

GRADUATE HANDBOOK

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY | DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY



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WELCOME TO THE MA IN HISTORY AT SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Welcome to Sam Houston State University. Since 1879, SHSU has been preparing students to lead meaningful lives that are grounded in an appreciation of history, art, literature, and science. The school's motto, "The Measure of a Life is its Service," echoes across Sam Houston State University's seven colleges and beyond its Texas campus through student research, creative endeavors, volunteering, and more.

The Master of Arts program in History at SHSU began more than two decades ago, and our program is one of the largest, most affordable, and most respected online programs in the country. All classes are taught by resident, Ph.D. holding faculty, many of whom have been recognized with awards and prizes for their teaching, scholarship, and contributions to the historical profession. The program is organized into three, thematic tracks (Rights & Identity, War & Violence, and Encounters & Exchanges). Transcending time and space, each track poses big questions and invites students to build connections between courses.

The Department of History's Graduate Handbook is intended to convey to graduate students and faculty members the information necessary for their successful participation in the graduate program. It provides the academic standards, policies, and procedures that govern the program in hopes of fostering a collegial and stimulating academic environment. The handbook should be used in concert with the current Sam Houston State University Graduate Catalogue. It is each student's responsibility to comply with all university, school, and faculty requirements and to seek out information on questions related to degree completion. It is therefore in the student's best interests to be thoroughly acquainted with this handbook and to consult with the Graduate Advisor and members of the History graduate faculty, when questions arise.

Please note that the Office of Graduate Studies website provides the university's policies and procedures related to graduate study in the [SHSU Academic Policy Manual-Students](#). That manual and the university's official Graduate Catalog remain the final authority for all graduate students.

Dr Brian Matthew Jordan
Chair, Department of History

Dr. Benjamin Park
Director of Graduate Studies in History

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES

SHSU REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

Students are required to meet the admission requirements of both the SHSU graduate school and the MA program in History. Please see the information for [Prospective Graduate Students](#).

MA PROGRAM IN HISTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

The following shall be required for admission:

- Complete application generated at [Apply Texas](#) and submitted to [Graduate Studies](#).
- The requisite [application fee](#).
- The BA degree from an accredited college or university, with at least 18 credit hours in history (or in closely related disciplines in the humanities and/or social sciences).
- The submission of official transcripts from all previous universities attended.
- Submission of an academic writing sample.
- Two letters of recommendation.
- A letter of intent explaining your interest in graduate work in history, educational background, and career goals.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

To begin coursework in the Fall Semester: **March 1**

To begin coursework in the Spring Semester: **October 1**

To begin coursework in the Summer Semester: **March 1**

To make a formal application to the program, you may apply online via the [SHSU Graduate Studies Application for Admissions page](#).

DEGREE STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS



ENROLLMENT IN COURSE WORK

It is expected that all students enrolled in the program will complete a minimum of three (3) hours and a maximum of nine (9) hours during the fall and spring semesters. All work leading to the MA degree must be completed within six (6) years, according to university regulations, which read as follows: “A student is required to complete graduate work within a six-year period, measured from the date of initial enrollment for graduate credit in a particular degree program. The period of time a student is on an approved leave of absence will be counted as time accumulated toward that six-year deadline for completion of the degree. In the event the student nears the end of the time limitation specified above but needs more time, a request for an extension may be submitted via the graduate advisor for approval in writing by the appropriate academic dean.” Students who do not complete at least one course in a calendar year are automatically dropped from the program.

Students should take HIST 1301: Methods in History, within their first nine credit hours within the program.

DEGREE PLANS: THESIS, NON-THESIS, OR CONCENTRATION

The History Department offers three basic degree plans: a thesis option, a non-thesis option, and the MA in History with a Concentration. Non-thesis and MA in History with a Concentration students present and then orally defend a portfolio of written work during their final long semester in the program. Because they are engaged in a major research project that is orally defended, thesis students are not required to submit a portfolio of written work at the end of the program.

Thesis Degree Plan:

Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
Master of Arts in History (Thesis)		
Required Courses:		
HIST 5301	Methods in History	3
HIST 6098	Thesis I *	3
HIST 6099	Thesis II *	3
Track Core Courses		12
In-Track Electives		3
Out-of-Track Electives		6
Total Hours		30

*Thesis must be prepared on a topic within the student's major thematic track.

Non-Thesis Degree Plan:

Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
Master of Arts in History (Non-Thesis)		
Required Courses:		
HIST 5301	Methods in History	3
HIST 6394	Seminar in History	3
Track Core Courses		15
In-Track Electives		6
Out-of-Track Electives		9
Total Hours		36

MA in History with a Concentration Degree Plan:

Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
Master of Arts in History with Minor		
Required Courses:		
HIST 5301	Methods in History	3
HIST 6394	Seminar in History	3
Track Core Courses		15
In-Track Electives		3
Course in Concentration Discipline*		12
Total Hours		36

* Select four graduate courses in a field approved by the Director of Graduate Studies in History. No student should take any course outside of the History Department prior to receiving written approval for a concentration from both the Director of Graduate Studies in History and Department Chair.

THEMATIC TRACKING

All incoming students select one of the following major tracks, which represent mainstays of the human experience. Each track transcends time and space, inviting students to ask thematic questions and to build connections between courses and historiographies. At the end of the program, students prepare a synthetic essay for their written portfolio building connections between courses.

Rights and Identity: Classes in this track explore how individuals and collectives have defined themselves at different times and places around the world. Students will examine how such matters as social order, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexuality, national origins, and other factors have shaped personal identity and group consciousness. In addition, classes in this track will explore how customs, rights, citizenship, and belonging have been negotiated and contested by various states and non-state actors around the world.

War and Violence: War and violence have been mainstays of human history. Students examine how various societies throughout history have experienced, conducted, and remembered military conflict, mass killing, and genocide. How has the conduct of war changed over time? What are the human, emotional, and cultural consequences of war? When and why do societies resort to armed conflict?

Encounters and Exchanges: Students examine the themes of encounter and exchange throughout history. Cross-cultural encounters have been central to the human experience since antiquity and have sometimes manifested themselves on the large scale, as is event with the Silk Roads, the Atlantic Slave Trade, and, most recently, globalization. Trade, missionary activity, and imperialism are other avenues by which the world's diverse peoples have interacted.

When selecting courses, please consult the appropriate degree plan (thesis, non-thesis, or MA in History with a Concentration), as well as the lists of courses within each thematic track (below).

Rights and Identity

Core Courses:

[HIST 5340](#) Recent African-American Hist 3

[HIST 5372](#) [Early National America](#) 3

[HIST 5376](#) Contemporary Amer,1933-Present 3

[HIST 5378](#) Amer Cultural & Religious His 3

[HIST 5380](#) American Historiography 3

[HIST 5382](#) Topics In the History Of Women 3

HIST 5386 African American Civil Rights 3

[HIST 5390](#) China in Revolution 3

Elective Courses:

[HIST 5353](#) Legacies of the Reformations 3

[HIST 5362](#) Smnr in Amercn Envirnmntl Hist 3

[HIST 5371](#) Revolutionary America 3

[HIST 5374](#) Seminar in the His of Am South 3

[HIST 5375](#) Recent America, 1876-1933 3

[HIST 5394](#) Early Modern Europe 3

[HIST 5395](#) Later Modern Europe 3

War and Violence		
Core Courses		
HIST 5351	Early Medieval Europe	3
HIST 5355	Holocaust & Genocide	3
HIST 5363	Seminar In Military History	3
HIST 5364	Seminar in War & Violence	3
HIST 5367	World War II	3
HIST 5373	US Civil War	3
HIST 5383	United States Diplomatic Hist	3
HIST 5392	The Ottoman Empire, 1300-1922	3
HIST 5393	European Diplomatic History	3
Elective Courses		
HIST 5333	Pre-Modern World History	3
HIST 5336	Topics in the History of Pre-Modern Europe	3
HIST 5352	High and Late Medieval Europe	3
HIST 5365	Film and War in America	3
HIST 5366	The Reconstruction Era	3
HIST 5371	Revolutionary America	3
HIST 5374	Seminar in the His of Am South	3

Encounters and Exchanges

Core Courses:

HIST 5307	Intellectual History	3
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HIST 5338	Empires in World History	3
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HIST 5360	African Environmental History	3
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HIST 5370	Colonial America	3
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HIST 5377	The American West	3
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HIST 5381	World Historiography	3
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HIST 5384	Texas History	3
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HIST 5385	Latin American History	3
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HIST 5396	Cross-Cultural Interactions	3
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Elective Courses:

HIST 5320	Mesoamerican Civilizations	3
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HIST 5342	The Japanese Colonial Empire	3
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HIST 5359	The Audible Past	3
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HIST 5375	Recent America, 1876-1933	3
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HIST 5388	Public History	3
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HIST 5389	Great Brit & The Brit Empire	3
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WRITTEN PORTFOLIO PROCESS

Non-thesis students and MA in History with a Concentration students matriculating in the Spring of 2019 and beyond will submit and then orally defend a portfolio of written work **during their last semester in the program. Students must be registered in a course when they submit their portfolio.** Because they are engaged in a major research project that is orally defended, thesis students **shall not be required to present a portfolio.**

By the end of their penultimate semester in the program, students must assemble a Portfolio Evaluation Committee consisting of three professors (one from the student's thematic track will be designated the "chair.") The student should choose the other two committee members in consultation with the committee chair. The Appointment of the Portfolio Evaluation Committee Form (generated electronically within the History Department) shall be due to the Director of Graduate Studies in History **by April 30** (for those students preparing to submit a portfolio that fall), and **by November 30** (for those students preparing to submit a portfolio in the spring).

At the beginning of the student's final semester, they will correspond with their committee chair to discuss potential historiographical questions to address in the synthetic essay. These questions will be drawn from a set list of possibilities that have been produced by the faculty, and may be adjusted to meet the student's coursework. Committee chairs will make clear what is expected from the students in this essay, as well as the amount of work it will require.

Portfolios will be uploaded as a single .PDF file to a unique BlackBoard section created for the MA in History Portfolio. Portfolios will be due on **March 1** (for the spring term) and on **October 1** (in the fall term). No late submissions shall be scored. The Portfolio Evaluation Committee will score the portfolios and communicate a result to the student **within two weeks.** Oral defenses must be completed by **April 15** (for the spring term) and **November 15** (for the fall term).

Each portfolio will contain the following items:

- **Cover Sheet and Table of Contents:** Students will prepare a cover sheet and table of contents for the portfolio. The cover sheet shall identify the student's name and the title of his or her major thematic track. The table of contents shall list each portfolio entry and identify the course in which the entry was produced.
- **Synthetic Essay:** Students will prepare a substantive essay of 10-12 pages that builds connections between the courses completed in their major thematic track. The purpose of this essay is for students to address in a sophisticated way the organizing questions posed by their track.
- **Annotated Bibliography:** Students will prepare (in Chicago style) an annotated bibliography of the books and articles they read throughout the program, organized by thematic track.
- **Two Article-Length Essays:** Students will include at least two article-length essays in their portfolio (these may be historiographical essays, research papers, or one of each).
- **Papers from Coursework:** Students will include in their portfolios at least one piece of

writing from each completed course (these may include book reviews or shorter response papers).

Portfolio Evaluation

Students will select three professors to serve on a Portfolio Evaluation Committee. While the committee chair must have taught a course in the student's thematic track, the other two committee members may come from any of the three tracks. These professors will review the portfolio's contents and score the synthetic essay. Each member of the committee will score (1) a "Synthetic Essay Content" rubric, evaluating the essay's historical content and analysis, and (2) a "Synthetic Essay Writing" rubric, evaluating grammar, mechanics, and citation.

Three outcomes are possible for each rubric: High Pass, Pass, or Fail. Each committee member will report his or her results to the chair of the Portfolio Evaluation Committee. If at least two committee members score the student "pass" on content, the student will "pass" content. If at least two committee members score the student "pass" on writing, the student will "pass" writing. All three committee members must score the student "high pass" on content for the student to earn a "high pass" on content; likewise, all three committee members must score the student "high pass" on writing for the student to earn a "high pass" on writing. Students must at least "pass" **both** the content and writing sections to advance to the oral defense. Students whose portfolios are incomplete (or who fail one or both sections of the synthetic essay) may re-submit their portfolio and essay **one time**. This must take place within one calendar year of the first submission, but no earlier than the next long semester. Students may appeal a failure at this stage. Failure to pass a second time will result in termination from the program. A third re-evaluation may be permitted only with the approval of the appropriate academic dean and the department.

Oral Defense

The Portfolio Evaluation Committee will conduct the oral defense (either in person or via Skype/telephone), which shall include (1) questions raised by the synthetic essay, and (2) questions about the historical content, historiographical debates, and/or major works discussed in the student's relevant coursework. Professors will score the oral defense with the attached evaluation rubrics. Three outcomes are possible on the oral defense rubric: High Pass, Pass, or Fail. If at least two committee members score the student "pass" on the Oral Defense, the student will pass the Oral Defense. All three committee members must score the student "high pass" on the Oral Defense for the student to earn a "high pass." Students who fail the oral defense may sit for another defense **once**. This must take place within one calendar year of the first defense, but no earlier than the next long semester. Students may appeal a failure at this stage. Students who fail the oral defense a second time will be terminated from the program. A third defense may be permitted only with the approval of the appropriate academic dean and the department.

Reporting Final Results

Results of the exam will be communicated on the "Report of MA in History Portfolio" form. Students who earn "high passes" at all three points of evaluation (Synthetic Essay Content, Synthetic Essay Writing, and Oral Defense) will receive an overall mark of "high pass" for the Portfolio. Students who earn at least a pass at all three points of evaluation will receive an overall mark of "pass" for the Portfolio.

THE MA THESIS IN HISTORY

If you are interested in applying for the 30-hour thesis option, you must:

Discuss your thesis idea with a member of the faculty who has expertise in the field. (Please note that your thesis topic **must** fall under the purview of your major thematic track.) Once a faculty member agrees to direct your thesis, you will prepare a thesis prospectus. A prospectus is a formal statement defining the scope, aims, methods, sources, and significance of your project. In the prospectus, you should address existing secondary literature around your topic and discuss how your work will make an historiographical intervention. How is your work different from that of previous scholars? What distinguishes your thesis project? The thesis prospectus should include a preliminary bibliography of primary and secondary sources. It should also persuade your thesis director that enough original research material exists to support the project.

While you are preparing your prospectus, you will work together with your thesis director to establish your thesis committee. Thesis committees are comprised of three faculty members (including the thesis director, who shall chair the committee). Thesis chairs and committee members are responsible for reading the thesis and providing feedback and comments on your work. Working with the chair, the committee will designate clear expectations for each faculty members' involvement.

Please complete the Appointment of Thesis Committee form and submit it to the Director of Graduate Studies in History by **April 1** (to begin Thesis I in the fall semester) or **November 1** (to begin Thesis II in the spring semester).

Once your thesis committee is formed, they must approve your prospectus. Attach it to the Thesis Prospectus form and have the members of your committee sign off on it. This form and the actual prospectus are due to the Director of Graduate Studies in History by **April 1** (to begin Thesis I in the fall semester) or **November 1** (to begin Thesis II in the spring semester).

After the Prospectus has been approved by your Thesis Director and the History Department Chair, it will be sent to the Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences for Final Approval. For more information on Thesis preparation see the Graduate Studies page entitled, Thesis and Dissertations: Guidelines and Tools.

Once you begin researching and writing your thesis, you must register for HIST 6098. After completing three hours in HIST 6098, you must enroll in HIST 6099 **until you complete your thesis**. Under **APS 930129**, once a student enrolls in a thesis course, he or she must enroll in such a course each subsequent spring, summer, and fall semester until the project is successfully completed.

Plan to submit each chapter to your Thesis Director as you complete it, since most professors prefer to make comments and have you revise each chapter before allowing you to move forward with the work. Please establish a system that works best for both of you.

Expect heavy editing, just as you would with a published work. Please communicate with your Thesis Director at every opportunity. You should complete the Thesis well in advance of all University, College and Departmental Deadlines.

You must submit a full draft of the Thesis to the entire committee by the same date that a draft is due to the Graduate School for formatting. Working with the chair and committee, you may continue to revise the manuscript following this date and submit a revised version prior to the oral defense.

Deadlines are posted on the [University Academic Calendar](#).

Once the members of the committee have read the manuscript, you will need to arrange a time convenient for all the members of the committee to gather for the defense. Unless otherwise notified, defenses will take place in the History Department Conference room or via Zoom. During the defense, the student will be expected to answer all questions relating to the topic of his or her thesis.

If the director and committee approve the thesis, you will be expected to make any corrections required before sending the Thesis forward. Once the Thesis is approved, please complete a routing sheet signed by all of the members of your committee and submit the thesis and routing sheet to the Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences—and to the Library, where the manuscript will be checked for margin widths and binding. Please see the Thesis/Dissertation Guidelines/Manual at the Graduate Studies Current Students webpage. The SHSU Graduate Studies webpage has further information on Routing Sheets and necessary paperwork for graduation approval.

INCOMPLETES

The mark X indicates that the student has not been able to complete the course because of emergency circumstances beyond the student's control. These circumstances usually prevail over other drop dates and opportunities to withdraw from the course. When the student is given the X mark, it is assumed that the student will be able to finish the course without further instruction or tutoring from the faculty member in charge of the course. Permission to award the mark of X is granted first by the instructor and then must be approved by the chair of the academic department. If the student meets the prescribed requirements of the course before the end of the next academic semester (summer school, two sessions, is considered a unit equivalent to a long semester) after the X is given, the student will receive the grade earned; otherwise, the mark X will be automatically changed to the grade of F.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

In exceptionally rare cases, a student may need to enroll in an independent study course. To do so, he or she must have the express written permission of the Director of Graduate Studies in History and the Chair of the Department of History.

TRANSFER CREDIT

In accordance with SHSU policy, graduate courses completed at other accredited colleges and universities may

be applied as transfer credit toward a graduate degree at Sam Houston State University at the discretion of each graduate program and the college in which it is housed. Transfer credit is not automatically conferred. Only courses with an earned grade of “B” or better may be used as transfer credit. The maximum number of hours that may be transferred into the History graduate program toward the MA in history is six hours for a thesis student and nine hours for a non-thesis student. Transfer credit is also subject to the six-year rule.

ACADEMIC STANDING AND TERMINATION

Under APS 910312, a graduate student who falls below a 3.0 overall grade point average at the close of any semester or summer semester during which one or more semester hours are attempted will be placed on probation. Two summer sessions are equivalent to one long semester. If an enrolled student on probation fails to achieve a minimum of a 3.0 overall grade point average at the close of the next semester following the starting of the probation, the student will be terminated from graduate studies.

A graduate student who earns a grade of F in any graduate course will be terminated from graduate studies. A student who earns a grade of C in any course will be placed on academic probation and required to meet with the Director of Graduate Studies each semester until they return to good standing; the student can return to good standing upon the successful completion of two courses with a grade of A or B. A student who earns a second grade of C may have his/her graduate status reviewed by a committee of the department, who will recommend an appropriate remediation for the student.

A student will be removed from probation at the close of the semester or summer semester in which the cumulative grade point average achieves the required standard.

APPEALING TERMINATION FROM THE PROGRAM

A student who believes he or she has been wrongly terminated from graduate studies may appeal using the following procedures:

The student must first appeal to the graduate advisor (Director of Graduate Studies in History) for a resolution and must do so in writing and within ten (10) working days following the notification of probation or termination. The graduate advisor must respond to the appeal in writing within ten (10) working days of receipt.

If the appeal to the graduate advisor is not satisfactorily resolved, the student may appeal in writing to the chair of the department within ten (10) working days following the graduate advisor’s decision. The department chair must respond to the appeal in writing within ten (10) working days of receipt.

The student may appeal the decision of the chair in writing to the appropriate academic dean within ten (10) working days following the chair’s decision. The academic dean may elect to create appeal committees at the program, department/school, or college level to hear student appeals for readmission. These committees will be charged with making a recommendation to the academic

dean. The academic dean must respond to the appeal in writing within ten (10) working days of receipt.

If the appeal is not resolved with the academic dean, the student may appeal in writing to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, or his/her designee, within ten (10) working days following the academic dean's decision. The decision of the Provost is final.

ASSISTANTSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS

The Department of History supports up to nine graduate assistantships each year. Candidates must be accepted into the program and have competitive scores on the GRE. Each of the assistantships provides a stipend in exchange for on-campus duties. Graduate assistants are required to enroll in six (6) hours of history coursework per term, unless they receive permission from the Director of Graduate Studies to do otherwise. For more information about assistantships, please contact Dr. Brian Matthew Jordan at 936-294-4460.

To apply, please fill out the [TA Application Form](#) and submit the required materials described therein by the following due dates: April 1 for fall; October 15 for spring.

STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT FOR GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

As employees of Sam Houston State University and the State of Texas—and as representatives of the Department of History and College of Humanities and Social Sciences—graduate assistants must comply with the rules of professional conduct and ethical behavior to which all other faculty and staff are bound.

While the Director of Graduate Studies and faculty supervisors of assistants will attempt to make reasonable accommodations for GAs, all graduate assistants must comply with their assignment schedules. Graduate assistants are expected to hold regular office hours each week.

GROUND FOR DISMISSING GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

Gross violation of University policy, criminal violation of Texas state and United States federal laws, or failure to comply with workload expectations will result in dismissal from the graduate

assistantship, either by non-renewal of the assistantship appointment at the end of an academic year, termination at the end of a semester, or immediate dismissal.

Dismissible offenses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Clear violations of ethical conduct, including violations of confidentiality
- Failure to fulfill teaching duties, tutoring obligations, and editorial and research assignments
- Unwillingness and/or failure to respond to supervision or remediation
- Misrepresentation of credentials
- Conviction for academic dishonesty in classwork
- Failure to maintain academic good standing.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

The Graduate School provides a number of merit-based scholarships and other funding opportunities. Students can apply for general scholarship through Scholarships4Kats, and they can also apply for travel and research funding at <http://www.shsu.dept/graduate-studies>

Scholarships in the History Department are merit-based awards that are given to students only after a semester or more in the program.

For a list of scholarships available through Sam Houston State University, please visit:

http://www.shsu.edu/dept/financial-aid/scholarships/scholarship_blocks/graduate.html#chss

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsification of research data, or the abuse of resource materials on an examination or other academic work. Any student accused of dishonesty is subject to academic penalties and may be referred to the Dean of Student's office for additional disciplinary action. Please review Academic Policy Statement 810213 for more information.

If a faculty member discovers that a student has engaged in an act of academic dishonesty, he or she may assign an academic penalty to the student. However, the faculty member must provide the student written notice of the offense, the penalty, and the student's due process rights, before the penalty may be imposed. The procedure for student appeals of academic policy violations is as follows:

The student must be advised in writing by the instructor that the allegation and penalty may be appealed to the department chair, then to the dean and, eventually to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs or his or her designated representatives.

The student's written appeal must be initiated within ten (10) working days of the receipt of written notice of the penalty decision or of the decision of the reviewing administrator.

The student shall have an opportunity to respond to the allegation of academic dishonesty and proposed penalty at each stage of the process.

The reviewing administrator shall provide an impartial, written decision as to the merits of the appeal within ten (10) working days of receipt.

The student has ten (10) working days from the date of an administrator's decision to appeal to the next level administrator.

When a student does not appeal to the next level, on the eleventh (11th) working day, the last academic decision shall become final and the academic penalty, if any, shall be enacted by the last reviewer. When a student appeals to the Provost, any academic penalty imposed is effective and final on the date the Provost's decision is issued.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. Information relating to students' grades, race, gender, SSN, Driver's License number, citizenship and religion are protected under this law. Information that is public (directory information) such as name, email, phone number and degree(s) are not protected under this law. Faculty and students may communicate between SHSU e-mail accounts **only**; transmissions to personal e-mail accounts from faculty members are a violation of FERPA. For further information, please consult the following link or see the graduate advisor [SHSU Student Educational Records Policy](#).

TITLE IX NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Sam Houston State University complies with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act. Sexual misconduct, as defined in the University's Sexual Misconduct Policy, constitutes a form of sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX and Title VII.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STATEMENT

Sam Houston State University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Plan Employer and Smoke/Drug-Free Workplace. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, creed, ancestry, marital status, citizenship, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, veteran status, disability status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Sam Houston State University is an "at will" employer.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

HIST 5097. Independent Study. 1-3 Hours.

This is a course designed for studies of individually selected topics not specifically provided in any of the formal courses. Variable Credit (1-3)

Prerequisite: Consent of History Department Chair.

HIST 5098. Special Topic. 1-3 Hours.

This course affords graduate students and faculty within the History Program the opportunity to study, in a seminar format, topics not covered in the current curriculum. Variable Credit (1-3)

Prerequisite: Department Approval.

HIST 5301. Methods in History. 3 Hours.

Students hone their research and writing skills needed for the M.A. in History degree. Students assess the various methodological approaches used by professional historians and learn how to conduct original research, engage in historiographical conversations, and communicate their research findings to a larger public. This course will also prepare students to sit for their comprehensive examinations. **Prerequisite:** Admission to the MA in History or departmental approval.

HIST 5333. Topics in His of PreModern Wld. 3 Hours.

The topic will vary by semester and pertain to a major historical development in the world prior to the sixteenth century. Topics include War in the Ancient World, Comparative World Religions, and Studies in Islamic Civilization. Readings will include important primary sources as well as secondary sources works.

HIST 5336. Topics in the History of Pre-Modern Europe. 3 Hours.

The topic will vary by semester and pertain to a major historical development in Europe prior to the sixteenth century. Topics include Early Medieval Europe 300-1000, the Roman Empire, and Europe in the Era of Crusades 1000-1500. Readings will include important primary sources as well as secondary works.

HIST 5340. Recent African-American Hist. 3 Hours.

This course will familiarize graduate students with the African-American experience in United States history since the end of the Civil War. Topics include Reconstruction, Jim Crow segregation, national political leadership and intellectual thought, the Great Migrations, World War I, the "New Negro" and Harlem Renaissance, the labor movement, the Great Depression and

World War II, and the modern Civil Rights Movement.

HIST 5342. The Japanese Colonial Empire. 3 Hours.

Students in this course examine the history of Japanese imperialism and colonialism in Asia from the late nineteenth century until the end of World War II. Topics include settler colonialism in Korea, Taiwan, and Manchuria, Japan's militarization, fascist ideology, the Pacific Theater of World War II, and war trials. **Prerequisite:** Graduate Standing.

HIST 5351. Early Medieval Europe. 3 Hours.

Students in this course examine Europe during the so-called "Dark Ages" (300-1000), a period of dynamic transformation as the Roman Empire ended, Christian, classical and warrior cultures interfaced, and the search for order met great challenges. **Prerequisite:** Graduate Standing.

HIST 5352. High and Late Medieval Europe. 3 Hours.

Students in this course examine Europe across a period (1000-1500) characterized initially by growth and prosperity, diverse religious movements, towering urban constructions, and the Crusades; and then, followed by plague and peasant uprisings, which generated social unrest. **Prerequisite:** Graduate Standing.

HIST 5353. Legacies of the Reformations. 3 Hours.

Students in this course examine the sixteenth-century Protestant and Catholic Reformations and their effects on religion, society, politics, culture, and the economy. Particular attention will be given to the competing interpretations of their long-term historical significance. **Prerequisite:** Graduate Standing.

HIST 5362. Smnr in Amercn Envirnmntl Hist. 3 Hours.

This course is an examination of the complex relationship between nature and society in American history. Students will study economics, land-use patterns and natural ecosystems along with the corresponding dramatic changes in natural and human communities that engender strong social and political responses.

HIST 5363. Seminar In Military History. 3 Hours.

Selected topics in Military History.

HIST 5365. Film and War in America. 3 Hours.

Students in this course examine how film has altered the perception of warfare in America over the last century. Upon completion students are able to compare the various views of war presented. Students further examine the filmography to demonstrate how perceptions changed over time due to the influence of politics, patriotism, and warfare itself. Credit 3. **Prerequisite:** Graduate Standing.

HIST 5370. Colonial America. 3 Hours.

This course examines the issues, peoples, and perspectives that shaped Colonial America. Topics will vary by term but may include exploration, settlement, and maturation of the North American colonies.

HIST 5371. Revolutionary America. 3 Hours.

This is essentially a readings oriented course. Broad themes from the colonial-revolutionary period

will be singled out. Readings will be assigned to familiarize students with the general themes. More specific readings will be assigned and individual reports will be discussed at length in class.

HIST 5372. Early National America. 3 Hours.

Studies tracing the development of the United States from 1783 to 1840; the failure of the Confederation; organization of government under the Constitution; the Federalist Period; Jeffersonian democracy; the War of 1812; national growth in the post-war period; political and economic change; the party structure; the rise of Jackson; and social reform.

HIST 5373. The Am Civil War & Reconstruct. 3 Hours.

Studies intended to cover selected topics in the political, military, economic, and social institutions of the United States during the Civil War Era. Students will explore major recent historical interpretations and/or conduct research in primary sources.

HIST 5374. Seminar in the His of Am South. 3 Hours.

This course examines the diverse history, peoples, and cultures that have occupied the American South. The topic will vary by semester, among those topics are economic and political history, religion, race, literature, the Civil Rights movement, and women's experience. The course constitutes the core of a Southern history concentration.

HIST 5375. Recent America, 1876-1933. 3 Hours.

Studies designed to cover social, economic, cultural, diplomatic and political developments of late-nineteenth and 20th century America. Students will explore major recent historical interpretations and/or conduct research in primary sources.

HIST 5376. Contemporary Amer,1933-Present. 3 Hours.

This course will offer a careful survey of United States history since 1933, including such topics as the Great Depression, the New Deal, the Cold War, the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights Movement, the Feminist Movement, the Watergate Crisis, the Iranian Hostage Crisis, the Reagan Era, the End of the Cold War, and the Roots of 9/11. Students will explore major recent historical interpretations and/or conduct research in primary sources.

HIST 5377. The American West. 3 Hours.

This course covers the American West as a region with a strong emphasis on the 19th century. It will explore the interpretive development of the field as it has progressed from a traditional focus on Anglo expansion to a more balanced view that embraces race, gender, and the workaday West. Students will explore major recent historical interpretations and/or conduct research in primary sources.

HIST 5378. Amer Cultural & Religious His. 3 Hours.

A study of selected topics in the cultural and religious history of the people of North America; the course focuses on the patterns of belief and values held by American men and women which have shaped each major period from colonial times to the present.

HIST 5380. American Historiography. 3 Hours.

This course is an intensive readings course for graduate students in major topics of interest among American historians. Students will understand the complex nature of historical practice and the development of past and current fields within the discipline. Students will explore major recent

historical interpretations and/or conduct research in primary sources.

HIST 5381. World Historiography. 3 Hours.

This course represents an in-depth examination of the interdisciplinary methodologies of the New World History. Students will investigate the writing of world history as a projection of power and dominance in the era of global imperialism and colonialism; non-Eurocentric explanations for the "rise of the West"; and the latest scholarly efforts to construct a non-privileging world history.

HIST 5382. Topics In the History Of Women. 3 Hours.

A study of selected topics in the history of women; the course focuses on the experiences of women of diverse cultural, racial, and ethnic backgrounds. The course examines women's responses to social forces during critical periods in their history. Students will explore major recent historical interpretations and/or conduct research in primary sources.

HIST 5383. United States Diplomatic Hist. 3 Hours.

This course is a study of selected topics tracing the development of United States foreign policy from 1775 to the present. Topics may include diplomacy of the Revolutionary Era; the Early Republic; Manifest Destiny; the Civil War Era; Imperialism and Expansion; the Great Crusade and after; World War II; and the Cold War. The emphasis is on the forces that have influenced diplomacy and on the changing interpretations of United States foreign policy. Students will explore major recent historical interpretations and/or conduct research in primary sources.

HIST 5384. Texas History. 3 Hours.

An in-depth examination of Texas history, including study of indigenous peoples, Spanish colonization, the Mexican era, Anglo- and African- American settlement, the Revolution and Republic period, statehood, Civil War and Reconstruction, the cattle kingdom, the oil industry, and political and economic modernization. The course may be conducted as either a research or reading seminar. Students will explore major recent historical interpretations and/or conduct research in primary sources.

HIST 5385. Latin American History. 3 Hours.

The topics for this course will vary from semester to semester among such subjects as the diplomatic, political, social, and intellectual history of specific geographical areas in Latin America; i.e., Mexico, the Caribbean, the Anglo-Spanish border lands, or South America. Students will explore major recent historical interpretations and/or conduct research in primary sources.

HIST 5388. Public History. 3 Hours.

This course will introduce students to aspects of public history including historic preservation, museum studies, living history interpretation, archival arrangement and description, grant writing, and news media. Student projects vary by semester.

HIST 5389. Great Brit & The Brit Empire. 3 Hours.

The topics for this course will vary from semester to semester among various chronological periods and will deal specifically with British religious, political, social, cultural, economic and imperial history. Students will explore major recent historical interpretations and/or conduct research in primary sources.

HIST 5390. China in Revolution. 3 Hours.

Students examine the patterns and contradictions of the social and political revolutions in the making of modern China. They focus on how issues related to the economy, ethnicity, gender, and cultural production shaped Chinese politics and society from the collapse of the Qing dynasty in 1911 until Mao's death in 1976. Topics include the formative years of the Chinese Communist Party, the Chinese Civil War, the consolidation of the People's Republic of China, the Great Famine, and the Cultural Revolution. **Prerequisite:** Graduate Standing.

HIST 5392. The Ottoman Empire, 1300-1922. 3 Hours.

Students in this course survey the history of the Ottoman Empire in order to provide a comprehensive outlook to the diverse political and social traditions of the Islamic world. It will explore the numerous historical threads that eventually composed the fabric of societies and states in the modern Middle East. Focusing on the political and ideological history of the Ottoman Empire, this course pays attention to empire formation in the early modern era, European imperialism, modernization, and nation-building. **Prerequisite:** Graduate Standing.

HIST 5393. European Diplomatic History. 3 Hours.

Studies covering selected topics in the history of European international politics from the 18th through the 20th century. Alternate emphasis will be placed on Eastern and Western Europe as well as on different eras of diplomacy, at the discretion of the instructor. Students will explore major recent historical interpretations and/or conduct research in primary sources.

HIST 5394. Early Modern Europe. 3 Hours.

The course covers the 15th-18th centuries and considers how the foundations for Modern Europe were established amid the dynamic if not wrenching transformation from a medieval way of life characterized by religious concerns, kingdoms, a predominately agrarian economy, and a rigid social order, to a modern one marked by science and secularism, sovereign states, a commercialized and industrializing capitalist economy, and a more socially diverse and mobile world. Students will explore major recent historical interpretations and/or conduct research in primary sources.

HIST 5395. Later Modern Europe. 3 Hours.

A study of selected topics in Later Modern European History. Students will explore major recent historical interpretations as well as conduct research in primary sources.

HIST 5396. Cross-Cultural Interactions. 3 Hours.

This course is an advanced, interdisciplinary investigation of the historiography of cross-cultural encounters and exchanges. Students will examine the historiography of three specific case studies; the ancient Silk Roads, the trans-Eurasian Mongol Empire, and the trans-Atlantic Columbian Exchange.

HIST 6098. Thesis I. 1-3 Hours.**HIST 6099. Thesis II. 1-3 Hours.****HIST 6394. Seminar in History. 3 Hours.**

This course is a research seminar in which students will develop skills in locating, extracting,

evaluating, and synthesizing historical information and writing an article-length paper based on primary sources. Students may also be expected to supplement their research with other readings under the direction of the professor.

DEPARTMENTAL FACULTY

Nancy Baker, Associate Professor of History

American History; History of Women

AB4 453 | (936) 294-4467

Jadwiga M. Biskupska, Assistant Professor of History

Military History

AB4 402 | (936) 294-1487

Scottie Buehler, Visiting Assistant Professor

History of Medicine

AB4 415 | (936) 294-4643

Ty Cashion, Professor of History

American and Texas History

AB4 471 | (936) 294-3835

Thomas H. Cox, Associate Professor of History

U.S. History; Early Republic; Constitutional History

AB4 473 | (936) 294-4804

Zachary Doleshal, Clinical Assistant Professor

Modern World History

AB4 405 | (936) 294-2233

Lei Duan, Assistant Professor of History

East Asian History

AB4 447 | (936) 294-1474

Maggie Elmore, Assistant Professor of History

U.S. Latino/a History

AB4 407 | (936) 294-4124

Pinar Emiralioglu, Associate Professor of History

Middle East History, Ottoman History, World History

AB4 443 | (936) 294-2584

Charles Heath, II, Associate Professor of History
Latin American History
AB4 449 | (936) 294-4430

Aaron Hyams, Lecturer
American West
AB4 409 | (936) 294-1480

Brian Matthew Jordan, Associate Professor of History and Chair, Department of History
U.S. Civil War and Reconstruction
AB4 441 | (936) 294-4460

Jeffrey L. Littlejohn, Professor of History
Civil Rights; 20th Century U.S.
AB4 455 | (936) 294-4438

Sarah Mass, Assistant Professor of History
British History
AB4 461 | (936) 294-3836

David C. Mayes, Associate Professor of History
Early Modern; Reformation; Medieval Europe
AB4 457 | (936) 294-1485

James S. Olson, Distinguished Professor of History Emeritus
Recent America; Vietnam War; American Immigration
AB4 467 | (936) 294-1486

Benjamin E. Park, Assistant Professor of History and Director of Graduate Studies
U.S. Cultural, Religious, and Intellectual History
AB4 403 | (936) 294-1490

Bernadette Pruitt, Associate Professor of History
African American Urban; Internal Migrations; Civil Rights
AB4 459 | (936) 294-1491

Uzma Quraishi, Associate Professor of History
Immigration and Modern America
AB4 463 | (936) 294-1478

Stephen H. Rapp, Professor of History
Eurasian History
AB4 407 | (936) 294-3659