

Graduate Studies Programs

Master of Arts in History

About the Program

This program emphasizes the study of history as a multi-faceted field that is ever changing, constantly developing new questions about the past, and exploring innovative approaches to answering those questions. Simmons has offered graduate study in history since 1992. Our students are preparing for careers in education, research, archives management, librarianship, curatorship, and various other forms of public history. Some alumni proceed to doctoral study in the discipline. All of these possible directions benefit from our emphasis on research, which trains students in identifying and interpreting sources and in the critical evaluation of history. Through an individualized course of study, each student can gain a broad understanding of the past across different eras and places, or deepen knowledge of a specialized historical topic. The program combines independent work with strong faculty mentorship. Faculty expertise includes American history from the colonial era through the twentieth century, modern Europe, East Asia, and the Middle East; global and comparative history, women and gender, maritime history, the Atlantic world, memory studies, and public history. Courses and internship opportunities take advantage of the vibrant array of historic sites and manuscript collections that surround our Boston campus. A dual MA/MS program in Archives and History, offered in conjunction with the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, offers additional coursework in archival studies as well as hands-on experience in the field.

Sequence of Courses

This program requires 36 semester hours, the equivalent of nine courses. All students should take one course in historical methodology and historiography; a series of electives; and a culminating research project or internship (fieldwork, thesis, teaching practicum, or public history internship). Students may enroll on either a full-time or part-time basis as long as they complete the program within five years. The program may be completed in three semesters (in some cases, within one academic year, including summer study).

Educational Promise

Simmons College is located in the heart of Boston, a world-class city renowned for unlimited educational, career, and social opportunities. The College of Arts and Sciences graduate programs provide opportunities to women and men pursuing master's and advanced degrees in education, liberal arts, and communications management. All programs provide a challenging educational experience in which every student develops an informed, critical, and committed voice, and learns to be a leader and collaborative member of the professional community.

“From the department chair to the adjunct professors, I was never in doubt that they cared deeply about my education and my engagement with course material, as well as my personal well-being. The balance of support, guidance, and intellectual challenge kept me engaged and often excited - I looked forward to classes and strove to push myself and to deepen my understanding of history.”

DANA MILLER '04LS, '07GS,
HISTORY AND ARCHIVES MANAGEMENT



SIMMONS
GRADUATE STUDIES ADMISSION

Coursework

Required Courses:

- HIST 597 Historical Methods and Research
or
HIST 460 Interpreting the Past: The Craft of History

Elective Courses - partial list* (24 or 28 credits)

- HIST 527 Archives, History, and Collective Memory
HIST 529 Film and Historical Representations
HIST 560 Seminar in the History of Women and Gender
HIST 561 Cross-Cultural Encounters
HIST 562 Reforms and Revolutions in Asia
HIST 564 Rape of Nanjing
HIST 565 9/11 Narratives
HIST 567 Memory and the Holocaust
HIST 568 Sites of History: Research Seminar in Public History
HIST 571 Seminar in Early America
HIST 573 Seminar in the Nineteenth-Century United States
HIST 574 Seminar in the Modern United States
HIST 575 Cold War Culture
HIST 577 Topics in Modern European History

Independent Study (4 or 8 credits)

- HIST 450 Independent Study
HIST 455 Thesis
HIST 570 Internship
HIST 580 Fieldwork

**This coursework is subject to change. Other electives are available on a semester-by-semester basis. A list of current electives for each semester is available from the program director.*

Contact Us

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