

Master of Arts in History

Program Overview

Program Director: James Ehrman
 Associate Program Director of Academics: John Broom
 Capstone Director: John Grenier

The mission of the Norwich University Master of Arts in History program is to:

- provide students with a base of historical knowledge within the field of history,
- build an awareness of differing historical interpretations and the ability to synthesize diverse types of historical knowledge,
- build and refine student research, writing, analysis and presentation skills,
- provide students with an introduction to historical pedagogy,
- provide students with a foundation for developing a professional identity as a historian and,
- help students “learn to think like a historian” and develop “historiographical sensibilities” and “historical habits of mind.”

The Master of Arts in History curriculum is guided by the goals for history M.A. degrees outlined by the American Historical Association. The curriculum is designed to provide students with a base of historical knowledge, graduate level historical research skills, an introduction to historical pedagogy, the foundation for an identity as a historian, and the “habits of mind” of a professional historian.

Curriculum Map

Semester 1	Credits	Semester 2	Credits	Semester 3	Credits
MH 510 Introduction to Military History: Historiography and Method	6	HI 530 Nineteenth Century American History	6	Select one elective	6
HI 520 American Colonial, Revolutionary and Early National History	6	HI 540 Twentieth Century American History	6	Select one capstone academic exercise ¹	6
				MH 595 Residency ²	0
	12		12		12
Total Credits: 36					

¹ Students selecting to take the comprehensive exam as their completion course must also enroll in one additional elective.

² Students are required to attend a one-week, on campus Residency Conference the June following or concurrent with their final course.

Curriculum Requirements

U.S. History Concentration

Core Seminars

MH 510	Introduction to Military History: Historiography and Method	6
HI 520	American Colonial, Revolutionary and Early National History	6
HI 530	Nineteenth Century American History	6
HI 540	Twentieth Century American History	6

Elective Seminars

Select one of the following:

GU 590	Selected Topics	6
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Capstone Academic Exercise

Select one of the following:

MH 562	Capstone Paper	6
MH 569	Comprehensive Exam ¹	0
MH 570	M.A. Thesis ²	6

Culminating Academic Requirement

MH 595	Residency	0
Total Credits		36

¹ Co-requisite: one six-credit elective

² By permission only

M.A. Examination

The master’s examination exercise consists of one or more written examinations covering the subject matter studied in previous seminars. Students will be assigned a faculty advisor in seminar 4 who will assist the student in preparing for the written examination. A committee of three consisting of the student’s advisor, the Capstone Director and one Norwich M.A. in History faculty member will evaluate and grade the written examinations. The M.A. examination is intended to test the student’s knowledge of their specific field of study and is a final validation of performance for the Norwich M.A. in History.

Capstone Paper

In this final seminar students will, under the direction of single Norwich faculty member assigned by the program’s Capstone Director, research and write a capstone paper of approximately fifty pages in length. The paper must utilize scholarly secondary sources as well as primary source documents and demonstrate the student’s mastery of the historiography of his or her topic. The paper must contain a well developed historical question and a compelling interpretation/argument answering the question posed.

One-Week Residency

During the final phase of the Master of Arts in History program students are required to attend a one-week residency on the Norwich University campus. During this residency, students may attend professional

presentations, participate in roundtable discussions with faculty, and present papers. The one-week residency is a degree requirement.

Master's Thesis

This option is recommended for those interested in continuing their studies in history at the doctoral level. Interested students must petition the Program Director, provide two letters of recommendation of support from Norwich M.A. in History faculty, and a complete M.A. thesis prospectus outlining the proposed M.A. research question, the historiography of the topic, and the primary and/or archival sources they will use for their M.A. thesis. Petitions to exercise the M.A. thesis project will be reviewed by a committee composed of the Program Director, Associate Program Director for Academics and Capstone Director. If the student petition is approved a committee consisting of two professors and the Capstone Director will advise the student throughout the thesis seminar. The paper must contain a well developed historical question and a compelling interpretation/argument answering the question posed.

The thesis option in Seminar 6 is, at minimum, a semester-long (22-week) project with accompanying sustaining and thesis fees.

Faculty Member	Institution at which highest degree was earned
James Ehrman, PhD (Program Director)	Kansas State University
John Grenier, PhD (Capstone Director)	University of Colorado
Mark Danley, PhD	Kansas State University
Joseph Fischer, PhD	Pennsylvania State University
Ricardo Herrera, PhD	Marquette University
Beth Hillman, PhD	Yale University
Dave Hogan, PhD	Duke University
Sean Kalic, PhD	Kansas State University
Peter Kindsvatter, PhD	Temple University
Deborah Kidwell, PhD	Kansas State University
John Kuehn, PhD	Kansas State University
Robert Mackey, PhD	Texas A & M
John Maass, PhD	The Ohio State University
Lisa Munday, PhD	Kansas State University
Michael Pearlman, PhD	University of Illinois
Chris Rein, PhD	University of Kansas
Charles Sanders, PhD	Kansas State University
Mark Snell, PhD	University of Missouri
Patrick Speelman, PhD	Temple University
James Tucci, PhD	University of Wisconsin
David Ulbrich, PhD	Temple University
Kenneth Underwood, PhD	University of Las Vegas
John Votaw, PhD	Temple University
James Westheider, PhD	University of Cincinnati
Bradford Wineman, PhD	Texas A & M
Bobby Wintermute, PhD	Temple University

Greg Witkowski, PhD
Mitch Yockelson, PhD

State University of New York
Cranford University

History Courses

HI 520. American Colonial, Revolutionary and Early National History. 6 Credits.

This seminar explores American history from the era of contact through the early nineteenth century. The seminar is organized on a thematic rather than chronologic basis. It introduces students to the main themes and historiography of the period. Discussions and readings will lead students to examine areas of early seventeenth through early nineteenth-century American history and historiography.

HI 526. Hunter-Gatherer and Agrarian Eras. 6 Credits.

This seminar examines the development of human civilization from dawn of human civilization and the development of agriculture to the era of European discovery and colonization of the New World. In addition to examining the forces responsible for the development of human civilization in this period, major historiographic debates, historical themes and problems will be explored.

HI 530. Nineteenth Century American History. 6 Credits.

This seminar explores American history from the Early National period to the eve of the First World War. This seminar is organized on a thematic rather than chronologic basis. It introduces students to the major themes and historiographic debates of this period of U.S. history. Discussions and readings will lead students to examine areas of nineteenth-century American history and historiography.

HI 536. The Late Agrarian Era to 1800. 6 Credits.

This seminar examines the development of human civilization from the late agrarian era to the beginning of the industrial revolution. In addition to examining the forces responsible for the development of human civilization in the period 1500-1800, major historiographic debates, historical themes and problems will be explored.

HI 540. Twentieth Century American History. 6 Credits.

This seminar explores American history from the turn of the twentieth century and focuses on both internal developments and a greater American role in global affairs. It introduces students to main themes and historiography of the period, including the struggle for equality at home for women, immigrants and minorities, increasing American involvement in foreign conflicts, social, political and economic developments, and the relationship with the natural and built environments. Discussions and readings will lead students to examine other areas of twentieth-century American history and historiography.

HI 546. World History from 1800 to 1991. 6 Credits.

This seminar examines the development of human civilization from the beginning of the industrial revolution to the end of the Cold War. In addition to examining the major forces shaping world history in this period, major historiographic debates, historical themes and problems will be explored.

HI 550. Directed Readings in History. 6 Credits.

This seminar is designed to help students gain a detailed, graduate-level understanding of specific areas or topics in American or Global history and historiography that will prepare students for comprehensive examinations, capstone papers/theses, and teaching. Topics and readings are subject to the approval of the seminar's supervising faculty members and/or Program Director.

HI 595. Residency. 0 Credits.**Military History Courses****MH 510. Introduction to Military History: Historiography and Method. 6 Credits.**

The first seminar examines how military history developed as a distinct discipline, and will train you in the "tools of the trade": historiography and methodology. Historiography, or the art of practicing history as a distinct discipline, is an examination of the history of historical thought, from the first works of history in the classical world to the present time. The seminar will cover some of the varied historiographical schools and concepts that have evolved. Historical methodology and informational literacy will also be studied. How do historians gather information and formulate hypotheses? The development of research methods, including the use of primary and secondary sources, are discussed. History involves interpretation; the role of objectivity, selectivity, and bias are examined.

MH 520. Global Military History to 1800. 6 Credits.

This seminar explores the military history of the United States and Europe from classical Greece to the 19th century. The emphasis is on the "Western Way of War" as defined by historians Geoffrey Parker and Victor Davis Hanson. In virtually every conflict between Western states and non-Western powers, from the Persian Wars through the colonial era, the west has emerged victorious. Are there experiences and characteristics that have distinguished warfare in the West from the rest of the world? Other prominent military historians, including John Lynn, have challenged the notion that a distinct, continuous Western Way of War exists. The seminar consists of an in-depth examination of these conflicting interpretations of military history and the major themes in the military history of the West.

MH 530. Military Thought and Theory. 6 Credits.

This seminar studies the most influential military theoreticians and strategists from the period of the Thirty Years War to the present day. Students will examine the theories of Clausewitz, Jomini, Douhet, Mahan, Corbett, and Mao Tse-Tung. This seminar also examines theories of deterrence and nuclear war as well as post-Maoist revolutionary warfare.

MH 540. Non-Western Military History. 6 Credits.

This seminar will present an introduction to Non-Western military history, covering a wide range of topics including military thought, strategy and tactics, technologies, and cultural factors as they pertained to the waging of war. Non-Western military history is rapidly maturing as a field of scholarly inquiry, particularly with respect to Asia. Therefore, this seminar will introduce students to the latest scholarship and interpretations, which both challenge and complement aspects of the debates about Western superiority mentioned above. Due to the wider availability of source materials and the research expertise of the seminar designer, this seminar will devote more attention to East Asia than to other parts of the non-Western world. Nevertheless, weekly lessons will be arranged topically and will in many cases encompass a variety of geographical areas. Students will be strongly encouraged to think comparatively throughout the class. Students will be challenged to determine if any society had definitely unique approaches to warfare or if the universals are far more important than the specifics.

MH 541. Chinese Military History. 6 Credits.

This seminar will provide an introduction to Chinese military history, covering a wide range of topics including military thought, strategy and tactics, technologies, and cultural factors as they pertained to the waging of war. This offering will introduce students to the latest scholarship and interpretations, which both challenge and complement aspects of the debates about the "Western way of war." Students will be strongly encouraged to think comparatively throughout the class. In the process we will attempt to determine if any society had definitely unique approaches to warfare or if the universals are far more important than the specifics.

MH 543. Amphibious Warfare. 6 Credits.

This seminar examines amphibious operations from antiquity to the present. It also sketches broader contexts for amphibious warfare as it has affected political, diplomatic, and economic change by determining to what degree, if at all, various amphibious actions figured in what has been labeled as an early-modern "military revolution" that contributed to the "Rise of the West."

MH 550. U.S. Military History. 6 Credits.

This seminar will present an introduction to American military history from the colonial era to the present. Students will be challenged to critically evaluate Russell Weigley's "American Way of War" thesis and examine the impact American conflicts and the U.S. military has had on American Society.

MH 551. Race and Gender in Military History. 6 Credits.

This seminar will cover the complex issues surrounding racial integration in military institutions, including intriguing questions around citizenship and ethnicity. Students will also examine the history of women's participation in warfare and issues of gender integration in the military.

MH 552. Total War. 6 Credits.

This seminar will examine the origins of the concept and practice of "total war" in the period from the French Revolution to the end of the Cold War. The French Revolution, Napoleonic Wars, American Civil War, First World War and Second World War will be examined. Students will examine the evolution of modern war, the characteristics of "total war" as well as the usefulness of the concept of "total war" in describing these massive conflicts.

MH 562. Capstone Paper. 6 Credits.

Norwich requires a "Capstone Paper" that must be written and submitted during the latter part of Seminar 6. The Capstone has all the elements of the traditional thesis, including a program-approved topic of the student's own choosing to be explored in depth, the use of appropriate academic sources, and a defense of the Capstone during the student's Residency.

MH 569. Comprehensive Exam. 0 Credits.

This degree completion exercise is designed to assess students' knowledge of military history in general and the specific sub-fields they have studied during their program of study. The goal of the written examination is to assess student knowledge in the field of military history gained during the students' program of study. In each examination students must demonstrate graduate level knowledge of the pertinent historiography of the field(s) examined in their course of study, graduate level analysis, an ability to synthesize information from various scholarly sources and develop and defend their interpretation of historical events. Students must also make a credible case regarding their argument's historical and historiographic significance. Prerequisites: Successful completion of Seminars 1-6. Additional fees may apply.

MH 570. M.A. Thesis. 6 Credits.

The M.A. thesis is an original research project demonstrating the student's ability to conduct primary source research and mastery of the historiography germane to the research question. The thesis must also demonstrate graduate level analysis, synthesis, and argument and make a compelling case for the argument's historical and historiographic significance. The M.A. thesis will require students to make an individual, original, extended, and in-depth study of an approved research question within the field of military history. The M.A. thesis requires research utilizing primary documents. Students pursuing a research question requiring primary and/or secondary sources in a foreign language must demonstrate advanced reading proficiency in the pertinent foreign language(s). Proficiency will be demonstrated via an external assessment such as the Defense Language Proficiency Examinations, Foreign Service Institute examinations or reading comprehension tests approved by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. If required for the research project, proof of foreign language competency must accompany the petition for the thesis option. Thesis and additional fees will be applied. Prerequisites: approval of Program Director, Associate Program Director for Academics and Capstone Director, successful completion of Seminars 1-5, and, if applicable, advanced reading knowledge of the pertinent foreign language(s).

MH 595. Residency. 0 Credits.

MH 697. Staff Ride. 0 Credits.