

Department/School: Department of History

Vision: As an integral part of a liberal arts education, history courses introduce students to different historical eras, diverse cultures, famous and ordinary women and men, and a variety of geographical settings. Our courses challenge students to think critically, express themselves clearly, and become informed and responsible citizens in an increasingly interconnected world. Students majoring or minoring in history are well prepared for graduate and professional schools and find employment in business, government, education, management, law, administration, and journalism.

Mission: The Department of History strives to achieve this vision by offering courses in historical methodology, research, world regions, and themes of the human experience. Faculty members engage in research among an international community of peers and share that knowledge in publications and with students. We mentor students in and out of the classroom, guide extracurricular activities, and provide service to our communities.

PROFILE

Majors: History BA; History BA with Teacher Certification; Social Studies Composite BA; Social Studies Composite with Teacher Certification BA.

Graduate Programs: MA in History and M.A.I.S. in History. Both options have thesis and non-thesis tracks.

Students

- Number of Students: ca. 500
- Characteristics: Undergraduates; undergraduates seeking teacher certification; and master's students.

Faculty

- Number of Faculty:
- Ranks: Professors 5 Associate Prof. 15 Assistant Prof. 3 Lecturers 9

Campus Program Offering

 90 % of program/courses are available at both campuses (*face-to-face, online, hybrid, or ITV*)

 100 % of program/courses in the first 2 years of study per major map are available at both campuses (*face-to-face, online, hybrid, ITV*)

 80 % of program/courses in the upper division are available at both campuses (*face-to-face, online, hybrid, ITV*)

 50 % of graduate program/courses are available at both campuses (*face-to-face, online, hybrid, ITV*)

Note: You may include details of availability by campus and any other related information that would be helpful.

Stats & Highlights:

- Faculty regularly publish peer-reviewed monographs, edited volumes, and articles. These include more than two dozen books published in recent years.
- UTRGV's history majors annually win between \$5,000 and \$10,000 from the Department's endowed scholarships.
- According to the American Historical Association, history majors earn the highest salaries when compared to other majors in the Humanities. Graduates of UTRGV's History program include individuals now employed as educators, administrators, writers, professional researchers, attorneys, college professors, business executives, archivists, genealogists, and museum workers.¹
- Since 2000, our vibrant graduate program has produced more than thirty M.A. theses relating to all areas of history, but especially pioneering research on the history and culture of the Rio Grande Valley.
- History majors and minors intern at historical institutions like the Brownsville Historical Association, the Museum of South Texas History, McAllen's International Museum of Art and Science, and the Mission Historical Museum.
- The History Department prepares social studies educators who hold jobs in schools across the Rio Grande Valley, Texas, and the United States.
- Faculty members are involved in more than a dozen international history societies, including the American Historical Association, the Association for Asian Studies, Association for Slavic, East European and Asian Studies, the Society for French Historical Studies, the North American Conference on British Studies, the World History Association, and the International Big History Association.

Success Stories/"Bragging":

- History Department faculty members regularly participate in mentoring graduate and undergraduate students, leading to student participation in professional conferences, student publications and awards at both the undergraduate and graduate level, and placement in competitive fellowship and doctoral programs.
- History Department faculty members have won the Society of Military Historians' Moncado Prize (Irving Levinson), the Daniel G. Roberts Award for Excellence in Public Historical Archeology (Russell Skowronek), the Jan Garton Prairie Heritage Book Award (Brent Campney), the Vincent De Santis Prize, Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era (Megan Birk), the Kate Broocks Bates Award for Historical Research (Thomas Britten), the Presidio La Bahia First Place Book Award (Denise Joseph), the Emerging Historians Travel Grant, Organization of American Historians (Jamalin Harp), the Texas Historical Commission's Chairman's Award (CHAPS Program), the Millstone Prize, Top Paper in Interdisciplinary History (Kristine Wirts), the Frederick C. Luebke Award for Best Article in the *Great Plains Quarterly* (Linda English), the NACCS Tejas Foco Non-Fiction Award (George Diaz), and the Dixon Ryan Fox Manuscript Prize (Amy Hay).
- The *Studies in Rio Grande Valley History* series, a regional history series, founded by emeritus Professor of History Milo Kearney, has produced fifteen volumes on the Rio Grande Valley. Digitized volumes are available on-line through the UTRGV library.
- CHAPS (Community Historical Archeology Program with Schools) Program, co-led by history faculty members Russell Skowronek and Christopher Miller and Roseann Bacha-Garza, have created the Civil War Trail and the "War and Peace on the Rio Grande" traveling exhibit, featured in Brownsville, Edinburg, Zapata, and Laredo, Texas. They have produced four award-winning short films, including Just a Ferry Ride to Freedom, and co-authored two volumes on the Rio Grande Valley in the Civil War era produced by Texas A&M press.
- History Department faculty play key roles in interdisciplinary programs including Environmental Studies Program, Gender and Women's Studies Program, and Mexican-American Studies program as affiliate members.
- History Department faculty members regularly apply for and receive substantial research grants. Examples include the Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Languages grant by the U.S. Department of Education, the NEH Humanities Initiatives Hispanic-Serving Institutions grant, the Summerlee Foundation of Dallas, the Summerfield G. Roberts Foundation, Humanities Texas, the Texas Preservation Trust Fund, the Center for European Studies, the Texas Historical Foundation, and the Insitute of Museum and Library Services National Leadership Grant.
- History faculty members have held distinguished fellowships at the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, the Oral History Institute, the Charles Warren Center (Harvard University), Lomonosov State University (Moscow), and the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation, and the Japan Center for Global Partnership US-Japan Network for the Future.
- Faculty members have presented at academic conferences in Mexico, England, Scotland, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Turkey, Canada, Brazil, Bosnia/Herzegovina, Romania, Turkey, Japan, China, the Russian Federation, and Australia, as well as throughout the United States.

Traditions:

The Department of History has several regularly occurring events throughout the academic year:

- The Rondel Davidson Lecture Series. Funded by a generous endowment in honor of Rondel Davidson, history faculty member and department chair at The University of Texas – Pan American, the series brings distinguished speakers to campus for annual lectures. Most recently, in 2019, Holocaust Scholar Christopher Browning, of the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, spoke on Germany during the 1930s, and in 2020 Camilla Townsend of Rutgers University, author of *Pocahontas and the Powhatan Dilemma* and *Malintzin's Choices*, will speak.
- Annual Student/Faculty Open Houses. This event allows faculty members on both campuses to visit informally with students and answer questions concerning their majors and career goals.
- Faculty Research Colloquium. Now in its fourth year, this annual presentation series allows faculty members to present their current work to their department peers and to receive feedback in a collaborative and collegial setting.
- Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society. UTRGV's chapter of this national history honor society draws history and social studies majors and plays an active role in campus life.
- History Club. The History Club allows students who enjoy studying history to collaborate in campus events, including movie nights, book sales, speaker series, and fieldtrips.

Mantra/Slogan: "History: Studying the Past to Succeed in the Future."

¹ For more on careers in History, see the AHA site on careers: <https://www.historians.org/publications-and-directories/perspectives-on-history/april-2017/history-is-not-a-useless-major-fighting-myths-with-data>.