

Master of Arts in Military 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 Military History program is to:

- provide students with a base of historical knowledge within the field of military 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 Military 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.

Master of Arts in Military History students come from all walks of life and a variety of different professions and seek to earn their M.A. in military history for both personal and professional reasons. Some students enter the program simply to learn more about a field they care deeply about. Many students who are professional educators utilize the Masters of Arts in Military History to further their subject expertise in the field of military history. The degree is also a means of professional development to military personnel who see the degree as highly relevant to their leaders and strategists. A few students use the degree as preparation for further work in the field at the Ph.D. level.

Curriculum Map

Semester 1	Credits	Semester 2	Credits	Semester 3	Credits
MH 510 Introduction to Military History: Historiography and Method	6	MH 530 Military Thought and Theory	6	Select one elective course	6
MH 520 Global Military History to 1800	6	Select one elective course	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

Core Seminars

MH 510	Introduction to Military History: Historiography and Method	6
MH 520	Global Military History to 1800	6
MH 530	Military Thought and Theory	6

Elective Seminars

Select two of the following:

MH 540	Non-Western Military History	6
MH 541	Chinese Military History	6
MH 543	Amphibious Warfare	6
MH 550	U.S. Military History	6
MH 551	Race and Gender in Military History	6
MH 552	Total War	6

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
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Total Credits 36

- ¹ Co-requisite: One six-credit elective
- ² By permission only

Capstone Paper

Students have the option of writing a capstone paper as a degree completion exercise in their sixth and final seminar. The capstone paper is the opportunity to conduct research in an area of interest to the student and is designed to be an article-length original paper which builds upon skills and knowledge developed in the program. The capstone paper is completed during MH 561.

Comprehensive Examination

In lieu of a capstone paper or thesis students elected to complete their degree via written comprehensive examinations following the successful completion of their sixth seminar. If students choose this degree completion option they may take an elective in their sixth seminar and enroll in the comprehensive examination sessions held each quarter. For students selecting this option the degree cannot be conferred until the student successfully completes this degree requirement. Pre-requisite: successful completion of seminars 1-6.

One-Week Residency

During the final phase of the Master of Arts in Military 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.

M.A. Thesis

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. Students interested in this degree completion option must petition the Program Director, Associate Program Director for Academics and Capstone Director during their fourth seminar. The petition must be accompanied by two letters of recommendation from two M.A. in Military History faculty and a thesis proposal.

Faculty Member	Institution at which highest degree was earned
James Ehrman, PhD (Program Director)	Kansas State University
John Broom, PhD (Associate Program Director of Academics)	The Union Institute
John Grenier, PhD (Capstone Director)	University of Colorado
Mark Danley, PhD	Kansas State University
Kelly DeVries, PhD	University of Toronto
Sviatoslav Dmitriev, PhD	Harvard University
Antulio Echevarria, PhD	Princeton University
Mark Fissel, PhD	University of California, Berkley
David Hogan, PhD	Duke University
Jonathan House, PhD	University of Michigan
John Jennings, PhD	University of Hawaii

Sean Kalic, PhD	Kansas State University
Bill Kautt, PhD	University of Ulster
John Kuehn, PhD	Kansas State University
Xiao Bing Li, PhD	Carnegie Mellon University
Stephen Morillo, PhD	Jesus College, Oxford University
Lisa Mundey, PhD	Kansas State University
Mike Neiberg, PhD	Carnegie Mellon University
Charles Oliviero, PhD	Royal Military College of Canada
Joyce Sampson, PhD	Florida State University
Dennis Showalter, PhD	University of Minnesota
Ken Swope, PhD	University of Michigan
David Ulbrich, PhD	Temple University
John Votaw, PhD	Temple University
Robert Wintermute, PhD	Temple University
Miles Yu, PhD	University of California, Berkley
Xiaoming Zhang, PhD	University of Iowa
Pingchao Zhu, PhD	Miami University

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 an 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.