DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

133 Albert W. Brown Building
(585) 395-2377

Chairperson and Associate Professor: Alison M. Parker, PhD, Johns Hopkins University; Distinguished Teaching Professors: Arden Bucholz, PhD, University of Chicago; Owen S. Ireland, PhD, University of Pittsburgh; Professors: W. Bruce Leslie, PhD, Johns Hopkins University; Salahuddin Malik, PhD, McGill University; Associate Professors: John P. Daly, PhD, Rice University; Anne S. Macpherson, PhD, University of Wisconsin; Morag Martin, PhD, University of California-Irvine; Paul B. Moyer, PhD, The College of William and Mary; Kenneth P. O’Brien, PhD, Northwestern University; James Spiller, PhD, University of Wisconsin; Wanda E. Wakefield, PhD, SUNY Buffalo; Assistant Professors: Katherine Clark, PhD, Indiana University; Carl Davila, PhD, Yale University; Takashi Nishiyama, PhD, The Ohio State University; Meredith Roman, PhD, Michigan State University; Jose Torre, PhD, SUNY Binghamton.

For more than a quarter century the Department of History has offered high quality and rigorous graduate training in history to a diverse student body, including secondary school teachers seeking certification or advanced training; those committed to museum, archival and records management careers; PhD aspirants; and mid-life career changers from a variety of professions. Their one common feature has been a love of history and a desire to study it intensively.

Admission to the Program

There are two ways to begin graduate study in history:

I. Students may sample a course or two on a non-matriculated basis. Students should consult with the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of History before registering to help ensure that the courses selected match the student’s needs and background.

II. Students may apply for admission to the MA in History as a matriculated degree candidate.

The Admissions Process:

Applications are available online at www.brockport.edu/graduate (see Graduate Admissions section of this catalog for details). For questions, please call the Office of Graduate Admissions at (585) 395-5465; e-mail gradadmit@brockport.edu; or write the Office of Graduate Admissions, The College at Brockport, 350 New Campus Drive, Brockport, NY 14420.

Students must submit the following credentials to the Office of Graduate Admissions as part of the application packet:

1. Official transcripts of all college work, both graduate and undergraduate. Students may transfer up to 12 graduate credits of course work from other institutions with the approval of the Graduate Committee.

2. Two letters of recommendation from college or university instructors or others qualified to evaluate the student’s likely success as a graduate student in history.

3. A letter of intent explaining why the student wishes to pursue an MA at The College at Brockport.

4. A sample of the student’s writing (usually a term paper or other research project).

Criteria for Admission:

In assessing these materials, the Graduate Committee in the Department of History will consider the following:

1. Intellectual ability: In general, at least a “B” average in previous college course work is expected.

2. Background in history: An undergraduate major in history is helpful, but not required. Students without a history major should have the equivalent of a minor field (15-18 credits) in history and/or other disciplines in the humanities or social sciences.
3. Writing, research and analytical skills.
4. A passion for the study of history and an ability to articulate how the MA program fits with the student’s personal and career plans.

Program Requirements and Options

General Requirements:
1. The MA in History is a 33-credit degree program.
2. Up to 12 credits of graduate course work with a grade of “B” or better may be transferred from other institutions with the approval of the Graduate Committee. Courses presented for transfer credit must have been taken within the past five years.
3. Students must have at least a “B” average in their graduate course work to be eligible for graduation. Those with GPAs below 3.0 will be placed on academic probation in keeping with the College’s graduate probation policy. Two semesters with GPAs below 3.0 may result in academic dismissal.
4. All courses must carry graduate credit (500 level or above). At least 18 credits of the courses must be at the 600 level or above, excluding HST 710. All students must take at least one research-intensive 500 level course.
5. Degree requirements must be completed within five years of the date of matriculation.

The MA Curriculum:

1. Required Introductory Course - HST 600: Introduction to Historical Studies. This course is designed to acquaint students, at the beginning of their MA work, with the recent major approaches to historical inquiry.
2. The Major Field (18 credits): Students will choose among three tracks to complete their major field. Each track involves several reading seminars, a research experience and electives.

   A. American History Track
      
      HST 614  Reading Seminar in Early America  3
      HST 615  Reading Seminar in Modern America  3
      4 electives in American History (one research intensive)  12

   B. World History Track
      
      HST 64X  Regional Seminar  3
      HST 64X  Regional Seminar  3
      4 electives in World History (one research intensive)  12

   C. World/American History Track
      
      HST 614/615  Reading Seminar  3
      HST 64X  Regional Seminar  3
      HST XXX  Elective in World/American  3
      3 electives in World History  9
      3 electives in American History  9

   NOTE: Regional Seminars on Europe, East Asia, Latin America and others rotate each semester. HST 614 is taught in the fall, HST 615 in the spring.

3) The Minor Field (9 credits): Both the American History track and the World History track require completion of a three course minor that can be constructed in a variety of ways. The most common choice is either world or American history. Other choices include, but are not limited to: public history, women/gender history, military history, Atlantic World, revolutions. Students may also take up to nine credits in graduate courses outside of history and apply them to an interdisciplinary minor field, such as English, education, women's
studies or study abroad. All students should take at least one course outside their major field area.

The World/American History track does not require completion of a minor field.

4) **Capstone Experience:** The capstone experience serves to integrate the MA program. Students may choose one of two options. Both require contracts, an oral examination and a minimum grade of “B” to pass and receive the MA:

A. **HST 700 Historical Integration** (3 credits): Entails an individualized project supervised by two faculty, culminating in an integrative essay answering a broad historiographical question based on previous readings, plus an extra list of readings agreed on by the committee.

B. **HST 701 Master’s Thesis** (3 credits): Involves a 6-credit original and focused primary research project that must be spread out over at least two semesters and that is supervised by two faculty. Students must have at least a 3.8 GPA or the written permission of two faculty members to register for the thesis. Students who earn an A or A- will have their theses bound and entered into the library. Students who select this thesis option do one less elective as part of their Major field.

**Other Program Possibilities**

1. **HST 691 Research in American History:** Allows students to develop skills in original scholarly research in American history and to explore the methods and resources appropriate for a selected area of investigation. Must be arranged in consultation with the instructor-sponsor prior to registration.

2. **HST 695 Research in World History:** Allows students to develop skills in original scholarly research in World history and to explore the methods and resources appropriate for a selected area of investigation. Must be arranged in consultation with a faculty member prior to registration.

3. **HST 699 Independent Study in History:** Allows student to do seminar readings from a course not being offered that semester or to investigate a new topic through secondary sources with a professor. Must be arranged in consultation a faculty member prior to registration.

4. **HST 710: College Teaching Practicum:** Provides an opportunity to assist a faculty member in teaching at the introductory undergraduate level. Requires reading in the literature on current teaching practice and course development, and it involves participation in every aspect of college-level teaching--lecturing, leading discussions, preparing and evaluating exams and papers, tutoring students out of class, and more. Must be arranged in consultation with a faculty member prior to registration.

5. **HST 503: Internships:** Utilizes the department’s relationships with a number of area institutions, particularly museums. Involves the department sponsoring appropriate internships and awarding credit when the needs of the institution intersect with a student’s interests and program. Must be arranged in consultation with the sponsor institution prior to registration.

6. **Overseas Study:** Allows graduate students the opportunity to pursue a portion of their program in foreign universities. The program is pleased to accept applicable work as transfer credit.

**FINANCIAL AID**

The department offers a limited number of assistantships and fellowships. Please contact the Program Director for details.

Students who would like a copy of the *Master of Arts in History Program Handbook* and other information about the program should write or call:
History Courses

HST 501 American History: Topics (A). Provides an overview of selected topics in American history for teachers and nonspecialists interested in acquiring, updating or refreshing basic understanding. Topics vary yearly. May be repeated for credit. 3 Cr.

HST 503 Graduate Internship (A). Entails field experience in an archive, museum, historical society or other institution that can provide a professionally valuable period of training closely related to the student’s academic program. Arranged through the Graduate Committee. 1-3 Cr.

HST 504 Topics in World History (A). Considers the development of world history during the 20th century and introduces the study of several of its separate civilizations, such as India, China, Islam, Europe, Africa and America and topics such as gender, ecology, demography and war. 3 Cr.

HST 507 American Environmental History (A). Examines the changing relationship between people and the natural environment over the course of American history. Focuses on how agriculture, resource extraction, nature conservation, industrial production, and urbanization and suburbanization created opportunities for, and limitations on, American economic and social activity. 3 Cr.

HST 508 Landmark US Supreme Court Decisions (A). Familiarizes participants with central questions brought before the US Supreme Court, and has them analyze how politics played a role in determining the outcome and enforcement of various cases 1800 to the present. 3 Cr.

HST 511 History of New York State (A). Explores New York State history from the hegemony of the Iroquois to today, including New York as a micro-cosmos of national experience, cultural pluralism, economic development and politics. 3 Cr.

HST 515 Natives and Newcomers (A). Explores the context and consequences of Indian-European contact in North America (c. 1500-1840). Topics include the nature of pre-contact Native societies; the encounter of Indian and European cosmologies, economies and methods of warfare; and the relationship between Indian-European contact and developing constructs of race, gender and identity. 3 Cr.

HST 516 Colonial North America (A). Examines the history of North America from the advent of European expansion to the collapse of Europe’s North American empires (c. 1400-1800). Focuses on cultural encounters and exchange between Indian, European and African peoples; European methods of colonization; the struggle for imperial domination in North America; and the evolution of colonial societies with particular emphasis on Britain’s North American colonies. 3 Cr.

HST 517 The American Revolution (A). Covers the socio-political dimensions of American history from the beginning of the Revolution through the creation of the new nation, the Constitution, the emergence of national-level politics. 3 Cr.

HST 518 The Early Republic (A). Examines in-depth the young American nation from 1800 to 1848, the ages of Jefferson and Jackson. Focuses on the market revolution and the transforming social and political changes that followed in its wake and prepared the way for Civil War. 3 Cr.

HST 519 Civil War and Reconstruction (A). Provides an intensive study of the Civil War era (1848-1877). Surveys the breakdown of the American institutions that led to the Civil War, followed by an examination of the war itself and its controversial aftermath in the Reconstruction era. 3 Cr.

HST 520 America from its Centennial to Pearl Harbor (A). Examines the period of dramatic change unleashed by America’s precipitous transformation from a rural, agrarian, Protestant society into an urban-industrial giant reshaped by immigration. Explores the impact of these forces on the American economy, family life, religion, politics, education and international role. Culminates with the Great Depression leading into the New Deal and WWII. 3 Cr.

HST 521 America Since 1929 (A). Uses the Depression as a watershed and then examines American society to the present. Features political change from Roosevelt to Reagan, foreign policy from Pearl Harbor to the present, and the evolution of popular culture since the 1920s. Also gives attention to economic and social developments. 3 Cr. Spring.
HST 522 History of American Education (A).
**Prerequisite:** HST211 or HST212. Expecting education to cure social problems and shape cultural identities while promoting individual mobility and social cohesiveness, Americans have long placed education at the center of national life. Examines the evolution of American schools and educational beliefs within the context of social, cultural, political and economic change, and places American education into an international perspective. 3 Cr.

HST 524 The United States and the World (A). Bursting onto the international scene in the late 19th Century, the United States became the most influential society in history in the course of the next century. In turn, America’s growing international role placed new pressures on its institutions and beliefs. Examines the dramatic trajectory through America’s cultural, diplomatic, economic, educational and political relations with other societies as well as the implications for American society. 3 Cr.

HST 526 American Cultural History 1865- Present (A). Examines the emergence of modern American culture between the late 19th and early 21st centuries. Focuses on how nationalism and war, race and gender, industrial production and consumption, science and technology, and mass education and entertainment affected the way Americans identified themselves and made sense of their world. 3 Cr.

HST 534 Modern Caribbean History: Puerto Rico/Cuba Since 1898 (A). As an advanced course, covers the French, Spanish and British Caribbean since the Haitian Revolution of the 1790s. Investigates how slavery and abolition, colonialism and nationalism, social and cultural movements, racism and dependency have forged this fascinating and paradoxical region. Considers questions of identity, especially for Afro-Caribbean women and men, in comparative framework. 3 Cr.

HST 537 Studies in Social Science: London (A). Sponsored by Brunel University and The College at Brockport, enables students to live and to study for one semester in London. Examines the relationships between British and American society and history by means of lectures, discussions and field trips. 1-15 Cr. Every Semester.

HST 538 Women and Gender in Latin American History (A). Cross-listed as WMS 538. Examines at an advanced level the diversity of Latin-American and Caribbean women’s experiences from Iberian conquest to the 20th century. Analyzes the gender dynamics of colonial, national, dictatorial and revolutionary states, economies and cultures, as well as the importance of women’s movements and feminism. Discusses Latina history in the US and Latin-American and Caribbean masculinity in historical perspective. 3 Cr.

HST 540 Study in Mexico (A). Provides students with immersion in Mexican life and culture in Cuernavaca. Permits students to earn credits through the study of Spanish in small groups and through study of Mexican history, politics and culture. Enhances academic study with the experience of living with Mexican families. 1-15 Cr. Spring.

HST 541 World War I (A). Covers military aspects of the Great War (1914-18), including the causes of the war, the German offensive, the Western and Eastern Fronts, sea battles, technology and warfare, the entry of the United States, the disintegration of Czarist Russia, and the movements for peace. 3 Cr.

HST 542 War & Terrorism (A). Seminar discussing the meanings of and reasons for war and terror, and the linkages between them. 3 Cr.

HST 544 Medieval Women (A). Cross-listed as WMS 544. Studies European Middle Ages, ca. 500-1500, particularly as women experienced them. Examines the perceptions medieval society fostered about gender; analyzes factors such as social class, work and professional status, legal structures and sexuality; and compares/contrasts their effect on women's and men's lives. 3 Cr.

HST 545 The High Middle Ages (A). A study of the European experience from the First Crusade to the Black Plague, the general crises of the mid-14th century and the new institutions of a rapidly expanding European culture. 3 Cr.

HST 547 Revolutions and Revolutionaries in the Modern World (A). Investigates the critical role revolutions and revolutionaries have played in shaping the modern world from the late 18th through the 20th century. Using a comparative framework, interrogates definitions and theories of revolution, explores who historically is attracted to revolutions, examines the historical processes that have converged to realize revolutions, and questions the types of societies, cultures and leaders revolutions have produced. 3 Cr.

HST 548 The French Revolution (A). Considers the revolution’s origins in the Old Regime and the Enlightenment before examining its political and cultural development as well as its immediate aftermath in the Napoleonic era and its influence on Europe in the 19th century. 3 Cr.

HST 552 Religion in American Civilization (A). Historical analysis of the role of religious ideas and movements as they have influenced and shaped the American experience and in turn been influenced by unique features of American life. 3 Cr.

HST 553 Study Tour of Islamic Spain and Morocco (A). Open to undergraduate and graduate
students in any discipline, this study-tour introduces students to the rich cultural and historical legacy of the Islamic era in Spain, through visiting sites in Islamic Spain and Morocco, along with readings, lectures, cultural events and discussion. Tour includes visits to Cordoba, Seville, Granada and Toledo, as well as Tetuan, Fez and Tangier in Morocco. 3 Cr. Summer.

HST 560 Modern Africa (A). Surveys major patterns of pre-colonial Africa; examines the colonial experience and African struggles for independence; and explores the problem of “development” in post-colonial African states. 3 Cr.

HST 562 Business, Technology and Culture in Modern Japan (A). Explores how and why Japan, a late-comer to modernization at the turn of the 20th century, emerged as an industrial power and the world’s second-richest nation after 1945. Focuses on the historical development of science, technology and business in Japan, giving particular attention to the interplays between technology transfer, ideology, and culture. 3 Cr.

HST 567 Modern South Asia (A). Surveys the background of South Asian nations under European colonialism and the movement to independence. Also examines the post-independence problems of the area and the contemporary impact of these nations on the world. 3 Cr.

HST 570 Consumerism in Europe and the World, 1600-Present (A). Introduces students to the theory and history of consumerism in Europe, America and globally. Requires that students read novels, monographs and articles pertaining to the history of shopping, advertising, fashion, globalization, cultural dissemination and effects on workers. 3 Cr.

HST 571 Al-Andalus: History and Legacy (A). This reading-intensive course introduces the political and cultural history of al-Andalus through studying some of the major secondary works on this remarkable era, as well as by exploring the rich heritage of literature and material culture that has survived and continues to influence both the Arab-Islamic and European civilizations in many ways. 3 Cr.

HST 572 Jihad (A). Designed to familiarize students with the roots of the concept of Jihad in the Qur’an, Traditions and Islamic Law, as well as historical examples that illustrate the various cultural-political meanings attaching to this complex and difficult subject. 3 Cr.

HST 587 Asian Survey (A). Surveys Asian cultures through films, slides, lectures, and textbooks. Using a chronological and regional approach, focuses on the unity and diversity of the peoples and cultures of China, South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Middle East. 3 Cr.

HST 599 Independent Study in History (A). Arranged in consultation with the instructor sponsor prior to registration. 1-3 Cr. Every Semester.

HST 600 Introduction to Historical Study (A). Explores the nature of historical knowledge and the means whereby that knowledge is achieved. Stresses the development and execution of a simple research design. Introduces students to modern historical scholarship. Should be taken early in a student’s MA program. 3 Cr. Fall.

HST 601 Topics in American History (A). Provides a thematic approach to American history with specific topics changing each semester. May be repeated for credit. 3 Cr.

HST 602 Topics in World History (A). Provides a thematic approach to world history with specific topics changing each semester. May be repeated for credit. 3 Cr.

HST 611 The Enlightenment in America (A). Considers the Enlightenment experience in America from the 1690s to the 1820s. Defines and contextualizes the Enlightenment as understood by Anglo-Americans on both sides of the Atlantic. Explores the nature and impact of the Enlightenment on America in science, political and economic theory, religion, literature, art and material culture. Engages current critiques of the Enlightenment and debates the consequences of this unprecedented period of intellectual and creative curiosity. 3 Cr.

HST 614 Reading Seminar in Early America (A). A broad reading course in early American history that examines writings from the colonial beginnings through Reconstruction. Acquaints students with the principal literature and major recent interpretations of the field. Requires students to read, interpret and synthesize a variety of readings in social, political, economic and intellectual history. 3 Cr.

HST 615 Reading Seminar in Modern America (A). Examines writings concerned with American history since Reconstruction. Students learn to analyze historical scholarship through readings and seminar discussions. Requires a concluding essay to help students develop a synthetic overview. 3 Cr.

HST 642 Regional Seminar: Early Modern Europe (A). Examines the writings concerned with European history before 1789. Investigates historiography of the Renaissance, Reformation, Absolutist States, Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment. Focuses especially on popular culture, state making, gender and the interaction of Europe with the world economy. 3 Cr.

HST 643 Regional Seminar: Modern Europe (A). Introduces students to the study of modern Europe within the framework of world history, fo-
cusing on trans-regional connections or encounters and on large-scale comparative analysis. 3 Cr.

HST 644 Regional Seminar: Latin America (A). Examines key themes in Latin American history with a focus on the post-1800 period. May include topics such as economic dependency, race and gender relations, state-building and popular movements. Places the region in a comparative and transatlantic context. 3 Cr.

HST 645 Seminar: East Asia (A). Examines the history of the Sinocentric world, Southeast Asia and Central Asia (Tibet, Xinjiang and contiguous Turkic-Muslim areas). Entails two segments: a) selected readings on a discrete, specific historical issue or development, and b) a critique and overview of significant English language works in Asian history. 3 Cr.

HST 646 Regional Seminar: Africa (A). Examines a series of themes or topics that cast Africa’s historical experience in a larger world historical and comparative framework. Includes topics such as state-building, Islam in Africa, slavery and slave trades, the colonial experience, race relations and nationalism. 3 Cr.

HST 648 Regional Seminar: Medieval Europe (A). Examines key themes of medieval European history in seminar format. 3 Cr.

HST 649 The Middle East and North Africa (A). Examines major themes in the study of the Islamic Middle East and North Africa, such as the foundations of Islamic religious, political and cultural discourses; the early-modern empires; the role of colonialism and modernity in shaping the contemporary Middle East, and the trajectory of Islamic revivalism. 3 Cr.

HST 691 Research in American History (A). An individualized research experience. Allows students to develop skills in original scholarly research in American history and to explore the methods and resources appropriate for a selected area of investigation. Themes vary with the student and instructor. 3 Cr. Every Semester.

HST 695 Research in World History (A). An individualized research experience. Allows students to develop skills in original scholarly research in World history and to explore the methods and resources appropriate for a selected area of investigation. Themes vary with the student and instructor. 3 Cr. Every Semester.

HST 699 Independent Study in History (A). Arranged in consultation with the instructor-sponsor prior to registration. 3 Cr. Every Semester.

HST 700 Historical Integration (A). Entails an individualized project supervised by two faculty, culminating in an integrative essay answering a broad historiographical question based on previous readings plus an extra list of readings agreed on by the committee. 3 Cr. Every Semester.

HST 701 Masters Thesis (A). A six-credit thesis. Original and focused primary research project that must be spread out over at least two semesters and supervised by two faculty. Students must have a 3.8 GPA or the written permission of two faculty to register. Students who earn an A or A- will have their theses bound in the library. 1-6 Cr. Every Semester.

HST 710 College Teaching Practicum (B). Provides the mature graduate student in his or her second or third semester with extensive reading in the literature on current teaching practices, audio-visual material utilization, curriculum design, and experience in all aspects of collegiate level teaching at the introductory level: lecturing; small-group discussion; and the preparation, administration and evaluation of written assignments and exams. Culminates with a report containing a pedagogical essay by the student, a description of the teaching experience, and the instructor’s evaluation of both the pedagogical essay and the teaching experience. 3 Cr. Every Semester.