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.

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Faculty

David Canton, Associate Professor of History, Interim Dean of Institutional Equity and Inclusion
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

Sheetal Chhabria, Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Assistant Professor of History
Ph.D., Columbia University
South Asian history; inequality and urbanization; globalization

Ann Marie L. Davis, Assistant Professor of History
B.A., College of William and Mary; M.A., Harvard University; 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 T. Downs, Associate 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

Marc Forster, Henry B. Plant Professor of History, Director of the Too 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

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

Jen Manion, Associate Professor of History, Director of LGBTQ Resource Center
B.A., University of Pennsylvania; Ph.D., Rutgers University
The history of sexuality; early American history; social justice movements

Frederick S. Paxton, Brigida Pacchiani Ardenghi 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

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; 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 present; Human Rights in China; Pan-Africanism; China’s Confucian Legacy; The French Revolution; The Black Freedom Struggle 1946-1968; Environmental History of the U.S.; Muslim Europe Since 1945

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.