DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

Dr. James M. Okapal, Chairperson
jokapal@missouriwestern.edu
(816) 271-4155
www.missouriwestern.edu/HG

The history faculty is committed to developing a historical consciousness in our students. The study of history helps students understand the origins, courses, and consequences of the major political, economic, social, and cultural changes in history and relate these changes to the continuing course of history today. Expanding the realm of students’ experiences beyond the limits imposed by their own lives and mobility is vital. The study of history allows students to perceive a greater range of alternatives and possibilities in life’s decisions made by people in different times and places. Students major in History usually prepare for careers in teaching, government, law, or business.

Geography is the study of how humans spatially interact with the physical environment. Geographers seek to describe, relate, and explain the natural and cultural phenomena that distinguish places around the world. Studying geography increases students’ ability to analyze complex situations, events, trends, and draw logical inferences from them. Geography often functions as a bridge between the natural sciences and the social sciences. Its perspective on the location of phenomena makes it unique among the academic disciplines. Geographers integrate information from other disciplines with their own research to provide a spatial understanding of the world. Geographers work in business, environmental research, climatology, meteorology, cartography, GIS/GPS, and elementary, secondary, and higher education.

Admission

Admission Requirements

Majors in the department which have admission requirements are listed below. Majors which are not listed on this page do not have specific requirements for admission. Information about the recommended coursework a student might take prior to declaring the major can be obtained from the department.

History

Students desiring this major should declare their interest to the chairperson of the Department of History and Geography so that they can be assigned History faculty advisors. Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 2.0 to declare this major.

History (Education)

- ACT composite score on file
- ACT composite score of 20 or higher or successful completion of the Missouri General Education Assessment (MoGEA)
- Overall GPA of 2.75
- Education course GPA of 3.0
- Content area GPA of 3.0
- Satisfactory completion of EDU 202/203

ACT and/or MoGEA scores should be received the semester before application for admission to teacher education is made (up to 4 months should be allowed for scores to be processed).

Majors

- History (Bachelor of Arts, B.A.) (http://catalog.missouriwestern.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-sciences/history-geography/history-ba)
- History (Bachelor of Science, B.S.) (http://catalog.missouriwestern.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-sciences/history-geography/history-bs)
- History with Teacher Certification (Bachelor of Arts, B.A.) (http://catalog.missouriwestern.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-sciences/history-geography/history-teacher-certification-ba)
- History with Teacher Certification (Bachelor of Science, B.S.) (http://catalog.missouriwestern.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-sciences/history-geography/history-teacher-certification-bs)
- International Studies (Bachelor of Arts, B.A.) (http://catalog.missouriwestern.edu/undergraduate/interdisciplinary-studies/international-studies-ba)

Minors

- Entrepreneurship Minor (http://catalog.missouriwestern.edu/undergraduate/interdisciplinary-studies/entrepreneurship-minor)
- European History Minor (http://catalog.missouriwestern.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-sciences/history-geography/european-history-minor)
- General History Minor (http://catalog.missouriwestern.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-sciences/history-geography/general-history-minor)
- Geography Minor (http://catalog.missouriwestern.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-sciences/history-geography/geography-minor)
- International Studies Minor (http://catalog.missouriwestern.edu/undergraduate/interdisciplinary-studies/international-studies-minor)
- Peace and Conflict Studies Minor (http://catalog.missouriwestern.edu/undergraduate/interdisciplinary-studies/peace-conflict-studies-minor)
- United States History Minor (http://catalog.missouriwestern.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-sciences/history-geography/united-states-history-minor)

Courses

Geography (GEO)

GEO 100 World Geography Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring.
Course Description: A systematic and regional analysis of the world’s diverse cultural realms emphasizing the five themes of geography (location, place, interaction of people and the physical environment, movement, and region).
CORE 42: MOTR GEOG 101; World Regional Geography
GEO 160 Physical Geography Credits: 4
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring.
Course Description: Analysis of Earth’s physical systems, Earth-Sun relationships, weather and climate, soils and landforms, fluvial processes, global vegetation, exercises involving data collection, aerial photography and map interpretation, and data analysis. Three hours lecture and two hours lab.

CORE 42: MOTR GEOG 100L; Physical Geography with Lab

GEO 210 Geography of the United States and Canada Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Departmental Discretion.
Course Description: A systematic and regional analysis of the contemporary physical, cultural, and economic geography of the United States and Canada. Examination of environmental influences on people and the ways people change the environment as evidenced in agriculture, religion, industry, and urban areas. LAS Computer Literacy.

GEO 310 Geography of Asia Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Departmental Discretion.
Course Description: A systematic and regional analysis of the contemporary physical, cultural, historical, and economic geography of Asia. Regional analysis will be selected from topics in Central, East, South, Southeast, and Southwest Asia, as well as Oceania and Antarctica.

GEO 320 Geography of Europe Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Departmental Discretion.
Course Description: A systematic and regional analysis of the contemporary physical, cultural, and economic geography of the nations and regions west of Russia; trends of development as affected by changing political structures and the European Union. LAS International/Intercultural.

GEO 340 Sustainable Energy Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Departmental Discretion.
Course Description: Basic concepts of development and sustainability as they relate to energy usage. Implications on human population, weather and climate, global climate change, and agriculture will be discussed. Course will focus on energy conservation, fossil fuel energies, and alternative energy strategies, including, but not limited to, solar, wind, water, nuclear, geothermal, and biofuels. Class is in both lecture and seminar format. Prerequisite(s): A course in geography or European history.

GEO 426 Geographic Information Systems Credits: 4
Typically Offered: Departmental Discretion.
Course Description: Basic concepts of Geographic Information Systems and applications; raster and vector data models; exercises involving data collection, GPS usage, database management, editing databases and shapefiles, querying and analyzing data, and cartographic design using ArcGIS and Google software. Three hours lecture and two hours lab. Prerequisite(s): Junior standing or departmental approval.

GEO 430 Globalization, Labor, and Resources Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Departmental Discretion.
Course Description: Patterns of distribution, production, and consumption of the world’s resources; theories of geographic location related to agricultural, industrial, and service activities; globalization and internationalization; population and migration impacts on the economy; the role of the state in the economy; theories of development and underdevelopment. Prerequisite(s): ECO 260 or GEO 100.

GEO 450 Independent Research/Project Credits: 1-6
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring.
Course Description: Investigation of a research problem, project, or topic on an individual conference basis. May be repeated with departmental approval. Prerequisite(s): Departmental approval.

GEO 490 Geography Internship Credits: 1-12
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.
Course Description: Students arrange an internship with a suitable government agency or employer engaged in geographic activities, subject to the approval of the Department of History & Geography via its geography faculty. The field work will provide first-hand applied learning experience and career-related skills using knowledge learned in geography classes. These skills include, but are not limited to: GIS, GPS, planning, critical thinking, writing, and public speaking. Internships must be arranged and approved by the department in the semester preceding the internship. For more details contact the Coordinator of the Internship Practicum in the Department of History & Geography. Prerequisite(s): Departmental approval.

History (HIS)

HIS 120 Modern World History Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Departmental Discretion.
Course Description: A survey of the political, social, and economic history of the world (Europe, Africa, Middle East, India, Far East, and Latin America) from 1815 to the present.

CORE 42: MOTR HIST 202; World History II

HIS 140 American History to 1865 Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring.
Course Description: Reconstruction, industrialization, urbanization, emergence as a world power, progressivism, World War I, the New Deal, World War II, and postwar America.

CORE 42: MOTR HIST 101; American History I

HIS 150 American History since 1865 Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring.
Course Description: Continuation of HIS 140. Reconstruction, industrialization, urbanization, emergence as a world power, progressivism, World War I, the New Deal, World War II, and postwar America.

CORE 42: MOTR HIST 102; American History II

HIS 170 World History (HIS) Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Departmental Discretion.

HIS 180 Ancient and Medieval Civilization Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring.
Course Description: Continuation of HIS 140. Reconstruction, industrialization, urbanization, emergence as a world power, progressivism, World War I, the New Deal, World War II, and postwar America.

CORE 42: MOTR WCIV 101; Western Civilization I

HIS 200 Ancient and Medieval Civilization Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring.
Course Description: The western world from antiquity to the fifteenth century; the emergence of civilization in the Nile and Tigris-Euphrates valleys; the political, social, economic, and intellectual contributions of Greece, Rome, and medieval Europe.

CORE 42: MOTR WCIV 101; Western Civilization I
HIS 210 Early Modern Civilization Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring.
Course Description: The western world from 1500 to 1815; national states, the geographical revolution, the founding of European overseas empires, the Reformation, the emergence of constitutional governments, the Scientific Revolution, and the American French Revolutions.

CORE 42: MOTR WCIV 102; Western Civilization II

HIS 220 History of Missouri Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Departmental Discretion.
Course Description: Missouri under French and Spanish rule; the American acquisition; the role of the state in the slavery crisis and in the settlement of the West; the state's contributions to politics, art, literature, education, industry, and transportation.

HIS 230 Modern Europe: 1789 to the Present Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring.
Course Description: The French Revolution and Napoleonic periods; reaction, nationalism, and revolution; rise of socialism; imperialism; World War I; the Russian Revolutions and Soviet communism; the rise of fascism; Hitler, Stalin, and World War II; the Holocaust; the postwar bipolar world order; the bloc system.

CORE 42: MOTR WCIV 102; Western Civilization II

HIS 235 Historic Preservation Field School Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Departmental Discretion.
Course Description: Intensive field experience in documenting and preserving an existing built environment as well as the historic landscape. Students actively participate in a survey of an urban neighborhood. Class sessions consist of lecture, discussion, field work, and lab. Lecture and discussion cover a wide array of issues in historic preservation. Field work includes tours, inspection, photography, and documentation of historic buildings. This course may be taken more than once for credit as an elective, but only once to fulfill a requirement for the major in either the B.A. or B.S. program in History.

HIS 245 History of the Middle East in the Twentieth Century Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Departmental Discretion.
Course Description: An examination of the historical developments in the Middle East since 1900, with special attention to the origins of current political, social, and economic issues in a region plagued by instability.

HIS 290 The Historian's Craft Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Spring.
Course Description: This course introduces students to the methods used by historians to analyze, interpret, and write about the past. Students will learn basic skills which may include, but are not limited to: locating and assessing source material; analyzing primary and secondary sources; writing analytical, comparative, historiographical, and review essays; conducting oral interviews; conducting oral presentations; reviewing movies. Various thematic approaches will be offered. Prerequisite(s): HIS 140 or HIS 150, and HIS 200 or HIS 210 or HIS 230, and ENG 104, and must be a declared major or minor in history.

HIS 300 American Colonial History Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Spring (odd-numbered years).
Course Description: The founding of North American colonies by Spain, France, and Great Britain; cross-cultural interactions between Europeans and Native Americans; race and slavery; religious diversity; economic growth; imperial conflicts; British colonial administration and the path to Revolution. LAS Writing. Prerequisite(s): HIS 140 and HIS 150, and a grade of C or higher in HIS 290 or departmental approval.

HIS 301 Early National Period Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Fall (odd-numbered years).
Course Description: Transition from colonial settings to constitutional republic; birth of political parties; Jeffersonian republicanism; Native American conflicts; race and slavery; women's expanded opportunities; War of 1812; economic growth and transportation innovations; Jacksonian democracy. LAS Writing. Prerequisite(s): HIS 140 and HIS 150, and grade of C or higher in HIS 290 or departmental approval.

HIS 302 Antebellum America Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Departmental Discretion.
Course Description: Postwar expansion; rise of American nationalism and the growth of the West; revival of the two-party system; Jacksonian democracy; humanitarian crusades; the Mexican War. LAS Writing. Prerequisite(s): HIS 140 and HIS 150, and grade of C or higher in HIS 290 or departmental approval.

HIS 305 The American Frontier Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Departmental Discretion.
Course Description: Westward expansion of the United States over three centuries; colonial frontier, trans-Appalachian frontier, trans-Mississippi frontier; significance of the frontier in American history. Prerequisite(s): HIS 140 and HIS 150, and grade of C or higher in HIS 290 or departmental approval.

HIS 310 English History to 1688 Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Fall (even-numbered years).
Course Description: An examination of major facts and interpretations of the history of England from the Roman era through the Glorious Revolution; emphasis on political events, social institutions, and cultural developments that shaped the ancient, medieval, and early modern English past. LAS Writing. Prerequisite(s): HIS 200 and HIS 210, and grade of C or higher in HIS 290 or departmental approval.

HIS 320 English History since 1688 Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Departmental Discretion.
Course Description: An examination of major facts and interpretations of the history of England from the Glorious Revolution to the present; emphasis on evolution of parliamentary government and the rise and decline of the British Empire. LAS International/Intercultural. Prerequisite(s): HIS 210 and HIS 230, and grade of C or higher in HIS 290 or departmental approval.

HIS 325 American Economic History Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Departmental Discretion.
Course Description: English mercantilism, laissez-faire and its effect on American economic development, the emergence of the corporation and the trust, the issue of government regulation, and the role of the government in the economy of today. Prerequisite(s): HIS 140 and HIS 150, and grade of C or higher in HIS 290 or departmental approval.
HIS 330 Recent United States History  Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Fall.
Course Description: United States since 1945; wartime mobilization; rise of American hegemony; Cold War anticomunism; Civil rights; suburbanization; gender politics; cultural rebellions; Great Society; Conservative ascendency; Globalization; war on terror; Great Recession.
Prerequisite(s): HIS 140 and HIS 150, and grade of C or higher in HIS 290 or departmental approval.

HIS 334 Selected Topics in Ancient History  Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Spring (odd-numbered years).
Course Description: This course will study the political narrative as well as the intellectual, religious and social history of the cultures that defined the ancient Mediterranean world. Each semester it is offered will focus on one of the following: Ancient Middle East, Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, or another ancient topic. In addition to learning the political and social events of these cultures, students will read and discuss a number of primary sources from these civilizations focusing on their indigenous meaning as well as their impact on Western Civilization. May be repeated with departmental approval for a total of 9 credit hours if course content varies significantly. Prerequisite(s): HIS 200 and HIS 290.

HIS 335 Medieval Europe  Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Fall (odd-numbered years).
Course Description: An examination of Medieval European history focusing on the medieval origins of modern European institutions. Students will read several historical monographs in order to understand the narrative of medieval history and to gain a greater knowledge about how modern historians write about the medieval past. Prerequisite(s): HIS 200 and HIS 210, and grade of C or higher in HIS 290 or departmental approval.

HIS 336 The Crusades  Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Spring (even-numbered years).
Course Description: An examination of the origin and history of the wars fought between Christendom and Islam in the Middle Ages. Emphasizes the history of these wars from the perspective of all the cultures involved as well as the influence of the idea of the crusades and crusading on medieval and modern thought. LAS International/Intercultural. Prerequisite(s): HIS 200 and HIS 210, and a grade of C or higher in HIS 290 or departmental approval.

HIS 339 Europe 1815-1914  Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Fall (even-numbered years).
Course Description: Europe from the Congress of Vienna to 1914; reaction and revolution, nationalistic movements, rise of socialism-communism, the diplomatic background of World War I. Prerequisite(s): HIS 230 and grade of C or higher in HIS 290 or departmental approval.

HIS 340 Recent European History  Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Spring (odd-numbered years).
Course Description: Europe in World War I, the rise of dictatorships, the League of Nations, new alignments, World War II, and the postwar period. Prerequisite(s): HIS 230 and grade of C or higher in HIS 290 or departmental approval.

HIS 342 The Russian Kingdom and Empire 1462-1917  Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Spring (even-numbered years).
Course Description: Restoration of the Russian kingdom by Ivan III "the Great;" establishment of royal absolutism by Ivan IV "the Terrible;" the Time of Troubles; emergence of the Russian empire; invasion by Napoleon; expansion of empire; collapse of the monarchy. Prerequisite(s): HIS 210 and HIS 230, and grade of C or higher in HIS 290 or departmental approval.

HIS 345 Military History  Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Fall (odd-numbered years).
Course Description: The historical development and application of military strategy, tactics, doctrine, and technology from ancient times to the present. Prerequisite(s): HIS 140 or HIS 150 or HIS 200 or HIS 210 or HIS 230, and a grade of C or higher in HIS 290 or departmental approval.

HIS 350 History of East Asia  Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Departmental Discretion.
Course Description: East Asia and the Pacific from antiquity to the present. Topics may include religion, politics, economics, impact of European and American traders and missionaries, interactions with European empires, resistance to Westernization, and the emergence of contemporary China, Japan, and Pacific nations. Prerequisite(s): HIS 210 or HIS 230, and a grade of C or higher in HIS 290 or departmental approval.

HIS 355 Study Abroad in History  Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Departmental Discretion.
Course Description: An intensive three-week upper-level course in European history. A special fee is assessed for the course. This course is only taught in the summer. Deadline for application is March 1. This course may be taken more than once for credit as an elective, but only once to fulfill a requirement for an upper-level course for the major in either the B.A. or B.S. program in History. Prerequisite(s): HIS 200 or HIS 210 or HIS 230.

HIS 365 Methods of Teaching Social Studies  Credits: 5
Typically Offered: Departmental Discretion.
Course Description: Principles and methods of teaching social studies in secondary school: objectives, problems, materials, and methods applied to the social studies curriculum. Methods include electronic portfolio, website technology, and traditional lesson plans/unit plans for each discipline involved. Those disciplines include economics, geography, government and political science, history, psychology, and sociology. Prerequisite(s): Departmental approval. Must be taken prior to Junior Teaching Experience.

HIS 370 History of Latin America  Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Departmental Discretion.
Course Description: A survey course including pre-Columbian cultures, colonial period, independence movements, national developments, relations with the United States and Europe. LAS International/Intercultural. Prerequisite(s): HIS 140 or HIS 210, and grade of C or higher in HIS 290 or departmental approval.

HIS 375 The American Revolution  Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Departmental Discretion.
Course Description: Imperial-colonial conflicts; declaring independence; political, social, economic, religious, and military considerations of war; the Confederation period; constitutional drafting and ratification. Prerequisite(s): HIS 140, and a grade of C or higher in HIS 290 or departmental approval.

HIS 380 The French Revolution and Napoleon  Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Departmental Discretion.
Course Description: Old Regime France; the origins of the French Revolution; political, social, religious, and cultural reforms; political shifts from monarchy to republic to dictatorship; popular and state-sanctioned violence; counter-revolution; the Terror; the Directory; the rise of Napoleon; the Napoleonic Wars; the impact of the French Revolution and Napoleon on the world. Prerequisite(s): HIS 210 and HIS 230, and grade of C or higher in HIS 290 or departmental approval.
HIS 385 U.S. Constitutional History  Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Departmental Discretion.
Course Description: An examination of the social, economic, political, and legal developments related to the United States Constitution; emphasis on constitutional foundations, balance of federal and state authorities, protection of individual liberties, and racial and gender equality. Prerequisite(s): HIS 140, HIS 150, and a grade of C or higher in HIS 290 or departmental approval.

HIS 390 Heresy, Witchcraft, and Magic in Pre-Modern Europe  Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Departmental Discretion.
Course Description: Examines the evolution of religious beliefs and practices in pre-modern Europe. Particular attention is given to how definitions of heresy, witchcraft, and magic changed over time and methods used by Church and State to enforce religious conformity. Prerequisite(s): HIS 200 and HIS 210, and grade of C or higher in HIS 290 or departmental approval.

HIS 400 Civil War and Reconstruction  Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Departmental Discretion.
Course Description: Westward expansion; U.S.-Mexican War; sectional crises and coming of the Civil War; slavery and abolition; political, social, and economic developments in the Civil War; African-American freedom; political, social, and economic effects of the nation's reconstruction. Prerequisite(s): HIS 140 and HIS 150, and grade of C or higher in HIS 290 or departmental approval.

HIS 420 History of Africa  Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Departmental Discretion.
Course Description: North Africa in the ancient world; Africa during the age of geographical discoveries; nineteenth-century European imperialism; the emergence of modern African states. Prerequisite(s): 6 credits from among HIS 200, HIS 210, or HIS 230, and grade of C or higher in HIS 290 or departmental approval.

HIS 450 Independent Research/Project  Credits: 1-5
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring.
Course Description: Investigation of a research problem, project, or topic on an individual conference basis. Prerequisite(s): Completion of major-minor declaration in history major or minor, minimum 2.5 GPA in major field, grade of C or higher in HIS 290, and departmental approval.

Latin (LTN)

LTN 100 Reading Latin Sources I  Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Departmental Discretion.
Course Description: Introduction to the fundamentals of Latin grammar and reading simple Latin texts. Because this course focuses on historical methodologies in reading Latin documents, it is not a standard language course, and so will not satisfy MWSU general studies, Category 4: Humanities, Group 4.

LTN 200 Reading Latin Sources III  Credits: 3
Typically Offered: Departmental Discretion.
Course Description: The focus is on reading actual Latin texts and reviewing Latin grammar. At first these will be modified so as to accommodate students just starting to read actual texts. Eventually, students will begin to read unmodified Latin sources. Each offering will focus on different types of texts, such as religious, historical, or literary texts. Because this course focuses on historical methodologies in reading Latin documents, it is not a standard language course, and so will not satisfy MWSU general studies, Category 4: Humanities, Group 4.

Faculty

Dominic DeBrincat (2015) Assistant Professor, History. B.A., University of Michigan-Dearborn; J.D., M.A., Wayne State University; Ph.D., University of Connecticut.

Dawn Drake (2012) Associate Professor, Geography. B.S., Indiana University of Pennsylvania; M.S., University of Delaware; Ph.D., University of Tennessee.

Emily Gioielli (2018) Assistant Professor, History. B.A., Mount Vernon Nazarene College; M.A., University of Cincinnati; Ph.D., Central European University.


Evan Hart (2017) Assistant Professor, History. B.A., University of Southern Indiana; M.A., Ph.D., University of Cincinnati.