

# THE MASTER OF ARTS IN HISTORY

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## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Pursuing a graduate degree in history should be enriching both personally and professionally, equipping the individual with a deeper understanding of the past as well as providing an appreciation of the complexities of the present. From a professional perspective it opens the door to a number of careers. An MA degree in history is usually a requirement for teaching the subject at community colleges, and it provides an excellent foundation for teaching the history/social science framework at the high school level. Students completing the MA program will have developed critical, analytical, and writing skills that are of value in various fields. They will have received what is widely considered an excellent preparation for careers in public relations, journalism, law, politics, and the civil service. For those considering pursuing a Ph.D. in history, and eventually teaching at the university level, the MA program gives students a taste of what is involved and prepares them for doctoral work. Although the program does not require knowledge of a foreign language, students are strongly encouraged to develop a reading ability in a language other than English.

The MA program in History offers two options or tracks: examinations or a thesis (see “Program Tracks” below).

## APPLICATION PROCESS AND ADMISSION

Persons seeking an MA in History must first apply for graduate study to both the History Department and the university Office of Admissions. Both applications are available in the History Department office. Admission to graduate study by the university does not constitute acceptance into the History MA Program.

The following criteria must be met for admission to graduate-level study in the History Department:

1. A baccalaureate degree in history; if it is not in history, students may be asked to take a minimum of four upper-division undergraduate courses at CSUB and thereafter be assessed by the History Graduate Committee before being advanced to classified standing;
2. Good academic standing at the last college or university attended;
3. Transcripts showing an overall 3.0 GPA in the last 90 quarter units (60 semester units) of the last two years of college or university coursework;
4. A letter of intent;
5. Evidence of historical writing (preferably an upper-division research paper, demonstrating research and analytical skills);
6. Two letters of recommendation.

The History MA program at CSUB does NOT require the GRE exam.

Admission application and materials must be submitted to:

Graduate Coordinator, CSUB History Department, 9001 Stockdale Hwy., Bakersfield, CA 93311-1099.

## **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

Upon admission to the university and graduate-level study in the History Department, students should discuss with the History Department Graduate Coordinator their plans to fulfill the requirements of the MA degree. The Graduate Coordinator will familiarize the student with the requirements and timetable of the MA Program. It is the student's responsibility, in consultation with the appropriate faculty members, to choose an MA track, fields of study, and to organize a thesis or examination committee.

**Academic Advising:** It is essential that MA students stay in contact with the Graduate Coordinator and especially the committee chair so that the department can provide current information to help the student move expeditiously through the program.

**Committee Selection:** Each MA student in History must have a committee, either to provide examinations or to read and guide the thesis. The Graduate Coordinator and the committee chair can provide assistance in forming an MA committee.

**Graduate Writing Assistance Requirement (GWAR):** All MA candidates must demonstrate writing competency at the upper-division level. Non-CSU students who have not passed an upper-division writing course can satisfy the GWAR in one of two ways: take History 300 (Historical Writing); or take the university's waiver exam, offered once per quarter through the English Department.

**Transfer Credit:** Graduate courses from other institutions will be considered by the Graduate Coordinator and the Department Graduate Committee.

**Program Tracks:** There are two tracks leading to an MA degree in History: the examination track and the thesis track. Both tracks require 45 units of course work and HIST 697 (1-5 units) or HIST 698 (1-5 units), for a total of 46 to 50 units. HIST 697 and HIST 698 are graded credit/no credit. Graduate students are encouraged to earn as many units as possible in 500- or 600-level courses. A maximum of 20 units, however, may be earned in 400-level courses. Graduate credit in a 400-level course requires submission of a "Petition for Graduate Credit," signed by the instructor and Graduate Coordinator, indicating what additional work is required for graduate credit to be awarded.

Once students decide on a track, they should secure the appropriate Concentration Outline form from the History Department office. This form, which will be kept in individual students' files, will indicate committee members, coursework leading to the MA degree, date of classification, and satisfaction of the GWAR.

### **Examination Track**

Students interested in teaching at the high school or community college level are advised to follow this track. It generally is completed faster than the thesis track and provides students with a broad base of knowledge and bibliography that will be of significant value to them when they are preparing courses in their teaching career.

Students, who select the examination track at the time of application for classification, must designate *one* primary field and *one* secondary field. Any primary field may also serve as a secondary field.

### **Examination Fields:**

#### **Primary**

American History: Colonial to Reconstruction  
American History: Since Reconstruction  
California and the American West (forthcoming)  
Modern Europe Since 1789

#### **Secondary**

Ancient Mediterranean  
Medieval Europe  
Early Modern Europe  
Latin America  
Modern East Asia

## Public History

**Examination Committee:** The examination committee will consist of one history department faculty member from the chosen primary field, one history department faculty member from the chosen secondary field, and one additional member chosen in consultation with the graduate coordinator and the other committee members. The committee will help students determine the courses they need in order to prepare for MA exams. The committee also will conduct both written and oral examinations. The examination results will be forwarded to the Graduate Coordinator, using the following grading scale: Honors, Pass, or Fail.

**Written Examinations:** Students who have maintained at least a 3.25 GPA in their graduate coursework should obtain the signature of their committee chair prior to taking their exams, and must be enrolled in the university in History 698 in the quarter in which they take the exams. MA candidates are required to take a five-hour examination in the primary field and a three-hour examination in the secondary field. The exams are scheduled over a one-week period and are offered once a quarter. (*Note: No student shall be permitted to take an examination in a field in which he or she has not had formal course work.*) Any failed examination may be repeated once within the following 12-month period.

**Oral Examination:** After passing both of the written examinations, students will undergo a 90-minute oral examination. The faculty member responsible for the primary field will preside. The oral examination may be repeated once, if necessary, within the following 12-month period.

### **Thesis Track**

Students are reminded that a good master's thesis is a significant piece of written work, usually requiring research in primary sources. Because primary sources are scarce on this campus, the choice of thesis topics is severely limited, and students need to assure the Department Graduate Committee that source material necessary to the topic is available. The thesis topic should be selected at the time of classification in order to insure the maximum amount of time for completion.

**Course Work:** Because department graduate offerings are designed with the examination track student in mind, it is expected that thesis track students will earn some of the required units in individual study courses. Such courses shall be specifically designed in consultation with the thesis director to emphasize research techniques and to prepare the student for writing the thesis.

**Thesis Proposal:** Students should meet with their thesis director and discuss in detail their subject, the elements of a thesis, and the sources to be examined before submission of the thesis proposal. The proposal, accompanied by chapter descriptions and a bibliography, shall be submitted to the thesis director no later than one quarter before enrolling in HIST 697. The names of the thesis committee members should be submitted at the same time.

**Thesis Committee:** The thesis committee shall consist of three faculty readers: the specialist reader and two others. If the thesis topic involves expertise in another discipline, one reader may be chosen from that discipline with the approval of the mentor and the Department Graduate Committee. The thesis committee will judge whether or not the thesis is a sound piece of research and ensure that it meets the standards of the profession in terms of originality, scholarship, and written English.

## **CLASSIFICATION**

There are three classifications for students in the History graduate program:

**Conditionally Classified Standing:** Students who have been accepted into the History MA program by the History Department will be conditionally classified when the department admissions committee requires them to take up to four (4) courses for preparatory work (most often in cases of non-history majors).

**Classified Standing:** A student who meets all the requirements for admission to the MA program in History will be admitted as a classified graduate student.

**Advanced to Candidacy:** Classified students who have maintained a 3.25 GPA and have completed the graduation writing requirement will be advanced to candidacy in the term in which they intend to graduate.

#### **ACADEMIC STANDING**

**Good Academic Standing:** To remain in good standing in the program, a student must attain a 3.25 GPA in HIST 501, HIST 503, and the first additional 500-level course he or she takes. A student who does not do so may not continue in the program.

**Academic Probation:** A graduate student is subject to academic probation at the end of any academic term where the student's GPA for all coursework in the MA program falls below a 3.0 GPA.

**Academic Disqualification:** A graduate student shall be subject to academic disqualification if, while on academic probation, the student fails to earn sufficient grade points necessary to be removed from scholastic probation status and attain a 3.0 GPA.

#### **GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

Note: Enrollment in graduate seminars is at the discretion of the instructor.

##### **HIST 501 Historiography (5)**

The development of history as a distinct discipline, and the themes and approaches used by historians.

##### **HIST 503 Historical Research Methods (5)**

Introduction and practice in the use of primary sources, including review of various historical methodologies and techniques of research design. Students will gain experience in the development of research proposals and in the use and verification of different types of historical evidence.

##### **HIST 525 Reading Seminar in European History (5)**

Reading in selected topics to be announced each quarter. May be repeated if subject matter is different.

##### **HIST 535 Reading Seminar in Asian History (5)**

Reading in selected topics to be announced each quarter. May be repeated if subject matter is different.

##### **HIST 554 Reading Seminar in Early American History: Colonial to Reconstruction (5)**

Reading in selected topics to be announced each quarter. May be repeated if subject matter is different.

##### **HIST 555 Reading Seminar in American History: Reconstruction to the Present (5)**

Reading in selected topics to be announced each quarter. May be repeated if subject matter is different.

##### **HIST 556 Reading Seminar in the American West (5)**

Reading in selected topics to be announced each quarter. May be repeated if subject matter is different.

##### **HIST 565 Reading Seminar in Mexican History and Mexican-American History (5)**

Reading in selected topics to be announced each quarter. Special emphasis on materials suitable for prospective teachers. May be repeated if topic is different.

##### **HIST 602 Research Seminar in European History (5)**

Research in selected topics to be announced each quarter. May be repeated if subject matter is different.

##### **HIST 608 Research Seminar in American History (5)**

Research in selected topics to be announced each quarter. May be repeated if subject matter is different.

##### **HIST 697 Master's Thesis (1-5)**

May be repeated to a maximum of 5 quarter units.

##### **HIST 698 Comprehensive Examination (1-5)**

May be repeated to a maximum of 5 quarter units.

## **HIST 699 Individual Study (1-5)**

Admission with consent of department chair.

## **GRADUATE TEACHING FACULTY**

The Department of History has nine full-time faculty members.

\*(indicates date of appointment)

### **Mark Baker (2002)\* - Associate Professor**

Eastern Europe, Russian Empire, Soviet Union

BA, MA, University of Alberta (Canada); AM, PhD., Harvard University

Publications include: "The War and Revolution," in *A Companion to Europe 1900-1945*, ed. Gordon Martel (Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2006), 243-258; "How to Make Kharkiv Workers into Bolsheviks: Lessons from the Hetmanate and Directory, 1918," *Canadian-American Slavic Studies* (Spring 2006); "One Man Cannot an 'Eastern Europe' Make, But He Can Certainly Try": Charles Frederick Henningsen and the Ideological Construction of Eastern Europe, *Ab Imperio* (2003); "Rampaging *Soldatki*, Cowering Police and Moral Economy: The Social Impact of the Great War in Kharkiv Province," *Canadian-American Slavic Studies* (2001); "Beyond the National: Peasants, Power and Revolution in Ukraine," *Journal of Ukrainian Studies* (1999).

### **Douglas W. Dodd (2002) – Associate Professor (Graduate Coordinator)**

Public History, American West, Environmental History

BA, Lewis and Clark College; MA, PhD, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Publications include: "A National Park For the Gem State?: The U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Sawtooth National Park Campaign in Idaho, 1911-1926," *Idaho Yesterdays: The Journal of Rocky Mountain History and Culture* (forthcoming, 2008); "Boulder Dam Recreation Area: The Bureau of Reclamation, the National Park Service, and the Origins of the National Recreation Area Concept at Lake Mead, 1929-1936"; *Southern California Quarterly* (Winter 2006-07); Guest co-editor of "Conservation in the West," special theme issue of *Journal of the West* (2005); Articles in *Encyclopedia of American Environmental History* (forthcoming), and *The Louisiana Purchase: An Encyclopedia* (2002).

### **James H. George (1970) – Professor (FERP)**

Modern U.S. History, Diplomatic History

BA, Westminster College; PhD, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Publications include: "Another Chance: Herbert Hoover and World War II Relief," *Diplomatic History* (1992).

### **Jeanne Harrie (1976) - Professor (Chair)**

Early Modern Europe, Renaissance and Reformation

BA, Seattle University; MA, PhD, University of California, Riverside

Publications include: "The Guises, the Body of Christ, and the Body Politic," *The Sixteenth Century Journal* (2006); "Renaissance Hermeticism as a Formula for Peace" in *Renaissance Readings: Intertext and Context* (University of Illinois Press, 1988); "Guy Le Fevre de la Boderie's Vision of World Harmony and the Policies of Francois d' Anjou," *Proceedings, WSFH* (1983); "Duplessis-Mornay, Foix-Candale and the Hermetic Religion of the World," *Renaissance Quarterly* (1978).

### **John A. Maynard (1999) - Associate Professor**

American Social/Cultural History, California, Local History, American Bohemianism

BA, University of California, Santa Cruz; MA, California State University, Bakersfield; PhD, University of Southern California

Publications include: *California: Golden Past, Shining Future—A Sesquicentennial Celebration* (Cherbo Publishing Group, 2000); *Bakersfield: A Centennial Portrait* (Cherbo Publishing Group, 1997); *Venice West: The Beat Generation in Southern California* (Rutgers University Press, 1991).

**Cliona Murphy** (1990) - Professor

Modern Western Europe (focusing on Ireland, Britain, British Empire, and Women's History, Trans-Atlantic Connections: Europe and North America)

BA, MA, National University of Ireland (Cork); PhD, State University of New York at Binghamton

Publications include: Books: *Surviving Women: Irish Women in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries* (Poolbeg Press, 1990) and *The Women's Suffrage Movement and Irish Society* (Temple University Press, 1989). Articles: in *History of European Ideas*, *Women's History Review*, *Wells Under Revision*, *The Wellsian*, *Irish Review*, *Women in Irish History*, *Women in World History* (2002), *Encyclopaedia of Ireland* (2003), and *REA - special Irish Studies issue*. Guest edited *Women's History Review* (1997) and *Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal* (2001). Latest publications: "Nova Scotia, Ireland and the British Empire in the Writings of Charlotte Elizabeth Tonna, 1829-46", in *History, and the Public Sphere*, Cork University Press (2005); co-author of "Burials and bigotry in early nineteenth-century Ireland," *Studia Hibernica* (Winter 2005-2006), "Great Gas and Irish Bull: Humor and the fight for Irish Women's Suffrage", *Irish Women and the Vote* (2007), and "Irish on the Titanic" and "Nun of Kenmare" *ABC CLIO* (2008).

**Constance I. Orliski** (2000) - Associate Professor

China, Japan, Modern Asia, Gender History

BA, MA, California State University, Long Beach; PhD, University of Southern California

Publications include: "The Bourgeois Housewife as Laborer in Late Qing and Early Republican Shanghai," in *Nan Nu: Men, Women, and Gender in Early and Imperial China* (2003); "From the Song to the PRC: An Introduction to Recent English-Language Scholarship on Gender in Chinese History," *Research on Women in Modern Chinese History* (1995).

**Oliver A. Rink** (1975) - Professor (FERP)

Colonial America, Revolutionary, Early National, Biohistory, European Colonialism

BA, MA, PhD, University of Southern California

Publications include: Coauthored, *The Empire State* (Cornell University Press, 2000); *Holland on Hudson: An Economic and Social History of Dutch New York* (Cornell University Press, 1986 and 1989).

**Alicia E. Rodriguez** (1998) - Associate Professor

American South, Race Relations, 19<sup>th</sup> Century United States

BA, California State University, Bakersfield; MA, PhD, University of California, Santa Barbara

Publications include: "Disfranchisement in Dallas: The Democratic Party and the Suppression of Independent Political Challenges in Dallas, Texas, 1891-1894," *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* (2004); "Andersonville Prison," "Cotton," "Old Capitol Prison," "Texas Rangers," in *Encyclopedia of the American Civil War* (ABC-CLIO, 2000); Diss.: "Urban Populism: Challenges to Democratic Party Control in Dallas, Texas, 1887-1900," University of California, Santa Barbara, 1998.

**Miriam Raub Vivian** (1990) - Professor

Ancient Mediterranean, Roman Empire; Early Christianity, Early Medieval Europe

BA, MA, PhD, University of California, Santa Barbara

Publications include: "Monastic Mobility and Roman Transformation: The Example of St. Daniel the Stylite," *Studia Patristica* (2005); "Daniel and the Demons: The Battle Against Evil as Central to the Authority of the Monk," *Studia Patristica* (2001); "Eusebius and Constantine's Letter to Shapur: Its Place in the *Vita Constantini*," *Studia Patristica* (1997); "Escaping Women: Paradox and Achievement in Late Roman Asceticism," in *Formation of Christianity by Conflict Through the Ages*, (Edwin Mellen Press, 1995).

**Lia Schraeder** (2008) - Lecturer

Latin America, Modern Mexico

BA, University of California, Santa Barbara; MA, PhD Candidate, University of California, Davis