History

Overview

Look through an exceptionally global lens and use a variety of methods to explore your interests. As a history major, you might make a short film, write historical fiction, create a museum exhibit or collect oral histories from immigrants. Faculty have expertise in China, Japan, India, Germany, Italy, Russia, the Andes, Pan-Africa and the American West, South and New England. In your junior and senior years, you take small seminars in your area of specialization, exploring important historical texts and issues with other students and professors. The writing, speaking, thinking and research skills you gain as a history major will give you a strong foundation for a variety of pursuits. Some graduates move into high-tech companies, advertising firms and media companies. Others pursue advanced studies in history and other fields or go into teaching, law or business.

Research Opportunities

You have many opportunities to pursue your own research interests. Our challenging program and creative environment has inspired work as diverse as a cultural history of the Outer Banks at the time of the Wright brothers' first flight and a thesis on the theories and practices of non-racialism in South Africa.

International Opportunities and Study Abroad

We encourage you to travel to do primary research for your studies. Our students have recently done work in India, Cairo, Rome, Tokyo and Berlin. Faculty have led trips to the Mexican border to study immigration and to key locations of the civil rights movement.

Elena Rosario

Q: Why Connecticut College?
A: When I visited, I knew instantly that this was the school for me. I was drawn to the small classes that create spaces for intellectual engagement and I love how involved the student body is in activism.

Q: Why did you decide to study history?
A: I have always been interested in it. After my first history class, “Introduction to European History” with Professor Mullane, I knew that I was going to be a history major.

Q: What types of research have you done?
A: My concentration is colonial history with a focus on the Atlantic world. I am a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow and also was awarded a CONNSharp grant that allowed me to do research in Barbados with Professor Wilson.

Q: What are your graduate study or career plans?
A: I am attending the Ph.D. program in history at the University of Michigan.
Faculty

Dean Accardi, Visiting Assistant Professor of History
B.A., Loyola University; M.A., Columbia University; Ph.D., The University of Texas at Austin
South Asia; Islam

Luis Herrán Avila, Visiting Assistant Professor of History
Ph.D., The New School for Social Research
Latin America; Cold war in Latin America; U.S.-Latin America relations

Henryatta Ballah, Assistant Professor of History
B.A., The Pennsylvania State University; M.A., Ph.D., The Ohio State University
19th and 20th-century Africa; the Atlantic world; civil wars; youth history; labor and social movements; women's history

David Canton, Associate Professor of History; Director of the Africana Studies Program
B.A., Morehouse College; M.A., The Ohio State University; Ph.D., Temple University
19th-century U.S. history; African-American studies; history of medicine and public health

James T. Downs, Associate Professor of History; Interim Director of the American Studies Program
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

Kjell Ericson, Visiting Assistant Professor of History
B.A., Dartmouth College; M.A., Stanford University; Interuniversity Center for Japanese Studies; Ph.D., Princeton University
19th and 20th century Japan; science, technology and medicine in East Asia (1500-present)

Marc Furster, Henry B. Plant Professor of History; Director of the Toussaint Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts
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 J. Garofalo, Associate Professor of History
B.A., 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

Elizabeth Garcia, Visiting Assistant Professor of History
B.A., Brown University; M.A., Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley
Latin America; the Americas; Puerto Rican literature

Eileen M. Kane, Associate Professor of History
A.B., Brown University; M.A., Ph.D., Princeton University
The Russian empire; the Soviet Union; modern Europe; empires

Bryan Knapp, Visiting Assistant Professor of History
B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara; M.A., Washington University, St. Louis; M.A., Ph.D., Brown University
America in global perspective; modern capitalism/political economy; transnational grassroots politics

Frederick S. Paxton, Brigida Pacchioni Andergott Professor of History
B.A., Michigan State University; M.A., University of Washington; Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley
Medieval Europe; death, dying, sickness and healing; the middle ages in big historical perspective; big history

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 M. Stock, Barbara Zaccoen Kahn ’72 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 H. Wilson, Charles J. MacCurdy Professor of American History; Chair of the History Department
B.A., Franklin and Marshall College; M.A., Temple 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

Selected Courses

Colonial History of North America; American Revolutionary Era; The Civil War and Reconstruction; “Race” in Colonial Latin America; Reformation and Counter-Reformation; Globalization of Urban Poverty; South Asia in the Postcolonial World; History of Hip-Hop Music and Culture in Post-Industrial America 1973-Present; The USSR: 1917 to the Present; The Modern Middle East; African Civilizations to 1870; Saltwater Japan; World War I and the Making of the Modern World; Sex and the State: The Politics of Gender and Intimacy in the United States, 1970-2000; Globalizing Chinese Activism; Big History: Big Bang to the Future; Latinos in the United States

About Connecticut College

Connecticut College educates students to put the liberal arts into action as citizens in a global society. A leader in the liberal arts since 1911, the College is home to nationally ranked programs for internships, community action, arts and technology, environmental studies and international studies. Our beautiful 750-acre arboretum campus is located in the historic New England seaport community of New London, Conn.

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A MAJOR IN HISTORY?

Analyst, U.S. Government Accountability Office
Chief Financial Officer, SKY Investment Group LLC
Publisher, Atlantic Monthly Group
Global Business Development Director, WPP Group USA Inc.
Production Manager, The New York Times
Assistant United States Attorney, U.S. Government Accountability Office
Deans:
Assistant Vice President, Global Marketing, Ralph Lauren Fragrances, L'Oreal USA
Historian/Researcher, Fruitlands Museum
Economist, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis
Chief Court Administrative Judge, State of Connecticut
Archaeologist, U.S. Forest Service
Senior Manager for Research, Walt Disney Co.
Investigative Reporter, Providence Journal
Assistant Professor, Department of History at Miami University in Ohio
EXAMPLES OF STUDENT RESEARCH IN HISTORY

Michael Amato ’16
From Lux to Lake Tulare: Water Law, Capital, and the Development of Post-Gold Rush California

Allison Blanning ’16
The Women of New London, Connecticut during World War II: Wartime Responses of Connecticut College Students and Coast Guard Servicewomen

Mia Haas-Goldberg ’16
Media and Meta-narratives: The Impact of French Newspapers on Collective Memory of the Algerian War

Charlotte Weber ’16
“Oh Britain, how are thou fallen!": Theater and Identity in Eighteenth-Century America

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT www.conncoll.edu/academics/