Content of Our Program

Doctoral candidates in History, working in close consultation with the faculty, use our flexible examination structure to shape their specific fields of inquiry, blending concentrations in particular times and places with interests that are more inter-regional and theoretical, and that connect history to other disciplines. The Department’s intellectual reach is significantly amplified by strong connections, including joint faculty appointments with such other Emory Departments, Programs, and Schools as African-Americans Studies, African Studies, Ancient Mediterranean Studies, Art History, The Candler School of Theology, Classics, The Graduate Division of Religion, The Institute for Liberal Arts (including American Studies), The Law School, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies, The Tam Institute for Jewish Studies, and Women Studies.

Among the cross-cutting branches of study in which our faculty have strength and expertise are:

- Nation and Empire, Colonial and Post-Colonial History
- Race, Subalternity, and Difference (including differences of gender, ethnicity, and class)
- Jewish History
- Slavery, Migration, and Diaspora in Comparative Perspectives
- Trans-National Histories (including Atlantic World)
- Religious, Intellectual, and Cultural History

The geographic and chronological areas of faculty strength include:

African History

Emory’s nationally ranked program in African history focuses on the eighteenth through twentieth centuries. Our strengths lie in providing students with excellent training in African history and job placement, outstanding opportunities for comparative study in a number of complementary fields and disciplines, and a broad and deep foundation in African Studies through Emory’s...
Internationally recognized Institute of African Studies. Students and faculty participate in the Interdisciplinary Workshop in Colonial and Post-Colonial Studies, where they discuss work in progress and plan a yearly conference. Faculty research interests focus on marriage and gender, slavery and emancipation among Yoruba-speaking peoples in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries; state formation and political culture, violence, inequality and environmental change in Southern Africa; and the history of the early modern Atlantic world, the slave trade, slavery, and migration, both coerced and free.

**American History**
American history at Emory ranges chronologically from the seventeenth to the early twenty-first centuries —indeed to the historical doorstep of today—and encompasses political, social, economic, intellectual, religious, and cultural history. Our faculty interests embrace such topics as: African American history; diplomatic history; slavery and race relations; the history of working people; religion; gender history; ethnicity and immigration; and southern history. Students in American history also benefit from our close ties to programs in Women’s Studies, American Studies, African American Studies, Jewish Studies, and the Candler School of Theology.

**Ancient History**
Emory University’s NEW Ph.D. in Ancient History emphasizes interdisciplinary work in the social, political, and cultural history of ancient Greek and Roman society (including late antiquity), drawing on the strengths of the Emory faculty not only in History but also in Art History, Classics, Philosophy, Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies, and the Graduate Division of Religion. Family and gender history, legal history, the history of religion and the comparative history of slavery are some of the topics students can expect to study with the support of faculty actively working in these areas. Students are also encouraged to participate in established programs for the study of Greek and Roman history and archaeology in Athens and Rome.

**Asian History**
Graduate work at Emory in Asian History focuses on the theme of colonialism, postcolonialism, and the making of the modern. By colonialism, we refer not only to European colonialism, but also to Asian colonialism, such as the Japanese Imperialism of the Meiji Restoration era and the informal Chinese colonization that unfolded throughout Eastern and Southeast Asia. In addressing the making of the modern, we seek to draw attention to regional differences of early modern conditions and culture, and the influences that such local differences had on modern historical trajectories. The program is also an outstanding place to focus on transnational history and subaltern studies. Faculty research centers on Indian History and subaltern studies, modern Japanese History, Ding-Quinn Chinese History, and comparative colonialism.

**Early Modern and Modern European History**
Ph.D. students in European history can expect a rigorous, well-structured course of graduate study supervised by scholars covering a significant spectrum of geographical sites and themes in early modern and modern European history. Faculty teaching early modern Europe are skilled both in traditional social history and in newer cultural-history approaches. Their research ranges from women and religion in fifteenth-century Florence to reassessments of the public sphere in Enlightenment Europe to research on the French Revolution and its economic, legal, and literary consequences in the Napoleonic era. A close collaborative relationship with the Candler School of Theology makes the early modern area of specialization also an outstanding choice for the study of Reformation Europe. The modern European part of the program addresses the national histories of key European powers—Germany, France, Italy, (Soviet) Russia—as well as such subjects as modernism and modernity, history and memory, gender and sexuality, comparative twentieth-century dictatorships, nineteenth- and twentieth-century political culture, and the culture and society of communist and post-communist Europe. Students of European history at Emory benefit from a vibrant network of affiliated faculty engaged in the study of Europe in other programs. Established venues for sharing scholarly research are the Vann Seminar in Pre-Modern European history and the History Department Seminar.

**Colonial Latin American History and Modern Latin American History**
Emory’s highly competitive Ph.D. in Latin American history takes advantage of the University’s program in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, which includes over 50 graduate students in varied courses of study. Faculty in Latin American History share certain research interests, including ethnicity, race, identity, and cultural conflict, which makes our program particularly attractive for students interested in these topics. We specialize as well in questions of national identity and immigration for the national period, and the interface of indigenous peoples with imperial institutions during the colonial period. The area of Latin American history is especially strong in the histories of Brazil and Mexico and in approaches including social and cultural history. Students work closely with faculty and take advantage of a two-semester sequence of courses that provides intensive training in methodology and the historiography of Latin America. The faculty is particularly committed to student professionalization, and Ph.D. candidates are encouraged to learn about fellowship writing, pedagogy and comparative approaches in complementary fields and disciplines including anthropology and literature.
Structure of Our Program

Students normally take two years of coursework. The courses are typically seminars that range from the required co-taught interdisciplinary introduction to historical scholarship (History 583, usually taken in a student’s first semester) to more concentrated explorations of particular eras, regions, or topics. Separate follow-on courses are devoted to preparing article-length (and potentially publishable) research papers. The first of these are written in the context of our required research workshop (History 584), normally taken in the second semester of the student’s first year.

Following successful completion of their coursework, students take the General Examination—usually in the fall of their third year. Students present three fields for the Examination. Two are defined geographically and/or chronologically. The third is defined thematically, comparatively, or theoretically. After passing their Examination, students proceed to preparing and presenting a dissertation prospectus, and then subsequently, in consultation with their advisers and dissertation committees, to researching and writing their theses.

All Ph.D. programs at Emory involve a serious commitment to preparing students for classroom teaching. Our commitment encompasses departmental instruction dealing with pedagogical issues; a teaching assistantship in a student’s second year; and a teaching associateship (providing each student opportunity to teach an introductory level course in his or her field) in the third or fourth year of study.

Support and Intellectual Community

Selected from a pool of 150 – 200 applicants, the 8 – 10 students matriculating each year are fully funded with tuition scholarship, stipend awards for 5 years, and subsidized health insurance paying 100% of the premiums. Internal funding for research and for attending conferences are available. Of particular note are the funds available for research and travel early in a student’s career that permit preparation for the dissertation prospectus and facilitate successful application for major external grants.

Besides the financial support they receive, Ph.D. candidates in History benefit from a lively intellectual community. Talks by visiting speakers, locally-based conferences, annual lectureships, and several ongoing colloquium series are all open to graduate students. Acting on their own, History graduate students have formed assorted reading groups and participate in the Graduate History Society. The latter organization serves as liaison between the graduate study body, the Department, and the University. It participates in our student recruitment weekend each Spring and maintains an impressive ongoing website.

Students

We draw students from strong undergraduate programs throughout the country. We are also attracting a growing cohort of international students, with currently enrolled doctoral candidates arriving from Canada, Brazil, Uruguay, India, Israel, Great Britain, Argentina, and Zimbabwe.
Faculty

The History department currently has 32 faculty and 14 associated faculty. Five faculty have joint appointments: two with African-American Studies, one with Jewish Studies, one with Political Science, and one with Women's Studies. (A complete list of faculty along with detailed information about their research and teaching may be found on our website at www.history.emory.edu.)

History faculty members have a deservedly distinguished reputation as both teachers and scholars. Instructors have won numerous teaching awards, prizes for books and articles. And they are recipients of grants that include Guggenheim Fellowships and fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies, the Center for Hellenic Studies, the Institute for Advanced Study, the National Humanities Center, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Social Science Research Council.

Recent awards and honors include:

- David Eltis received the Anisfield-Wolf Book Prize (Cleveland Foundation), the R.R. Hawkins Award, and two prizes from the American Publishers Association.
- Fraser Harbutt received the Charles Smith Award (Southern Historical Association).
- Jeffrey Lesser received honorable mention for the 2010 Brazilian Studies Association Roberto Reis Book Prize.
- James Melton was chosen President-Elect of the Organization of Central European Historians.
- Thomas Rogers was awarded the Henry A. Wallace Book Prize (Agricultural History Society).
- Sharon Strocchia received the 2010 Helen and Howard Marraro Book Prize by the American Catholic Historical Association for the best book in Italian history, Italian cultural history, or Italian-American relations.

Contact Information

Please visit our website (www.history.emory.edu) for detailed information about the department, faculty, the graduate program, the Ph.D. degree requirements and the application process.