

# Department of History and Geography

## Dr. Wade Shaffer, department head

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Full Graduate Faculty: Brasington, E. Clark, P. Clark, Kuhlman, Pearson, Shaffer, Stuntz, Vizzini.

Associate Graduate Faculty: Kopf, Rhoades.

The Department of History and Geography offers a master of arts degree in with two options. The first option is the traditional thesis program in which the student completes 30 semester hours, six of which are for the thesis. With approval of the department head, the student may elect an additional field of a minimum of six and maximum of 12 semester hours. At least 21 of the 30 semester hours must be taken at the 6000 level.

The second option is the non-thesis program. This program requires 36 semester hours, 24 hours of which must be completed at the 6000 level. The student must demonstrate proficiency in research and writing in graduate seminars. With approval of the department head, the student may elect an additional field of a minimum of six and maximum of 12 semester hours.

The Department of History and Geography has an excellent collection of source material for theses and research papers available in Cornette Library: unusually complete files of scholarly journals, more than 600,000 government documents, microfilm and microcard acquisitions, including a complete file of *The New York Times* and records of the U.S. Congress from 1789 to the present. Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, located on campus, has a superb regional collection of books, journals and thousands of manuscript items and recorded interviews with pioneers of the area.

Discipline	Course Prefix
History .....	HIST

NOTE: See the "Academic Courses and Abbreviations" and "Course Descriptions" sections of this catalog for a complete list of courses offered by the University.

## Master of Arts (M.A.) Degree

### Major in History (Major Code: 5111)

#### General Requirements

- All students seeking admission to the master's degree program in history are required to submit a writing sample as part of their application. Applicants who have earned a bachelor's degree in history from a program that includes a historical methods and/or senior seminar course(s) may, with approval of the graduate adviser, submit the final paper from one of these courses to meet this requirement.

- Applicants who have not graduated with a bachelor's degree in history from a program that includes an historical methods and/or senior seminar course(s) will be required to demonstrate critical reading, interpretive and writing skills by submitting a two-to-three page typed essay over a topic provided by the history graduate adviser. Packets containing the topics, primary source materials and specific essay requirements will be distributed after an initial consultation with the history graduate adviser.
- The evaluation of each writing sample will be the responsibility of a rotating committee consisting of the graduate adviser and one other member of the of history department faculty. In the case of a tie, the head of the Department of History, Political Science and Criminal Justice will cast the deciding vote. Essays may only be submitted once.
- Students who have been denied full admission to the history M.A. program based upon the evaluation of their writing sample may be given probationary admission status and will be allowed to register for classes. Upon the completion of nine hours of 6000-level history courses with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 and no grade lower than a "B," the student will be granted regular status and may be considered as fully admitted to the program at that time.

#### 30-Hour Thesis Program

- 18–30 semester hours in history, including HIST 6301 and 6302.
- With approval of the department head, the student may elect an additional field of study of at least six but not more than 12 semester hours.
- At least 21 of the total 30 semester hours must be taken at the 6000 level.
- Students will be required to pass an oral comprehensive examination over the thesis upon its completion.

#### 36-Hour Non-Thesis Program

- 24–36 semester hours in history.
- With approval of the department head, the student may elect an additional field of study of at least six but not more than 12 semester hours.
- At least 24 of the total 36 semester hours must be taken at the 6000 level.
- Students will be required to pass a written comprehensive examination in their areas of concentration. Students may also be required to pass an oral comprehensive examination at the discretion of the department.