

# DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

**Dr. Audra Jennings, Department Chair**

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The History Department is home to the following programs: History, Social Studies, Legal Studies, Religious Studies, Asian Studies, Africana Studies, and Latin American Studies. The History Department offers a major and an extended major in History, with or without one of seven possible concentrations: Cultural History; History of Identity; Peace, Conflict, and Human Rights; Legal and Constitutional History; Africana History; History of Science, Environment, and Medicine; and Public History. The History Department also offers a major in Religious Studies and interdisciplinary majors in Legal Studies, Social Studies, and Asian Studies. Students who pursue a major in Social Studies and who complete the professional education requirements may be certified in the teacher education program. Additionally, the History Department offers minors in History and Religious Studies and interdisciplinary minors in Africana Studies, Latin American Studies, Legal Studies, and Asian Studies.

Our majors and minors allow students to explore and focus on their interests and to develop skills for success in business, law, government, education, non-profits, and other careers. In our programs, students will learn in small classes through hands-on engagement, whether through immersive, role-playing games set in the past, by examining historical documents, or through historical site visits. Students will also have the opportunity of doing an internship at a museum, library, or public history site.

Students will find a strong sense of community in the History Department. The department is home to the History Club, the Religious Studies Club, and chapters of Phi Alpha Theta, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, and the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians. The department also hosts an annual undergraduate research conference and sponsors robust department, campus, and community programming.

The Department of History offers a variety of courses to students in any major as well as courses meeting Colonnade requirements for all students. When planning a program of study in the History Department, each student should be aware of the university's academic requirements and regulations contained in this catalog in the chapter "Academic Information." Specific attention should be given to the chapter subsections entitled (a) Academic Requirements and Regulations, (b) Academic Programs, and (c) Colonnade Requirements. Students should be aware that some academic programs may require additional scholastic regulations and standards not specified in the catalog. To obtain a copy of these regulations, students should contact the Department Chair.

## Departmental Honors Program

The Department of History offers opportunities for students to participate in both university and national honors programs. The department works with the Mahurin Honors College to provide opportunities for challenging and intensive investigation of historical topics through coursework, internships, research, independent study, and discussions in small-group

settings. Beyond its work with the Mahurin Honors College, the History Department offers its students an active chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, a national history honors society. For more information, students should contact the Program Coordinator for their major.

## Degrees

- Asian Studies, Bachelor of Arts (6002) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/arts-letters/history/asian-studies-ba/>)
- History, Bachelor of Arts (695E, 695) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/arts-letters/history/history-ba/>)
- Legal Studies, Bachelor of Arts (6001) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/arts-letters/history/legal-studies-ba/>)
- Religious Studies, Bachelor of Arts (769) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/arts-letters/history/religious-studies-ba/>)
- Social Studies, Bachelor of Arts (592) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/arts-letters/history/social-studies-ba/>)

## Minors

- Africana Studies, Minor (305) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/arts-letters/history/africana-studies-minor/>)
- History, Minor (392) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/arts-letters/history/history-minor/>)
- Religious Studies, Minor (447) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/arts-letters/history/religious-studies-minor/>)

## Pre-Law

**Pre-Law Advisor and Coordinator: Dr. Patricia Minter (History)**

**Email:** [patricia.minter@wku.edu](mailto:patricia.minter@wku.edu)

**Cherry Hall, Office 206**

**Website:** <http://www.wku.edu/history/careers/pre-law.php>

Pre-law preparation is not a curriculum as in the case of pre-medicine or other programs that follow a specific pattern of undergraduate courses. Both the American Bar Association and the American Association of Law Schools recommend a broad liberal arts program of courses for potential law students. Pre-law students will best prepare for law school by pursuing a rigorous course of study during their undergraduate years. No specific major is required for admission to law school, but students should select major and minor fields which they find both interesting and promising for superior academic performance.

Admission to law school is on a competitive basis, and the number of openings at each school is limited. The main criteria for admission to most recognized schools are a high grade point average (GPA) in undergraduate work and a high score on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). A Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree from an accredited four-year college or university is required for admission to law schools accredited by the American Bar Association.

Law school admission directors and independent studies of the factors which contribute to success in the study of law conclude that undergraduates should develop a core group of skills during their programs of study. It is important that students select courses that develop strong vocabulary and reading comprehension skills, effective writing ability, analytical/logical reasoning, and an understanding of societal institutions and values.

Students should pursue a challenging course of study that emphasizes reading, writing, and analytical ability. Courses which can develop the requisite skills and abilities for legal study include: ENG 100, ENG 200,

ENG 300, ENG 301, and English electives; PS 110, PS 220, PS 326, PS 327, and PS 328; HIST 101, HIST 102, HIST 445, HIST 446, and history electives; PHIL 215, PHIL 350, PHIL 415 and philosophy electives. Based on individual interests, students may also pursue elective courses in accounting, economics, sociology / criminology, foreign language, and speech communication. The following courses, while not mandatory for pre-legal study, offer undergraduate students a useful introduction to various aspects of public law and legal history: PS 326, PS 327, and PS 328; HIST 445 and HIST 446; SMC 301 or JOUR 301; MGT 200; ECON 390. Please note: Recommended courses are based on WKU's assessment of specific professional school requirements. Students should, in consultation with their advisor, review the requirements at the professional school of their choice.

Each student who intends to study law after graduation should make initial contact with the Pre-Law Advising program. Afterwards, students are encouraged to meet with a pre-law advisor in addition to his/her major advisor during their tenure at WKU. Pre-law advisors will provide assistance in obtaining information about law schools, the Law School Admission Test and other pertinent information. Aspiring pre-law students should plan to take the LSAT in June following their junior year. During the senior year, the pre-law advisor will also be available to assist students in the preparation and submission of applications to law schools of their choice. Applications are usually accompanied by letters of recommendation from faculty members who can comment on the student's ability and promise for the study of law. Aspiring candidates should conduct their undergraduate studies that they can, with confidence, ask at least three faculty members to serve as references.

## Pre-Theology

**Advisor: Dr. James Barker**

**Email: James.Barker@wku.edu (%20James.Barker@wku.edu)**

**Cherry Hall, Office 300**

Theological seminaries, accredited by the American Association of Theological Schools, require for entrance the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree from an accredited four-year college or university. Pre-theological students should seek to attain a broad background in liberal arts subjects in their university studies. In selecting majors, serious consideration should be given to the fields of English, history, philosophy, and religious studies. Minors and free electives should be chosen from the areas of English, history, mass communication, philosophy, psychology, religious studies, sociology, and communication.

Entry requirements for specific theological seminaries and for different programs within these institutions vary. Students should consult seminary catalogs and the pre-theology advisor. Special attention should be paid to the language requirement made by some seminaries.

The courses recommended below to be taken in fulfilling Western Kentucky University's general education guidelines are not mandatory but include every basic recommendation of the American Association of Theological Schools:

Code	Title	Hours
ENG 100	Introduction to College Writing	3
ENG 300	Writing in the Disciplines	3
HIST 101	World History I	3
HIST 102	World History II	3
Natural Science (Chemistry, Physics, Biology, or Geology)		

PHIL 101	Enduring Questions: Truth and Relativism	3
PHIL 102	Enduring Questions: The Good and the Beautiful	3
PHIL 103	Enduring Questions: The Committed Life	3
PSY 100 or PSYS 100	Introduction to Psychology	3
RELS 100	The New Testament	3
RELS 101	The Old Testament/ Hebrew Scriptures	3
RELS 102	World Religions	3
RELS 152	Biblical Languages I: Introductory Hebrew	3
RELS 153	Biblical Languages II: Intermediate Hebrew	3
RELS 154	Biblical Languages III: Introductory Greek	3
RELS 155	Biblical Languages IV: Intermediate Greek	3
COMM 145	Fundamentals of Public Speaking and Communication	3

Social Sciences (six hours from Sociology, Economics, Political Science, Anthropology)

Math (three hour elective)

Please note: Recommended courses are based on WKU's assessment of specific professional school requirements. Students should, in consultation with their advisor, review the requirements at the professional school of their choice.

## Faculty Professor

Marko Dumancic PhD (History), University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, 2010

Marc V. Eagle PhD (History), Tulane University, 2005

Anthony A. Harkins PhD (History), University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1999

Audra R. Jennings PhD (History), The Ohio State University Main Campus, 2008

Patricia H. Minter PhD (History), University of Virginia, 1994

Isabel Mukonyora PhD, University of Oxford, 1999

Eric S. Reed PhD (History), Syracuse University Main Campus, 2001

Juan L. Romero PhD (History), University of Texas at Austin, 2008

## Associate Professor

Sophia R. Arjana PhD (Religious/Theological Studies), University of Denver, 2011

James W. Barker PhD (Religion), Vanderbilt University, 2011

Charles T. Borders MA (History), Western Kentucky University, 1989

Dorothea Browder PhD (History, Distributed), University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2008

Katherine E. Brown PhD (History), University of Virginia, 2015

Robert L. Dietle PhD (History), Yale University, 1991

Selena S. Doss PhD (History), Vanderbilt University, 2010

Eric Kondratieff PhD (Ancient History), University of Pennsylvania, 2003

Katherine J. Lennard PhD (American Culture Studies), University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, 2017

Jeffrey D. Miner PhD (History), Stanford University, 2011

Alexander I. Olson PhD (American Studies), University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, 2013

Andrew J. Rosa PhD (Afro-American Studies), University of Massachusetts, 2005

Tamara Van Dyken PhD (History), University of Notre Dame, 2009

### **Assistant Professor**

Kathryn M. McClurkin PhD (Public History), Middle Tennessee State University, 2019

### **Visiting Assistant Professor**

Timothy R. Quevillon PhD (History), University of Houston, 2020

### **Pedagogical Professor**

Jennifer A. Hanley PhD (History), University of Kentucky, 2009

### **Instructor I**

Kathryn E. Reetzke MA (History), Western Kentucky University, 2011

### **Instructor II**

David A. Serafini MA (History), Western Kentucky University, 1997