History

The graduate program in History is dedicated to providing quality training at both the M.A. and Ph.D. levels. It’s built upon faculty strengths in the history of modern America, the history of the American West, environmental history, the history of science and technology, public history, and the history of women in a multi-cultural context. It provides many opportunities for students to work closely with faculty, to engage in interdisciplinary research and collaboration, to research and write in seminar settings, and to gain experience in a wide variety of internships.

The program is structured around intensive seminars, on subjects including Public History and Material Culture, Environmental History, the History of Science and Technology, and the American West. Current students and recent graduates have worked on topics ranging from violence against women in turn-of-the-century Western mining communities, to the environmental impact of lead smelting in Idaho’s Couer d’Alene, to the cataloging and curating of the artifacts of Yellowstone Park.

While the curriculum is grounded in American history, the faculty is committed to familiarizing students with world history and to encouraging students to think about the history of the United States in a global context.

ADMISSION
Prospective graduate students should follow the guidelines in the admissions and applications sections of The Graduate School website. The GRE General Exam is required; the GRE advanced test in history is not required.
PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

Students have many opportunities to collaborate with faculty and with prestigious visiting scholars brought in by the annual Wallace Stegner lecture, by the Western Lands and Peoples Initiative, and by the biennial Michael P. Malone Memorial Conference that most recently focused on “Wild Animals in the Wild West.” Throughout the year, the department provides colloquia, workshops, and informal interactions between faculty and graduate students that stimulate creative, interdisciplinary, and provocative scholarship.

Students can explore internships and gain valuable professional experience at local and regional venues, including:
- Museum of the Rockies
- Pioneer Museum
- Montana Historical Society
- Yellowstone National Park
- C.M. Russell Museum
- Buffalo Bill Historical Center

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The primary forms of financial support available through the department are teaching assistantships and research assistantships, which are awarded on a competitive basis. Assistantships include a stipend and/or tuition waiver.

DEPARTMENT HEAD
Susan Cohen, Chair

GRADUATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Tim LeCain

ASSOCIATE PROGRAM COORDINATOR
Janet Ore, Associate Director of Graduate Studies and Public History Outreach

FACULTY

Prasanta Bandyopadhyay - Philosophy of science, epistemology, Indian philosophy
David Cherry - Ancient history, Roman North Africa
Susan Cohen - Syro-Palestinian archaeology, Canaanite culture, Middle Bronze Age society
Catherine Dunlop - Modern Europe, Cartography, politics of space, Borderlands
Mark Fiege - Wallace Stegner Chair in Western American Studies, environmental history, national parks and protected areas
Daniel Flory - Aesthetics, philosophy and film, philosophy and critical race theory
Maggie Greene - Chinese history, Modern Chinese Literature and Cultural Studies
Amanda Hendrix-Komoto - American West, religion, comparative colonialism and women’s studies, public history
Kristen Intemann - Research ethics, values & science, feminist philosophy of science
Timothy Le Cain - Environmental history, history of technology, materialism, and 20th century U.S.
Mary Murphy - History of food in America, photography in the American West, gender in the American West
Robert Rydell - (Michael P. Malone Professor) U.S. intellectual & cultural history, 19th century U.S., museum studies, world’s fairs
Billy Smith - Early America, class, race, slavery, disease, mapping early America
Brett Walker - Early modern Japan, Japanese frontiers, Japanese environmental & medical history
Michael Reidy - History of science & technology, history of mountaineering
Molly Todd - Latin American History, Violence and Human Rights, Displacement and Migration, Social Movements, oral history
Sara Waller - Philosophy of mind, philosophy of animal minds, philosophy of neurology & cognitive science

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