

George Mason University | College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Concentrations in the B.A. Degree in History
historyarthistory.gmu.edu

Students may complete a B.A. in History without a concentration or with one the following:

CONCENTRATION IN DIGITAL HISTORY

In this concentration, students explore and develop skills in using digital methods for the research, analysis, and presentation of history. Students interested in graduate education or careers in the digital humanities and new media or in working with digital methods in museums, archives, and other public history institutions should consider this concentration.

A. Methods and research

1. HIST 300: Introduction to Historical Method (3)
2. HIST 499: RS: Senior Seminar in History (3)

B. Breadth

1. Select two courses in U.S. History (6)
2. Select two courses in European History (6)
3. Select two courses in Global History (6)

C. Concentration

1. HIST 390: The Digital Past (3)
2. Two courses in HIST 395: Topics in Digital History (take two different topics) (6)
3. Select one elective digital course (3) chosen from the following:
 - HIST 395: Topics in Digital History (repeatable for credit when topic is different)
 - ENGH 375: Web Authoring and Design (Mason Core Literature is a pre-req)
 - ENGH 376: Rhetoric and New Media (Mason Core Literature is a pre-req)
 - other courses, including HIST 399: Internship, approved by the program director

CONCENTRATION IN PUBLIC HISTORY

In this concentration, students explore a variety of issues related to preserving historical materials and presenting historical information to a broader public. Students interested in graduate education in public history or in working in public history institutions such as museums, libraries, archives, and historic sites should consider this concentration.

A. Methods and research

1. HIST 300: Introduction to Historical Method (3)
2. HIST 499: RS: Senior Seminar in History (3)

B. Breadth

1. Select two courses in U.S. History (6)
2. Select two courses in European History (6)
3. Select two courses in Global History (6)

C. Concentration

1. HIST 396: Introduction to Public History (3)
2. HIST 390: The Digital Past (3)
3. HIST 399: Internship¹ (3)
4. Select one elective (3) from the following:
 - HIST 397: Topics in Public History
 - HIST 380: Uncovering the U.S. Past through Film
 - ARTH 394: The Museum
 - ENGH 370: Introduction to Documentary (Lit pre-req; counts for Mason Core Arts)
 - other coursework, not including additional internships, approved by the program director

¹ Students work individually with the department's internship coordinator to find appropriate internships. HIST 399 may be repeated up to a maximum of 9 credits, and students in the public history concentration are encouraged to take more than 3 credits of internships, with additional credits beyond the first 3 counting as general electives.

CONCENTRATION IN GLOBAL HISTORY

In this concentration, students explore the interconnected histories of major world regions beyond the United States and Europe. Students interested in graduate education in global history or careers in government or business or with non-governmental organizations or other employers operating in the international arena should consider this concentration. Students in the global history concentration are especially encouraged to study abroad as part of their undergraduate program.

A. Methods and research

1. HIST 300: Introduction to Historical Method (3)
2. HIST 499: RS: Senior Seminar in History (3)

B. Core, breadth and depth

1. HIST 394: Globalization and History (3)
2. Select 5 breadth and depth courses (15) from the following areas, with 3 from one of the areas other than World History:

Asian History
African History
Latin American History
Middle Eastern & North African History
Russian & Central Asian History
World History

C. Optional foreign language skills development course in history²

1. HIST 386: Topics in History (0-1)

D. History electives

1. Select four electives (11-12) in History³

CONCENTRATION IN U.S. HISTORY

In this concentration, students focus in-depth on the history of the United States while developing research and writing skills and completing at least one course in applied history. Students interested in law, government, and other career paths or in graduate education in U.S. history should consider this concentration.

A. Methods and research

1. HIST 300: Introduction to Historical Method (3)
2. HIST 499: RS: Senior Seminar in History (3)

B. Breadth

1. Select two courses in European History (6)
2. Select two courses in Global History (6)

C. Applied history

1. Select one course (3) from the following:
HIST 390: The Digital Past (3) (Fulfills Mason Core IT)
HIST 395: Topics in Digital History
HIST 396: Introduction to Public History
HIST 397: Topics in Public History
HIST 399: Internship, approved by the program director

D. Concentration

1. Select five courses (15) in U.S. history, with at least two from each time period:
Origins to 1877
1877-Present

² Working individually with their instructor for an upper-level HIST course, students may pursue historical reading or other work to develop skills in an appropriate foreign language in which they have already met the CHSS requirement for intermediate-level proficiency.

³ In addition to HIST courses, students may apply HNRS 240: Reading the Past (Topic Varies) and/or one 300-level ARTH course not counted for the breadth and depth requirement. In total, no more than 3 credits of ARTH may be applied to the History BA. Students are encouraged to choose an ARTH course that also counts for the Mason Core.