

MA Faculty Areas of Specialty for Independent Research Projects, Integrative Essays of Thesis

Department of History
Faculty Fields of Study/Specialization

Guide for Students choosing projects for Independent Studies, Integrative Essays or Thesis

ARDEN BUCHOLZ can supervise students working on military history, specifically in the 20th century, European and American contexts. He can also work with students more broadly on Nazi Germany and other 20th century German or European topics.

KATHERINE CLARK can work with students on projects in medieval European history, ca. 400-1500, with emphases in the following areas: gender, family and sexuality; religious history and theology, including Early Christianity, heresy, Christian-Jewish relations, hagiography, and mysticism; medieval historical writing and historiography. She can also work with students on integrative essays on Ancient History (Rome) or Renaissance Reformation period.

JOHN DALY can supervise students doing 19th century America, especially Antebellum and Civil War Era. He is most able to intellectual/cultural history, the South, religion (all eras of American religion), and race/slavery topics.

CARL DAVILA is able to direct Masters' theses in most areas of Arab or Islamic history, including early Islamic history; early Arabic historiography; gender in the Islamic world; Arab and/or Islamic arts, literature, sciences or philosophy; Islamic mysticism; Islamic law; Islamic Spain; or Morocco/North Africa. He is also familiar with various areas of modern cultural history of the Arabic-speaking world. He is competent as a primary or secondary reader for comprehensive essays in most aspects of the modern Islamic and/or Arabic-speaking world.

STEVE IRELAND can supervise students on the American Revolution, New York City history, political history of the Early Republic, early American women's history, and the history of Irish Women in nineteenth century America.

BRUCE LESLIE specializes in US history from the Civil War to WWII. For that period he can work with students on the history of education (including comparisons with Europe), immigration and ethnicity, the middle class, and American foreign relations. For students interested in public history or wanting experience in archival research, he will direct projects based on the holdings in the SUNY-Brockport College Archives.

ANNE MACPHERSON can supervise thesis projects on the Latin American/Caribbean region, US-Latin America relations, and the Black Atlantic, including topics related to gender. She can supervise independent studies and integrative essays more broadly on colonialism, nationalism, and colonial/post-colonial women's history.

SALAH MALIK specializes in South Asia (Indian and Pakistan) and the history of Islam. He can also work with students on Asian history topics more broadly and the history of British Imperialism.

MA Faculty Areas of Specialty for Independent Research Projects, Integrative Essays of Thesis

MORAG MARTIN can guide students in French history and Early Modern European history (16th-18th centuries), as well as broader integrative essays on consumerism, fashion, imperialism or drug history. Specifically she has expertise in the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic period, women's history and commercial history.

PAUL MOYER can guide students on projects related to early North American history (1500-1812), particularly European exploration/colonization, the American Revolution, Native American history, the American frontier, witchcraft/witch-hunting, and the history of popular protest and rebellion.

TAKASHI NISHIYAMA can work with students doing projects on East Asia (China, Korea, Taiwan, and above all Japan) since about 1800, history of technology in the world during the 20th century, US-Asia diplomatic history since 1800, and military history (especially air power history) of the US and Japan since about 1900. Possible themes in Asian history: gender, consumer culture, business, imperialism and empire building, war and peace.

KEN O'BRIEN is comfortable working with students on a range of 20th century US topics, especially those involving World War II homefront, US film (after 1929) and local history (upstate NY).

ALISON PARKER can work with students doing 19th and 20th century U.S (possibly Great Britain) on women's history, family history, labor history, political history, legal history. For instance, she has supervised graduate students working on the American Socialist Party, the Espionage Act of 1917, Ida B. Wells and Lynching, Anti-Suffrage Movement, the National Woman's Party, history of censorship, etc.

MEREDITH ROMAN can supervise students interested in Soviet and modern Russian history, American Black radicalism, Black Europe, Comparative Revolutions, and European Imperialism. For example, she has supervised students working on Soviet nationality policy, the experience of Blacks and Jews in Germany, African-American Communism, and the U.S. Black Power Movement.

JAMIE SPILLER can work with students doing projects on late 19th through late 20th century United States, with emphases on: cultural history (theory, mass/popular culture, group identity and experience, material culture, etc.); social history (group experience, social movements and activism, etc.); history of race, gender and/or ethnicity; environmental history; economic history (agricultural and/or industrial production, labor, retail and marketing, etc.); political history (elections, political movements, political ideology, etc.); and foreign policy.

JOE TORRE can work with students on projects related to Early National and antebellum America (1780 to 1850s). This includes topics based on economic history (banking especially, but also internal development overall -- canals, railroads, etc.), cultural history (including material culture, literature, art, architecture, and so on), Enlightenment history broadly (long eighteenth century cultural and intellectual history) and religion.

MA Faculty Areas of Specialty for Independent Research Projects, Integrative Essays of Thesis

WANDA WAKEFIELD would be happy to work with students writing a thesis on any topic concerning the history of sport, from an American or world perspective. More broadly for independent studies and integrative essays, she can work with students interested in studying most facets of 20th century American history, with a special interest in the Cold War.