

# DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

History is a core discipline in any liberal arts education. The study of history enables us to see how the present world came into being; at the same time, it asks us to understand diverse people in different times and places. The interests of faculty and students in History range temporally from ancient times to present, and geographically from Asia and Europe to the Americas, Africa, and the Middle East.



Some of the scholarship recipients at the 2016 History Scholarship Ceremony.

## Highlights

- ▶ In the 2010 National Research Council report, the Department of History's doctoral program was consistently rated in the top 20% of programs nationwide.
- ▶ History faculty have won 13 UW Distinguished Teaching Awards—more than any other unit on campus.
- ▶ During the 2015-2016 school year, the department taught approximately 4,600 students, most of whom were non-majors, in more than 150 classes.

## Education

The Department of History offers a major in history and an interdisciplinary major in history and philosophy of science, as well as thematic minors in general history; history of race, gender, and power; history of empire and colonialism; history of religion and society; and history of war and society. It also offers—in cooperation with other units—minors in labor studies, classics and ancient history, history of science, and medical history and ethics. History also offers a track for both College and departmental honors.

History majors are required to take at least two small, research-oriented courses: a methodology course during the junior year and a capstone seminar during the senior year. Additionally, undergraduates may pursue research opportunities through independent studies or internships, or in a two-quarter honors seminar; some receive funding for research projects from the department.

The department has embraced global and comparative history. Undergraduate course topics range from “Before Global Health” to “The Cold War” to “Empires of Ancient Iran” to “Tudor England.” Graduate students may take fields in nine major divisions of study, including comparative colonialisms, comparative gender, comparative environmental history, and comparative ethnicity and nationalism. Recent PhDs have attained tenure-track appointments at many top colleges in the U.S. and Canada.

The Department of History sponsors the Center for the Study of the Pacific Northwest and co-sponsors the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies with the Department of Political Science. Both centers support graduate students and undertake public programs.

### STUDENTS (Autumn 2016)

225	Undergraduate majors
8	MA students
50	PhD students

### DEGREES AWARDED (July 2015-June 2016)

123	BA degrees
5	MA degrees
4	PhD degrees

### MAJOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS (2015-2016)

2	Mary Gates Leadership Scholars
2	UW Library Research Awards
38	History Department scholarships & prizes
1	Bonderman Travel Fellowship

### MAJOR GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS (2015-2016)

3	Presidential Dissertation Fellowships
3	FLAS Fellowships
3	Simpson Center Research Fellowships
1	Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship
1	China Studies Fellowship
2	Hsiao Fellowships
1	Mellon Summer Fellow for Public Projects in the Humanities
1	Mellon Reaching New Publics in the Humanities/Simpson Center Fellowship

## Faculty

Department of History faculty honors include:

- 1 MacArthur Fellowship
- 7 Guggenheim Fellowships
- 27 Fulbright Awards
- 10 Mellon Fellowships
- 31 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships
- 19 American Council of Learned Societies Fellowships
- 7 Ford Foundation Fellowships
- 14 Social Science Research Council Grants
- 18 Presidents of professional organizations

## Research

Faculty research ranges widely. Recent publications have focused on European and American colonization; the rise of the “modern girl” around the world; the roles of race, ethnicity, class, and migration in U.S. history; medicine and health in Africa, Latin America, England, and the U.S.; societies and cultures across Asia; and law in medieval Ireland and Wales and modern Britain.

The Center for the Study of the Pacific Northwest supports graduate student research, sponsors symposia and visiting speakers, co-publishes books with the UW Press, publishes *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*, and hosts public programs.

Recent undergraduate research seminars have included “Identity and Politics in the Modern Middle East: Nation, Religion and Conflict,” “How to Write the History of the Aztecs,” “American Empire in Comparative Perspective,” and “The Politics of History Writing in the Middle Ages.”

Interdisciplinary scholarship in History is encouraged by strong ties to other units, including the Jackson School of International Studies; American Indian Studies; Anthropology; American Ethnic Studies; Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies; Philosophy; Classics; Near Eastern Languages and Civilization; and the Simpson Center for the Humanities.

## Outreach

History faculty speak frequently in the community, and each year faculty present the History Lecture Series. Faculty routinely visit secondary schools and serve annually as judges for History Day contests.

The department has a very successful program for Access students—students 60 years of age or older who audit UW courses for a nominal fee. In addition to welcoming them into classes, the department sends out periodic informational mailings, hosts an annual reception for Access students and faculty, and sponsors a quarterly reading group.

The department reaches out to teachers and students in secondary schools and colleges in a variety of ways, including the Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project ([www.civilrights.washington.edu](http://www.civilrights.washington.edu)), the Center for the Study of the Pacific Northwest ([www.cspn.washington.edu](http://www.cspn.washington.edu)), BlackPast.org ([www.blackpast.org](http://www.blackpast.org)), and the Sephardic Treasures project.

## FACULTY (Autumn 2016)

- 18 Professors
- 16 Associate Professors
- 3 Assistant Professors
- 1 Senior Lecturer
- 3 Lecturers
- 21 Professors Emeritae
- 16 Adjunct Professors

## AREAS OF RESEARCH

Ancient Greece and Rome

Late Antiquity

Medieval Europe

Early Modern Europe

Modern Europe and European Empire

Russia and Eastern Europe

Pre-Modern Asia

Modern Asia

Latin America and the Caribbean

Middle East

Africa

United States

History of Science

Comparative History



Professor Stephanie Smallwood (right) with a student at History Convocation 2016.

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