temple University, 2006. Department Chairperson. Office: 704 Wayne Hall. Telephone: 610-436-2288. Dr. Kodosky (Ph.D. Temple University, 2006) joined the history department in 2002 after teaching high school social studies in Philadelphia, PA (1989-2001). He serves as the faculty advisor to the Student Veterans Group and Phi Alpha Theta (history honors). He additionally acts as the Eastern Pennsylvania regional coordinator for Phi Alpha Theta and accepted an invitation to serve on Phi Alpha Theta's national council (2015). As a board member at the American Helicopter Museum and Education Center in West Chester, PA, Dr. Kodosky orchestrated an audio guide project for WCU students that earned the History Affiliates Award (2013). For his work with military veterans, on campus and off, including the oral history based initiative Soldiers to Scholars that he co-founded and directs, Dr. Kodosky received the Legion of Honor Humanitarian Award granted by the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation (2014). The author of *Psychological Operations American Style: The Joint United States Public Affairs Office, Vietnam and Beyond* (Lexington Books, 2007), Dr. Kodosky's scholarship also appears in the *Encyclopedia of Military Science*, the *American Intelligence Journal*, *The Routledge History of Social Protest in Popular Music*, the *Journal of Popular Culture*, *History: Reviews of New Books*, the *Michigan War Studies Review* and *H-War*.

Dr. Anne KRULIKOWSKI, Professor, Ph.D., University of Delaware, 2001. Office: 728 Wayne Hall. Telephone: 610-436-2255. Dr. Krulikowski earned her Ph.D. in American History from the University of Delaware, with a focus in material culture and historic preservation. She also has M.A.'s in American History and British & American literature from Villanova University. She worked for five years at Rockwood Museum, a Victorian house in Wilmington, Delaware, where her responsibilities included overseeing house and school tours and developing public programs and special tours for children and adults. She has served on the Board of the Friends of Rockwood and contributed to several re-interpretive projects of kitchen spaces, and domestic technology and labor. Dr. Krulikowski was Visiting Professor of Twentieth-Century America at Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and has taught upper level and graduate classes at several local universities, most frequently at the University of Delaware, where she lectured in and contributed to the planning of the introductory colloquium for the Material Culture Studies Minor. Prof. Krulikowski's dissertation focused on ethnically and racially mixed working-class neighborhoods in Southwest Philadelphia and the Eastwick Redevelopment Project in that vicinity. She has given numerous conference and public talks and published articles on Eastwick, oral history, grocery stores and urban food distribution, urban real estate, Building and Loan Associations, and housing.

Dr. Tia MALKIN, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Brown University, 2003. Office: 313 Anderson Hall / 727 Wayne Hall. Telephone: 610-436-2654. Before she joined the WCU Department of History, Dr. Malkin-Fontecchio was an Assistant Professor at Lebanon Valley College. Tia Malkin-Fontecchio received her BA in Latin American Studies and Latin American Language and Literature from the University of California at Berkeley in 1994. She received her MA and PhD in Latin American history from Brown University in 1996 and 2003, respectively. She has lived in Recife, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, Brazil. Her research interests include educational reform and inequality in Brazil, as well as state authoritarianism. Dr. Malkin-Fontecchio's current research focuses on historical film.

Dr. Brent RUSWICK, Professor, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, 2006. Social Studies Coordinator. Office: 718 Wayne Hall. Telephone: 610-436-2248. Professor Ruswick's scholarly interests gravitate around issues of medical and scientific authority and their influence in culture and politics. Trained as a historian of medicine and science (Ph.D. University of Wisconsin, 2006), he is the author of one book, *Almost Worthy: The Poor, Paupers, and the Science of Charity in America* and several historical and pedagogical articles. He also will be publishing a second book on poverty, an edited anthology called *The Cultural History of Poverty in the Age of Empire*. As a teacher presently licensed to teach history and political science in secondary education classrooms and possessing a bachelor's degree and considerable graduate hours in education, Professor Ruswick's favorite professional pursuit is sharing conversations about good teaching practices. His current pedagogical interests include culturally relevant teaching and authentic assessment practices. A winner of several teaching and advising awards and honors, Professor Ruswick arrived at West Chester in 2013. Outside of the university, Professor Ruswick can often be found injuring himself by running long distances, trying to garden, and chasing misbehaving cats.

Prof. James SCYTHES, Assistant Professor, M.A., Villanova University, 1997. Office: 711 Wayne Hall. Telephone: 610-436-2212. Professor Scythes earned a B.A. in history at Rowan University and holds a Master of Arts in history from Villanova University. He teaches all of the 100-level History courses and has taught a course on the American Civil War. Professor Scythes also serves as a supervisor of student teachers. His research interests focus on antebellum America, American Civil War, and 19th century military history. Professor Scythes has published a number of encyclopedia articles, and in early 2016 his first book, *"This Will Make a Man of Me": The Life and Letters of a Teenage Officer in the Civil War*, will be published by Lehigh University Press. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees at the Gloucester County Historical Society.

Dr. Janneken SMUCKER, Professor, Ph.D. University of Delaware, 2010. Office: 717 Wayne Hall. Telephone: 610-436-2345. Janneken Smucker specializes in digital history, public history, and material culture. She authored *Amish Quilts: Crafting an American Icon* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013), and lectures and writes widely about quilts for both popular and scholarly audiences. Janneken volunteers with the national non-profit, Quilt Alliance, dedicated to documenting, preserving, and sharing the stories of quilts and quiltmakers. She led content development for *World Quilts: The American Story*, a digital project of the International Quilt Study Center & Museum at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Her current research investigates the role of quilts in New Deal governmental programs. In the classroom, she integrates technology and the humanities, working with her students to create websites, blogs, podcasts, digital archives, and online exhibitions. With Professor Charles Hardy and students in HIS 601 and HON 452, she created *Goin' North: Stories from the First Great Migration to Philadelphia*, which won the Oral History Association's 2015 award for best non-print project and the 2016 American Historical Association's Roy Rosenzweig Award for Innovation in Digital History. She and Dr. Hardy also were co-recipients of WCU's 2015 Holman Award for innovation in teaching. Their latest classroom/archival partnership was *Philadelphia Immigration*. Janneken is an avid yogi, gardener, pizza chef, and quiltmaker. She is also the mother of a 9-year old girl and enjoys seeing the world through her eyes as she makes connections and discovers new things. She loves thinking and traveling beyond national borders and is glad to be a global citizen.

Dr. LaTonya THAMES-TAYLOR, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of Mississippi, 2005. Office: 725 Wayne Hall. Telephone: 610-436-2970. tonya thames-taylor is founding director of the African American Studies Program, and member of the Executive Committee of the Frederick Douglass Institute. She is a specialist in the 19th and 20th centuries. Her research focuses on gender, race, human rights, and Southern histories. She has received numerous fellowships and grants. She is a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Institute Fellow (Summer 2014, Jackson State University) and the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation Recipient (2006 – 2008). She served as a Pennsylvania Live and Learn Scholar for the Pennsylvania Humanities Council. Mississippi native and granddaughter of former sharecroppers, she is a

Trustee for the Friends Publishing Corporation (publishers of Friends Journal and QuakerSpeak), Board of Directors for the Friends Historical Association (publisher of Quaker History), and a member of the Governance Committee of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). She is also an active member in many women organizations. A native of the coastal town of Gulfport, Mississippi, dr. thames taylor is a magna cum laude graduate of Tougaloo College, a Historically Black College and University (HBCU), in Tougaloo, Mississippi (MS). She earned her Master of Arts in history and a Ph.D. in American History from The University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) in Oxford, MS. She has life memberships in both alumni associations. During a TEDx, in October 2016, she discussed "Admiring Failure." She is an environmentalist and some of her most sought-after public lectures deal with the environment. She is currently writing her first book which is collection of her public lectures. Also, she is writing a book article about the 1968 Memphis Sanitation Strike.

Dr. Elizabeth URBAN, Professor, Ph.D., University of Chicago, 2012. Office: 713 Wayne Hall. Telephone: 610-436-2541. Professor Urban (Ph.D. The University of Chicago, 2012) joined the WCU history department in 2014. She has diverse interests in the field of Islamic history, including gender, slavery, and empire. Her recent monograph, *Conquered Populations in Early Islam* (Edinburgh UP, 2020), examines how new Muslims of slave origins joined the early Islamic community and articulated their identities within it. While she specializes in the medieval period, Dr. Urban also teaches courses on the modern Middle East and contemporary issues in the Islamic world. Prof. Urban has had several opportunities to travel to the Middle East, most recently in Summer 2018, when she traveled to Jordan with a group of West Chester students. She has also studied Arabic in Egypt, Tunisia, and Syria, and she is delighted to share her love of Arabic language, culture, music, and food with students. In addition to studying Arabic texts and preparing new courses in Islamic history, Prof. Urban enjoys cooking Tex-Mex food, rooting for the Houston Astros, and calling people "y'all."

Academic Information:

Graduate Assistantships:

The College of Arts and Humanities allocates 9 credits for graduate assistants (GAs) in the History Department. Each semester, the Graduate Coordinator sends out a call for applications for GAs. Each Graduate Assistant receives tuition remission (generally for 3 credits) and a stipend (total \$1250) for tutoring students in history and supporting faculty in classrooms or with projects (5 hours per week during semester). GA office: 703 Wayne Hall. In addition, other graduate assistantships may be available on campus. Check with The Graduate School.

Dr. R. E. Drayer Graduate Scholarship

The Department of History awards up to three \$1,000-\$2,000 scholarships each spring based on academic merit to graduate students in the MA program. Watch for the call for applications each spring.

Foreign Language

The Department of History recommends competency in at least one foreign language for all students planning to continue their studies in a PhD program. Students should begin working on a (research) language while earning their Master's Degree at WCU. Please discuss this with the graduate coordinator.

"No Grade" Policy

Students may request a "no grade" (NG) from their professors if they cannot finish the work of a semester course by the end of the semester. Students should only request this if there has been some type of emergency situation in their lives – illness, death, accident. Notify the graduate coordinator if you plan to request an NG. **DO NOT REQUEST THIS IF YOU HAVE SIMPLY BEEN LAZY OR HAVE TAKEN TOO MANY COURSES!!!**

Curriculum

Non-Thesis Option

Code	Title	Credits
Required		
HIS 500	Methods & Materials of Research in History (taken in first fall)	3
HIS 650	Capstone Seminar (taken in last spring semester)	3
Electives		
Select eight HIS courses		24
Related Field Option (may take up to 2 related field courses in lieu of history courses)		
Total Credits Required		30

Thesis Option

Course List		
Code	Title	Credits
Required		
HIS 500	Methods & Materials of Research in History (take in first fall)	3
HIS 650	Capstone Seminar (taken in last spring semester)	3
Electives		
Select six HIS courses		18
Related Field Option (may take up to 2 related field courses in lieu of history courses)		
Thesis		
HIS 691	Thesis I: Research	3
HIS 692	Thesis II: Writing	3
Total Credits Required		30

USE YOUR WCU E-MAIL ID (NOT YOUR PERSONAL ID)

What do our students want to do?

- Continue to teach in secondary education
- Want to work in public history
 - Museum
 - Historic site
 - Archive or library
- Want to go on for a PhD
- Want to work for the government
- Just want to learn more

Plan to compete!



Earning an MA in History should involve more than taking classes. PLAN to acquire arrows to put in your quiver.

COURSEWORK = 

Coursework is ONLY 1 arrow (need more in your quiver)

VOLUNTEERING = 

Volunteering (even in a non-history environment) shows an interest in the world around you.

INTERNSHIPS = 

Do (1) or (2) 3-credit internships to gain experience and network. WCU History has contacts with many locations OR you can suggest a location.

LANGUAGE =

Those that want to go on for a PhD must consider this, but good for all.

PRESENT AT CONFERENCE(S) =

We support you financially to present your work at a conference. Your presentation can develop from papers you've written for classes. To find appropriate conferences, ask professors that share your common interests or look in

H-Net:

<https://networks.h-net.org>

PUBLICATIONS =

You can try to get one of your (developed) papers published with a periodical, but a great start is to write an entry for the *Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia*

<https://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org>

Your entry will be peer-reviewed, which is extremely important. Individuals can put anything they want online, but generally, no one has reviewed it.

You can check with the Encyclopedia to see what entries they are currently looking for or you can suggest an entry yourself. Entries are between 500-2500 words.

Here you can see the format. This is from one of our graduates:

<https://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/essays/bridges>

RELATED FIELD COURSES =

3-6 credits: English (Literature of Early America), Philosophy (Ethics), Business (Grant Writing), Anthropology (Museum Curation, American Indian Today, Archeology of Ancient North America, Anthropology of Tourism)...depending on your goals.

PLAN YOUR TIME AT WCU

- 1) **Talk with your MA advisor**
- 2) **Talk with your favorite professor(s)**
- 3) **Plan each semester: what to do beyond coursework**
 - a. **For course work, look ahead at what will be offered**
 - b. **Look for a conference**
 - c. **Work on conference paper**
 - d. **Contact the Encyclopedia**
 - e. **Look for volunteer work**
 - f. **When to do an Internship**

- g. Begin work on a language
- h. Work on encyclopedia entry
- i. Visit Twardowski Career Center

Upcoming history course schedule

Summer 2024

- HIS 602 - "Holocaust in Film" - Summer 1, WCU - Jonathan Friedman (3 slots left)
- ESU - "Interpreting Civil War Sites" - Michael Gray (See attached sample syllabus)
- SRU - HIST 634: American Revolution (May 8 - July 23) 100% online asynchronous
- SRU - HIST 612: Ancient Greece (May 8 - July 23) 100% online asynchronous

Fall 2024

- HIS 500 - Methods and Materials of Research in History - Elizabeth Urban - Thursdays 5:50-8:35
- HIS 536 - Europe from 1914 - Jonathan Friedman - via Zoom - Tuesdays at 7 p.m.
- HIS 548 - Women and the Holocaust - Lisa Kirschenbaum - Wednesdays 5:50-8:35
- HIS 555 - Emergence of Modern America - Anne Krulikowski - Mondays 6-8:45
- Millersville - "Atlantic World" - Wednesdays 6-9 - Zoom into Millersville class
- ESU - "The Long Sixties" - Tuesdays - 4-6:30 - Zoom into ESU class

Spring 2025

- HIS 546 - Genocide - Brenda Gaydosh (100% online asynchronous)
- HIS 601 - 20th-century America - Bob Kodosky - Wednesdays or Thursdays 5:50-8:35
- HIS 601 - "History Communication" - Janneken Smucker - Mondays 5:50-8:35
- HIS 650 - Seminar Capstone - Anne Krulikowski - Tuesdays - 6-8:45
- Millersville - "American Revolution" - ??? - Zoom into Millersville class
- ANT 558 - Museum Curation - Michael DiGiovine (WCU - every spring)

HIS 500 is offered every fall at it is the first course you should take.

HIS 650 is the Capstone course and it is the last course that you should take.

Each spring, Anthropology offers ANT 558, Museum Curation.

You may also be interested in graduate courses offered by Anthropology, English, Philosophy, and Business.

Please note that if you take a course outside WCU, you must pay that university for your course. You may not use your FAFSA loan that you got for coursework at WCU.

Enrollment and Scheduling

[ramportal-student-register-classes.pdf](#)

Considering a Master's Thesis?

FIRST, talk with advisor and the professor(s) who would be on your thesis committee. You DO NOT have to write a Master's Thesis in preparation for a PhD Program.

Master's Thesis

A thesis is a substantial paper, usually in excess of 50 pages, on a hitherto unexplored topic or one that provides new interpretations of an old topic. *It is based on original research in primary sources* as well as secondary works. Writing a thesis offers the student an excellent research opportunity and experience. Identifying and defining a problem, locating and evaluating relevant information and executing ways of getting clear answers to good questions, and mastering the conventions of research writing are the essence of scholarship.

Those students, selecting the thesis option will be assigned a thesis director with whom they should work closely (thesis advisors are selected based on availability of faculty and after consultation with the graduate student). Thesis students must complete and have signed the "Request for Approval of Master's Thesis Examining Committee" form (available on the GSEE website) ***BEFORE the student begins work on the thesis.*** Thesis students should also check departmental thesis requirements with the graduate coordinator.

Thesis option candidates should work with the graduate coordinator to arrange for a thesis director as soon as practical, although students are strongly advised not to register for HIS691 until they are reasonably certain they can complete the thesis (it is normally scheduled during the last two consecutive semesters of one's program of study). Thesis (HIS 691) is offered in a two-semester sequence (of 3 credits per semester): the first semester is generally devoted to research, and the second semester is typically devoted to writing and completing the thesis. If you register for HIS691 and do not complete the work, you will receive an NG or IP grade (or an F if the work is never completed). You cannot graduate with either of these on your transcript, *even if you switch to the non-thesis option.*

Two faculty members as well as the director must approve the finished product. The student must defend the completed thesis successfully before a faculty examining committee. The requirement of the University is that a student passing the thesis defense will receive no more than one negative vote from the examining committee. However, in a number of departments, a unanimous positive vote of the examining committee is required for a successful defense.

Role of the Thesis Advisor

When a student begins to write thesis, he/she will work closely with an assigned thesis advisor. With the aid of the thesis advisor, the student chooses additional (usually 2) faculty members to constitute the thesis committee.

Although different departments may differ in the manner a thesis committee works with students, generally the advisor will expect that the student will:

- a. Obtain the advisor's approval of the topic selected for research.
- b. Submit an outline of the proposed thesis indicating the topic to be studied, the purpose to be fulfilled, the procedure to be used, and information that the advisor deems to be pertinent.
- c. Confer with the advisor frequently to as the work progresses in order to obtain approval of each phase of the project. Failure to do this may result in the need to re-write certain sections, or even the entire document.
- d. Obtain the committee's final approval of the finished product.

While the student should look to the committee for guidance and objective critique as the work progresses, the student should not submit rough drafts which have not been neatly printed and proofed for spelling and grammatical errors. The advisor's role is to help shape the content and explain some of the intricacies scholarly style, not to serve as a proofreader.

After approval by the examining committee, theses must be typed in accordance with specific guidelines in the "Guide to the Preparation of the Master's Thesis." After the Graduate Dean has approved the thesis, the student is responsible for transmitting all required copies to the library for binding.

Format for the Thesis

Theses adhere to standard scholarly styles and the style format is designated by the student's academic department. In History, we use *The Chicago Manual of Style*, which provides detail on formats and should be **consistently used** throughout the document including the reference pages and appendices. The WCU library provides also online information about standard styles in the area of the homepage labeled research help.

Consistent and accurate documentation of all sources cited is expected. Plagiarism is intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own. The most blatant form of plagiarism is reproducing someone else's sentences or phrases, more or less verbatim, and representing them as your own wording. The consequences of plagiarism are clearly outlined in the Academic Dishonesty section of the *Graduate Catalog*.

Divisions—The manuscript should follow a logical scheme consistently throughout the work. Chapters are the most common division with sub-headings within as dictated by the style manual used. Each chapter begins on a new page, sub-headings do not. The general text should be double-spaced.

A master's thesis typically consists of preliminary pages, chapters forming the body of the thesis and supplementary materials.

Preliminary Pages—The preliminary pages of a master's thesis include signature/approvals pages, a title page, an abstract restricted to 350 words, acknowledgements, a table of contents, and if applicable, a list of tables and figures. These pages are not numbered and should appear in the following sequence:

Body of the Thesis—Most theses will include an introduction, a body and a conclusion, and major divisions will comprise chapters. The format for the body of the thesis will vary depending on the type of research that is conducted. The student should confer with his/her advisor about the best format for the specific topic and research methods that are employed.

Defense of Master's Thesis

Students who write a Master's thesis must first have the "Request for Approval of Master's Thesis Examining Committee" form completed and signed before the student begins work on the thesis. (This form is available at the Office of Graduate Studies or online.) The completed thesis must be successfully defended before a faculty examining committee. The requirement of the University is that a student passing the thesis defense will receive no more than one negative vote from the examining committee. However, in a number of departments, a unanimous positive vote of the examining committee is required for a successful defense. Thesis students should check departmental requirements with the graduate coordinator.

Submitting the Thesis for Binding

After approval by the examining committee, theses must be typed in accordance with specifications contained in the "Guide to the Preparation of the Master's Thesis," a copy of which may be obtained from departmental offices or online. After the dean of graduate studies and extended education has approved the thesis, the student is responsible for transmitting all required copies to the library for binding.

Summary of Requirements for the Master's Degree

1. Admission to degree candidacy.
2. Completion of all requisite courses and credits (30) with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.00, compliance with specific GPA requirements as stipulated by the individual degree program.
3. Fulfillment of all financial obligations to the University, including payment of the graduation fee, and all other obligations, including the return of University property.
4. Compliance with all academic requests from the Dean of Graduate Studies and Extended Education, including submission of a form letter of intent to graduate.