



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Melissa Rodriguez '07

History



Q: How did you choose history as a major?

A: I took "Intro to Latin American History" with Professor Garofalo and I was hooked as a history major. I actually liked doing all the work that was required. I chose Professor Garofalo as my adviser, and I stayed with him and the major all the way through.

Q: What was your favorite course?

A: Perhaps my favorite course was "Globalization of American Culture Since 1945" with Professor Stock. It led me to understand how to analyze the effects of historical events now. I wrote my final paper on the Walt Disney Company. It's not every class that you get to watch Disney movies as part of your research.

Q: What was your internship experience?

A: During the summer of 2006, I interned at the New York Historical Society. I did research for a school program to accompany an exhibit on slavery in New York. I learned the value of primary sources and how to evaluate their reliability.

Q: Did you go abroad?

A: I participated in a program on multiculturalism and social change in Cape Town, South Africa, and wrote my thesis about what I learned there. While writing, I discovered the importance of understanding history from someone else's point of view. My experience at Connecticut College made me realize my love of the knowledge and value of history. I learned that the only way to escape from any negatives of the present is to understand the past.

History

Overview

The history department is exceptionally diverse, with expertise in all regions of the world. You'll be able to explore these regions in depth, thanks to professors who specialize in China, Japan, India, Germany, Italy, Russia, the Andes, Pan-Africa and the American West, South and New England. We'll encourage you to use a variety of methods to explore these many aspects of history. You might write historical fiction, make a short film, create a museum exhibit or collect oral histories from immigrants. We'll encourage you to travel to gather primary research for your studies. Some graduates pursue advanced studies in history and other fields, while others go into teaching, law or business. Some apply their writing, speaking, thinking and research skills at high-tech companies, advertising firms and media companies.

Research Opportunities

As a history major, you'll have a variety of opportunities to conduct research and follow your own interests. Our challenging, creative environment has inspired students to produce research work as diverse as a cultural history of North Carolina's Outer Banks at the time of the Wright brothers' first flight and the theories and practices of nonracialism in South Africa. Our best seniors write honors theses — 80- to 100-page research papers based on research in primary sources. These are yearlong projects developed in an honors seminar and supervised by individual professors. Other students write individual studies, semester-long projects often based on research done abroad or in internships. All junior and senior majors take small seminars of 10 to 15 students in their area of specialization, engaging important historical texts and vital historical issues together with other students and professors.

International Education

History faculty are deeply engaged in international education as teachers and scholars, speak foreign languages and are very knowledgeable about other cultures and societies. In addition, faculty members routinely arrange for their classes to experience foreign countries firsthand. History faculty have led trips to the Texas/Mexico border to study Latin American migration and immigration as well as trips to important locations of the African-American freedom movement. They have also set up a study abroad program in India and arranged for study opportunities in Cairo, Rome, Tokyo and Berlin. History majors are well-represented in the College's interdisciplinary certificate programs. Some history students also choose to earn a museum studies certificate or major in a related area, such as government, American studies or languages.

Faculty

David Canton, *Associate Professor of History; Director of the Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity; Co-director of the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program*

B.A., Morehouse College; M.A., The Ohio State University; Ph.D., Temple University
20th-century American social history; civil rights movement; urban history; hip-hop music and black culture in post-industrial America

Ann Marie Davis, *Assistant Professor of History*

B.A., College of William and Mary; M.A., Harvard University; M.A., Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles
Early modern and modern Japan; history of science; technology and science; Japanese literature and theory; history of gender and sexuality; women's studies

James Downs, *Assistant Professor of History*

B.A., University of Pennsylvania; M.A., Ph.D., Columbia University
19th-century U.S. history; African-American studies; history of medicine and public health; gender and sexuality studies

Marc R. Forster, *Professor of History*

B.A., Swarthmore College; M.A., Ph.D., Harvard University
Early modern Germany (1500-1800); German Catholicism; popular religion and popular culture; rural society

Leo Garofalo, *Associate Professor of History*

A.B., Brown University; M.A., Boston College; Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, Madison
Latin American and Caribbean history; the history of race and ethnicity; African diaspora and Afro-Latin America; Peru and the Andes

Eileen Kane, *Assistant Professor of History*

A.B., Brown University; M.A., Ph.D., Princeton University
The Russian empire; the Soviet Union; modern Europe; the hajj in the modern era

Jennifer Manion, *Assistant Professor of History; Director of LGBTQ Center*

B.A., University of Pennsylvania; Ph.D., Rutgers University
Gender and sexuality; women and social movements; early America

Frederick S. Paxton, *Brigida Pacchiani Ardenghi Professor of History; Chair of History Department*

B.A., Michigan State University; M.A., University of Washington; Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley
Medieval European cultural history; death and dying; sickness and healing; liturgy; Canon law and codicology

Sarah A. Queen, *Professor of History*

B.A., Wellesley College; M.A., Ph.D., Harvard University
Early Chinese cultural history; the spiritual and philosophical dimensions of Confucianism and Daoism; Confucianism in East Asia today

Catherine McNicol Stock, *Professor of History; Director of the American Studies Program*

B.A., M.A., Ph.D., Yale University
Rural radicalism; domestic terrorism; social, cultural and political history of the United States, 1877 to present, including the American West; rural America; the Great Depression and the New Deal

Lisa Wilson, *Charles J. MacCurdy Professor of American Studies*

B.A., Franklin and Marshall College; M.A., Ph.D., Temple University
Colonial British North America; comparative gender studies

What can you do with a major in history?

Ann Bevan Hollos '97

Double-majored in history and anthropology.

Teacher and administrator at an independent school.

James Lundberg '00

Doctoral student in history at Yale University.

Focusing on 19th-century American cultural and intellectual history and writing his dissertation on "Horace Greeley's America."

Winner of Connecticut College's Ames Prize for the most outstanding senior thesis. Recently awarded a research fellowship by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

Marko Dumancic '02

Doctoral candidate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Interned at *Elle* magazine in Moscow and earned an interdisciplinary certificate from the College's Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts (CISLA). Dissertation project in Soviet history began as a CISLA-inspired senior honors thesis at Connecticut College under the supervision of Professor Forster.

Selected Courses

Crime and Punishment in U.S. History; History of Sexuality; Colonial History of North America; American Revolutionary Era; The Civil War and Reconstruction; "Race" in Colonial Latin America; Reformation and Counter-Reformation; Early Islamic History; History of Hip-Hop Music and Culture in Post-Industrial America 1973-Present; History of the Soviet Union; Human Rights in China; Pan-Africanism; China's Confucian Legacy; The French Revolution; The Black Freedom Struggle 1946-1968; Environmental History of the New South; Immigration to the U.S. Since 1820; Africa in the New World; Gender in a Multicultural America

About Connecticut College

Connecticut College is a highly selective residential liberal arts college with 1,900 students from all over the country and the world. The academic program offers more than 47 majors in the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities as well as innovative interdisciplinary programs. Students engage with dedicated faculty and each other to create a vibrant social, cultural and intellectual community in which learning is valued for its own sake — and individuals' diverse perspectives enrich the experience of all.

For more information, visit
www.conncoll.edu/academics/