

UAB THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM®

HISTORY GRADUATE PROGRAM

THE MASTER OF
ARTS IN HISTORY

Department Chair

Dr. Walter Ward
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Program Director

Dr. John Van Sant
jvansant@uab.edu

W E L C O M E

Welcome to the History Department's Graduate Program at UAB! We are very pleased to have you join the ranks of researchers, writers, and teachers who have passed through our program. Our department has a diverse range of research areas, with some of our faculty studying the history of revolutions, governments, film, medieval Europe, health & healing, and international relations. As you deepen your own study of history, our dedicated and highly qualified staff will be by your side, helping you investigate not only the rich histories of your choice, but also demonstrating the craft of history and historical narrative. Inside our student handbook is the roadmap to a very successful career as a graduate student in our program. .

If you have any questions related to program requirements, deadlines, or options for completing a graduate degree, your answers are here! Beyond the handbook, however, each of your professors as well as other students in the program will be here to assist you as you travel this road. The History Department considers itself to be a community of scholars, so please don't hesitate to participate in activities with any of our affiliated campus organizations, such as the honor society, Phi Alpha Theta. This honors society offers membership, but also hosts a series of history-themed events which new grad students will find invaluable ways to meet other students in our program.

We also hope that your time in our department will expose you to the wonderful Birmingham community and that you take a moment to explore the rich culture, cuisine, and history of the Magic City. Congratulations on taking your first steps into a deeper world! We look forward to seeing what you discover.



O V E R V I E W

The History Graduate Program has two plans for pursuing advanced historical studies.

Both plans have the goal of enhancing approaches to knowledge that are suitable for those interested in pursuing a doctoral program in history and/or a career in teaching or public history (i.e. museum or archives) as well as those who are simply hoping to enhance their knowledge and skills.

All students must demonstrate competency in both U.S. and non-U.S. fields of history (European, Asian, Latin American, World, etc.). They must take a minimum of three graduate seminars (9 hours) in U.S. history as well as a minimum of three graduate seminars (9 hours) in non-U.S. fields.

All graduate students must maintain a 3.0 GPA in their course work. Full-time students normally should expect to devote no more than two academic years to completion of the Master of Arts degree. Students are urged not to prolong this process beyond three academic years.

A student must complete at least 36 hours of graduate course work in order to graduate with a Master of Arts in History. Students may take no more than two directed readings and/or internships as part of these 36 hours. All graduate courses in history are numbered in the 600s.

Directed readings are offered strictly at the discretion of the department. A student may not register for a directed reading without prior approval from the graduate program director and the faculty member they plan to work with. Directed readings may be taken either in conjunction with an undergraduate course or as an independent study.



CURRICULA

PLAN I

HY 601: Historiography*	3 Hours
HY 602: Research and Writing*	3 Hours
3 Seminars in United States History	9 Hours
3 Seminars in Non-United States History	9 Hours
2 Additional Seminars in Any Field	6 Hours
Thesis Research	6 Hours
Total:	36 Hours

In addition to the 30 hours of course work, a student writes a master's thesis based on primary research. Six credit hours are applied to the thesis research in order to meet the required 36 credit hours to graduate with a Master of Arts in History.

PLAN II

HY 601: Historiography*	3 Hours
HY 602: Research and Writing*	3 Hours
3 Seminars in United States History	9 Hours
3 Seminars in Non-United States History	9 Hours
4 Seminars: Elective Fields	12 Hours
Total:	36 Hours

The student completes 36 hours of course work in a variety of historical fields and must pass comprehensive examinations covering work completed with three different professors.

- Each plan also requires at least 9 hours of U.S. history and 9 hours of non-U.S. history.
- Each plan requires HY 601 and HY 602. Students should take these seminars during the first two semesters in the UAB History Department graduate program.
- Independent Study Courses, HY 681 - Directed Readings and HY 682 – Internship in Public History, are limited to a total of six credit hours, i.e. six for HY 681 OR HY 682, or three each of HY 681 or HY 682.
- All courses are three credit hours unless specifically stated.

- Please note that the asterisked (*) courses are offered only once each year. Check listings in this department to plan schedules.
- Students may take graduate electives in other departments but only with the prior approval of the director of graduate studies.
- For more information on course descriptions, please see <http://catalog.uab.edu/graduate/collegeofartsandsciences/history/>.

INTERNSHIPS



Employers look for experience when reading the resume of a potential employee. A recent college grad with one or two internships will be more attractive than one without that work experience. Employers know that internships give students hands-on experience with workplace skills, challenges, and environments—experiences that make those students valuable employees.

Internships give you the chance to try out a profession and collect references and professional contacts. Internships (HY 682) can be applied toward degree credits in either "**Seminar in United States History**" or "**Seminar in Any Field.**"

Displayed on this page is a sample of internships that are offered. For more internship opportunities, please contact the graduate program director.



PHI ALPHA THETA

Faculty Advisor: Amy Watson

email: watsonae@uab.edu



Phi Alpha Theta (ΦΑΘ) is an American honor society for undergraduate and graduate students and professors of history. The society has over 350,000 members, with about 9,500 new members joining each year through 860 local chapters.

Chi Omicron is the UAB chapter of the honor society. Our mission is to promote the study of history through the encouragement of research, good teaching, publication, and the exchange of learning and ideas among historians. We seek to bring students, teachers, and writers of history together for intellectual and social exchanges, which promote and assist historical research and publication by members.

We sponsor talks and other events and annually publish the Vulcan Historical Review. Admission to Phi Alpha Theta requires a minimum 3.1 GPA in 12 or more units of history and a minimum 3.0 GPA overall for undergraduate students; a minimum 3.5 GPA is required for graduate students who have completed 12 or more graduate units. Initiations are held in December and May; there is a \$60 initiation fee for a lifetime membership.

VULCAN HISTORICAL REVIEW

The Vulcan Historical Review is published annually by the Chi Omicron Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. The journal is completely student-written and student-edited by undergraduate and graduate students at UAB. A launch party for each new issue is held in August.

All history students at UAB, including recent alumni, are encouraged to submit articles, reviews, essays, oral histories, or other works of historical interest to be considered for publication. Submissions by any currently enrolled UAB student are also welcome. Please email us (abaer@uab.edu) or send inquires to:

Phi Alpha Theta Advisor
UAB Department of History
HHB 360
1401 University Boulevard
Birmingham, AL 35294-1152



SCHOLARSHIPS

For more information contact the Graduate Program Director.

\$1,000

**David Hart White
Prize in History**

\$1,000

**Joseph Dudley and
Helen H. Sutter
Scholarship in
Southern History**

\$1,000

**Dr. Glenn A. Feldman
Memorial Graduate
Student Scholarship**

\$15,000

**First-Year
Master's Student
Scholarship**

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT (GTA)



The program offers three graduate assistantships per year on a competitive basis. The assistantships require a maximum of twenty hours of work per week in return for an annual stipend (\$20,400 per year). Please contact the History Department for further information regarding an assistantship.

Graduate Teaching Assistants should make sure that the department staff has a copy of their class schedule at the beginning of each semester at which time the work schedule will be established.

This appointment as a Graduate Assistant is available only to students with an excellent academic record; selections will be based on GPA. You must remain in good standing and make satisfactory progress toward meeting your degree requirements to continue as a Graduate Assistant. Appointments normally end on the day before the start of the next fall semester.

This appointment is intended to help you to be a full-time student, immersed in your graduate program. Accordingly, you may not engage in any other remunerated activities either on or off campus. Exceptions to this rule are rare and require prior approval in writing by the Graduate School Dean.

Ordinarily Graduate Teaching Assistants will work 20 hours a week in the department and may be assigned each semester to one or two faculty members for whom they will provide teaching assistance. To prevent any misunderstandings, a few points need to be kept in mind:





A Graduate Teaching Assistantship is a job; this means performing the duties of the job is a requirement and the only excuses acceptable for failing to do so are illness or other problems of a serious nature. Academic requirements must be balanced with the job. The fact that an assistant has a paper to write or a book to read for class is not grounds for failure to complete assistantship duties.

While assistants are expected to perform duties in a timely fashion, faculty members should be courteous in their requests. Instructions should be clear, and the time allowed for completion should be reasonable. Remember that all duties (office and teaching assistant duties) should not take more than 20 hours a week. However, with permission, the GTA may work additional hours one week and fewer hours the next if this does not detrimentally affect the assistant, the faculty members, or the department.

Graduate Teaching Assistants should check the GTA mailbox daily for assignments.

Graduate Teaching Assistants will also be required to proctor exams or show films to classes when needed. Faculty members should let the department staff know of their need for such assistance as soon as possible so that scheduling can be worked out.



Graduate Teaching Assistants may be called on for a variety of duties: classroom assistance which includes: grading, posting material to Canvas and technological support, photocopying, and other clerical work. GTAs might be asked to make public presentations about the Department of History. They are, however not to be treated or considered personal assistants. The GTA may also refuse requests to perform duties which are not directly related to the department or the faculty members professional endeavors.

ACADEMIC ADVISING



The academic advising process is designed to help you stay on track throughout your time as an MA student and to help you graduate on time. During your first semester, the Graduate Program Director, Dr. John Van Sant, will reach out to you to help you plan your future coursework. Going forward, it is very important that you meet with Dr. Van Sant once per semester. He assists you with program logistics, such as:

1. Understanding academic policies and procedures.
2. Understanding degree requirements, course selection, and schedule planning.
3. Provide information about potential areas of study.
4. Guiding you to a professor whose field of study is best aligned with your academic interests.
 - a. At the beginning of your second year, this professor will then become your advisor and will assist you in choosing additional members of a.) your MA thesis committee (Plan I) or b.) your comprehensive exam committee (Plan II).
 - b. Even though you will be working closely with your advisor and committee members, Dr. Van Sant will still assist you with questions about the program, coursework, and graduation requirements.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A HISTORY GRADUATE STUDENT

Students should also be familiar with the Policies & Procedures section of the Graduate School website.

1. The Graduate School will only accept the forms that are on the Graduate School website at <http://www.uab.edu/graduate/online-forms>
2. The deadlines for paperwork for each term are also posted on the Graduate School website.
3. Plan I students who have completed 15 hours of course work should choose their advisor, who will chair their graduate study committee. Plan I students should choose a committee of three faculty members with expertise in their subject field. After consulting with each committee member and obtaining their consent, the Plan I student should complete the attached Graduate Study Committee Form and forward it to the Graduate Program Director for review. The Graduate Study Committee Letter will be completed by the Graduate Program Director and submitted to the Graduate School.

Plan II students who have completed 15 hours of course work should select an advisor and prepare the attached History Plan of Study.

4. Plan I students must complete the Application for Candidacy form prior to the semester in which they plan to graduate. This form is available on the Graduate School website
<https://uab.edu/graduate/students/current-students/theses-dissertations/application-for-admission-to-candidacy>
5. Please submit a copy of the form to the Graduate Program Director or Department Chair's office.
6. No later than the end of the third week of the semester in which they plan to graduate, Plan I and Plan II students must complete the Application for Degree. This form can be accessed online through *BlazerNET* by clicking on *Links/Forms* and selecting *Apply for Graduate Degree/Certificate*.
7. Please submit a copy of the form to the Graduate Program Director or Department Chair's office no later than the end of the third week of the semester in which the student plans to graduate:

Plan I students must coordinate with their committee members and agree on a time and date for the Master of Arts in History thesis presentation and defense. The student must submit an updated Graduate Study Committee to the Graduate Program Director or the Department Chair's office advising the date and time of the presentation and defense. In addition, the Online Request for Thesis or Dissertation Approval must be submitted to the Graduate School.

This request is available on the Graduate School website:

<https://www.uab.edu/graduate/students/current-students/theses-dissertations/your-thesis-and-dissertation#:~:text=Submit%20your%20Thesis%2FDissertation%20Approval,your%20request%20has%20been%20processed>

In addition, a UAB Publication Agreement must be submitted. This agreement is located: <https://uab.edu/graduate/students/current-students/theses-dissertations/resourceditingpublishing>

Plan II students must select an examination committee and coordinate with their committee members a time and date for the Masters of Arts in History comprehensive survey examination. The student must submit the attached MA Examination information Form to the Graduate Program Director or the Department Chair's office advising the date and time of the MA examination.

Please note that both Plan I and Plan II examinations must be taken at least one week prior to the Graduate School deadline for that semester. The Graduate School deadline will be approximately 30 days before the expected date of graduation.

CONTINUED: YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A HISTORY GRADUATE STUDENT

8. To reiterate, before graduating:

- Plan I students must be certain that they have completed the following:
 - Graduate Study Committee Letter
 - Application for Degree
 - Application for Candidacy
 - Request for Theses or Dissertation Approval
 - UAB Publication Agreement Form
 - Graduate Study Committee, which will provide the required written notice of their committee and the time and date of the Master of Arts in History thesis defense.
- Plan II students must be certain that they have completed the following:
 - History Plan of Study
 - Application for Degree
 - Application for Candidacy
 - MA Examination Information Form which will provide the required written notice of their committee and the time and date of the Master of Arts examination.

If your paperwork is not completed and submitted by the Graduate School deadlines, you will not graduate. Neither the Director of the History Graduate Program nor the History staff or faculty can take responsibility for incomplete or missing paperwork. The Graduate School will not accept any forms other than those on the website.

9. No excuse will be made or accepted for students who fail to remember and adhere to the following:

- a.** Graduate students can only earn credits for courses which are numbered 600 and above.
- b.** Students should make sure they have the latest version of the Program Guidelines. These include the curriculum requirements and are available in the Department of History. Plan I students must comply with the regulations in the UAB Format Manual for Theses and Dissertations. The Graduate School will e-mail you a link to this site after the thesis is approved. Please see the Graduate School website for all theses requirements and deadlines.
- c.** To remain in good standing in the Graduate School, a student must maintain a 3.0 GPA. If the GPA drops below 3.0, the student will be placed on academic probation. Students will have two academic terms to raise their GPA to 3.0 or be expelled from the program.
- d.** Any grade of "I" (incomplete) will automatically be changed to an "F" if the course work is not completed by the end of the next term. Students are responsible for completing the work and verifying that the professor makes the grade change. Be aware that the end of the term means the last day of classes.
- e.** If a student in the program fails to enroll for course work for a full academic year, he or she will have to apply for readmission. This involves completing a new application form and paying the required fee. Please see the Graduate School website.
- f.** Course work completed over five years in the past cannot count toward the degree unless the Director of the History Graduate Program validates it. Students should attempt completion of their graduate work for the Master of Arts within three years, if possible.
- g.** Transfer of credit hours for courses completed at another institution cannot be made until a student has completed at least six hours of course work at UAB. Applications for transfer of credit are located on the Graduate School website. Only 12 credit hours of transferred courses can be applied to the Master of Arts.
- h.** Courses taken at UAB as a non-degree student can only be counted toward the Master of Arts degree with the approval of the Director of the History Graduate Program. Only 12 credit hours of non-degree work can be applied to the Mater of Arts. Please see the Graduate School website.
- i.** Only two directed reading courses may be counted toward the total graduate hours required for graduation. Internships in public history will be the equivalent of Directed Reading courses for this requirement.

GRADUATE FACULTY BY FIELD

Andrew S. Baer, Ph.D.
abaer@uab.edu

Dr. Baer's concentration is U.S. History after WWII, African American History, and the history of race, policing, and social movements. His first book, *Beyond the Usual Beating: The Jon Burge Police Torture Scandal and Social Movements for Police Accountability in Chicago*, was published in 2020. He is currently working on a second book tentatively titled *Sing a Black Girl's Song: The Movement to Make 13 Murders Matter in 1979 Boston*.

Michele Forman, MFA
mforman@uab.edu

Ms. Forman directs the UAB Media Studies Program and is a documentary filmmaker who teaches applied documentary filmmaking and oral history courses, as well as film history and theory. Her most recent feature-length documentary *Alabama Bound* (PBS ReelSouth, original broadcast 2018) explores LGBTQ family rights in the South prior to the U.S. Supreme Court Obergefell decision legalizing same-sex marriage. She is working on a feature documentary titled *54 Miles to Home* about the history of rural Black activism to support the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March in 1965. She is the current Series Producer of the award-winning *Southern Exposure* environmental film program.

Andrew W. Keitt, Ph.D.
akeitt@uab.edu

Dr. Keitt is an intellectual and cultural historian who studies the history of Spain from the early modern period to the twentieth century. His work deals with issues ranging from Inquisition studies, to the cognitive science of religion, to the history of medicine and science. He is the author of *Inventing the Sacred: Imposture, Inquisition, and the Boundaries of the Supernatural in Golden Age Spain* (Brill, 2005) and *A Physician in the Age of Liberal Reform: Ildefonso Martínez y Fernández and Medical Politics in Nineteenth-Century Spain* (LSU Press, 2024). His current research deals with mysticism and esotericism in early-twentieth-century Spain.

GRADUATE FACULTY BY FIELD

Stephen J. Miller, Ph.D.

sjmiller@uab.edu

Born and raised near downtown Chicago, Steve Miller became fascinated with French history as an undergraduate student at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he learned about all the revolutionary upheavals in the country's past. He later graduated with a Ph.D. in history from UCLA in 1999. Steve Miller is co-author, with Christopher Isett, of *The Social History of Agriculture: From the Origins to the Current Crisis* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2017); author of *Feudalism, Venality and Revolution: Provincial Assemblies in Late-Old Regime France* (Manchester University Press, 2020); author of *State and Society in Eighteenth-Century France: A Study in Political Power and Popular Revolution in Languedoc*, revised and updated edition (Haymarket Books, 2023); and co-author with Xavier Lafrance, of *The Transition to Capitalism in Modern France: Primitive Accumulation and Markets from the Old Regime to the Post-WWII Era* (Routledge, 2023).

Britney Murphy, Ph.D.

bmurphy2@uab.edu

Dr. Britney Murphy is an Assistant Professor of Public History and African American Studies. She also serves as the internship coordinator for both programs. Dr. Murphy's research interests include modern U.S. history, urban history, and volunteerism. Her article, "*The Fall of Mount Trashmore and the Rise of Community Activism*," is her first published work. Her current research evaluates the relationship among civic engagement, citizenship, and socioeconomic identities through the lens of one national community service program, Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA).

Tola Rodrick, Ph.D.

rodrick@uab.edu

Dr. Rodrick specializes in the social, intellectual, and religious history of the late ancient Mediterranean and early medieval world. Her current book project, *Beginning the Philosophical Life: The Earliest Stages of Monastic Training in Late Ancient Egypt*, is a study of the initial steps of monastic training and socialization in fourth- and fifth-century Egypt with particular attention to their connections to traditional philosophical educational and social practices in the wider Roman Empire, including investigation into spiritual exercises, ethics, gender issues, and other elements of identity-construction.

GRADUATE FACULTY BY FIELD

Brian Steele, Ph.D.

bdsteele@uab.edu

Dr. Brian Steele specializes in the history of the American Revolution and Early Republic, but has recently been writing and teaching about the long 19th century through the Gilded Age and Progressive Era. He has also directed the seminar in "historiography" for a few semesters and loves that course. Dr. Steele is the author of *The Declaration in American Nationalism*, in *The Cambridge Companion to The Declaration of Independence*, ed., Mark Graeber and Michael Zuckert (forthcoming); and is finishing an essay tentatively entitled: *The United States Must Being to Deal With the Whole Subject: How the Declaration of Independence Fueled the Emancipatory Promise of Reconstruction and Ended up Sanctioning the Gilded Age and Jim Crow*.

John E. Van Sant, Ph.D.

jvansant@uab.edu

Dr. Van Sant's focus is on the East Asian world, specifically nineteenth-century Japan, and Japan's relation with the United States. He is active in the Association for Asian Studies, the World History Association, the Fulbright Association, and the Advanced Placement program for World History. One of his publications, is called *Pacific Pioneers: Japanese Journeys to America and Hawaii, 1850-1880* (University of Illinois Press, 2000).

Walter D. Ward, Ph.D.

[ward@uab.edu](mailto:wward@uab.edu)

Dr. Ward concentrates on the Mediterranean and Near East during antiquity and the early medieval period. He is also interested in early Christian monasticism and the role of the Roman Empire in the Middle East. He has written or edited several books, including: *Sources of World Societies* (Bedford/St Martin, 2011), *The Mirage of the Saracen: Christians and Nomads in the Sinai Peninsula in Late Antiquity* (UC Press, 2014), *The Socio-economic History and Material Culture of the Roman and Byzantine Near East: Essays in Honor of S. Thomas Parker* (Gorgias Press, 2016), *Near Eastern Cities from Alexander to the Successors of Muhammad* (Routledge, 2019), and "Bearing Neither Fruit Nor Water Nor Anything Good:" *The Economy of the Late Antique Roman Province of Third Palestine* (Archaeopress).

GRADUATE FACULTY BY FIELD

Amy Watson, Ph.D.
watsonae@uab.edu

Dr. Watson works on the early modern British empire, with a focus on party politics, print culture, and the transatlantic spread of movements and ideas. Her first book project, *Patriots Before Revolution: The Growth of Political Instability in the British Atlantic, 1714-1763*, is under contract with Yale University Press. *Patriots Before Revolution* explores the origins of the Patriot party, a group of British imperial reformers who won followers across the Atlantic world and, ultimately, inspired the American Revolution.

Jonathan Wiesen, Ph.D.
jwiesen@uab.edu

Dr. Wiesen's concentration is Modern European History, Nazi Germany and fascism, US-German relations, and comparative racism. He is the author of *West German Industry and the Challenge of the Nazi Past, 1945-1955* (Chapel Hill, 2001) and *Nazi Germany: Society and Culture, and Politics* (Bloomsbury, 2024), and coeditor of *Selling Modernity: Advertising in Twentieth Century Germany* (Durham, 2007). He is currently writing a book on German views of racism in the United States.

Natasha Zaretsky, Ph.D.
zaretsky@uab.edu

Dr. Natasha Zaretsky focuses on the history of US political culture since 1968 with an emphasis on the histories of feminism, gender, and the family. She has written two books, *No Direction Home: the American Family and the Fear of National Decline, 1968-1980* (The University of North Carolina Press, 2007) and *Radiation Nation: Three Mile Island and the Political Transformation of the 1970's* (Columbia University Press, 2018). She is currently working on a gender history of 1980's America.

HISTORY PLAN OF STUDY

PLAN I (THESIS)

Student Name: _____ Student Blazer/Banner ID: _____ Date: _____

Course	Credit Hours	Semester	Grade
HY 301 Historiography*	3.0		
HY 602 Research and Writing*	3.0		
Seminar US History Course #	3.0		
Seminar US History Course #	3.0		
Seminar US History Course #	3.0		
Seminar Non-US History Course #	3.0		
Seminar Non-US History Course #	3.0		
Seminar Non-US History Course #	3.0		
Seminar History Elective Fields Course #	3.0		
Seminar History Elective Fields Course #	3.0		
HY 699 Thesis Research	6.0		
Total	36.0		

APPROVAL

Advisor: _____ Graduate Program Director: _____

Thesis Defense Date: _____

HISTORY PLAN OF STUDY

PLAN II (EXAM)

Student Name: _____ Student Blazer/Banner ID: _____ Date: _____

Course	Credit Hours	Semester	Grade
HY 301 Historiography*	3.0		
HY 602 Research and Writing*	3.0		
Seminar US History Course #	3.0		
Seminar US History Course #	3.0		
Seminar US History Course #	3.0		
Seminar Non-US History Course #	3.0		
Seminar Non-US History Course #	3.0		
Seminar Non-US History Course #	3.0		
Seminar History Elective Fields Course #	3.0		
Seminar History Elective Fields Course #	3.0		
Seminar History Elective Fields Course #	3.0		
Seminar History Elective Fields Course #	3.0		
Total	36.0		

APPROVAL

Advisor: _____ Graduate Program Director: _____

Comprehensive Exam Date: _____