

# HISTORY

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[history@umkc.edu](mailto:history@umkc.edu)  
<https://shss.umkc.edu/history> (<https://shss.umkc.edu/history/>)

## **Department Chair:**

Brian Frehner

## **Professors Emeriti:**

William B. Ashworth Jr., Jesse V. Clardy, Gary Ebersole, James S. Falls, Miriam Forman-Brunell, John T. Graham, Herman M. Hattaway, Carla L. Klausner, Dennis Merrill, Linda Mitchell, Stanley B. Parsons, Lynda Payne, Patrick A. Peebles, Louis W. Potts, Joseph P. Schultz

## **Professors:**

Andrew Stuart Bergerson, Diane Mutti Burke, Viviana Grieco, Massimiliano Vitiello

## **Associate Professors:**

David Freeman, Brian Frehner, Matthew Warner Osborn

## **Assistant Professors:**

Sandra Enríquez

## **Associate Teaching Professor:**

Rebecca Miller Davis

## **Associate Research Professor (William T. Kemper Digital and Public Humanities):**

David Trowbridge

## Department Description

History is an essential component of a liberal arts education. Historical study enables students to understand peoples and places, societies and cultures, ideas and events. Beyond its own inherent interest, history provides important perspective on the present and makes planning for the future possible.

The department offers, at the undergraduate and graduate levels, courses in African American history; American history; ancient, medieval, and modern European history; Classics; environmental history; Latin American history; Latinx history; public history; urban and social history; and women's, gender, and sexuality studies. The department is also involved in interdisciplinary courses and programs.

## Desirable Preparation for Undergraduate Admission

Students wishing to major in history should acquire as broad a background as possible in subjects related to their historical interests. Both secondary school and community college courses in history should be supplemented with courses in other social sciences and the humanities.

The discipline is broad in scope and methods. Faculty members believe a logical and systematic selection of courses in other disciplines will complement the study of history. They encourage prospective majors to consult with them in preparing an integrated course of study.

## Career Implications of the Bachelor's Degree

Among the many fields you might consider are: business, education, government, journalism, law, marketing and communications, public history (e.g. museums, archives, historical societies), and publishing.

Why so many opportunities? Consider this: the study of history trains you how to think—not in a small or prescribed way, but in an expansive, analytical way. In our courses, you will discover that a flexible and perceptive mind is the most practical tool imaginable. You will become an excellent writer and communicator with the ability to research and analyze complex problems with dexterity and finesse, a skill that will help you regardless of your chosen career path.

If your interests remain in the academic world, know that our students have gone on to many top-flight colleges and universities. Recent UMKC history majors have pursued graduate study at the state universities of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, New York, Texas, and Virginia, as well as at Brown University, Cambridge University, Columbia University, Emory University, Georgetown University, King's College London, London School of Economics, Marquette University, Northwestern University, Ohio State University, Princeton University, Queen's University Belfast, Southern Methodist University, Texas Tech University, University of British Columbia, University of Notre Dame, and Yale University.

Individuals seeking careers as teachers and professional historians may pursue advanced degrees on this campus. The department offers the Master of Arts degree, participates in the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program, and recently introduced an Accelerated BA/MA dual degree. Students interested in the Master of Arts degree should contact Massimiliano Vitiello, [vitiellom@umkc.edu](mailto:vitiellom@umkc.edu); for the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program, contact Matthew Osborn, [osbornmw@umkc.edu](mailto:osbornmw@umkc.edu); to learn about the Accelerated BA/MA, contact [history@umkc.edu](mailto:history@umkc.edu).

## Departmental Activities

### Advising

Advising is key to a meaningful and profitable course of study in the department. Students should consult with a departmental advisor regarding selection of courses and for help in academic matters.

#### Principal Undergraduate Advisors

Roo Advising (<http://catalog.umkc.edu/roo-advising/>)

#### Principal M.A. Advisor

Massimiliano Vitiello ([vitiellom@umkc.edu](mailto:vitiellom@umkc.edu))

#### Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program Advisor

Matthew Osborn ([sbornmw@umkc.edu](mailto:sbornmw@umkc.edu))

### Special Programs

#### Teaching Certification in Social Studies

Certification as a middle school (grades 5-9) or secondary (grades 9-12) social studies teacher in either Kansas or Missouri requires that a student complete specific requirements in history, political science, economics, geography, behavioral sciences and the School of Education, Social Work, and Psychological Sciences. A separate application for teacher education is required. For further information about the program, consult the School of Education, Social Work, and Psychological Sciences section of this catalog or contact the Education Student Services Office at (816) 235-2234.

#### Public History

Courses offered by the department prepare graduates for a variety of careers in historical agencies or in the study and preservation of cultural artifacts. For further information, consult Sandra Enríquez ([enriquezs@umkc.edu](mailto:enriquezs@umkc.edu)), Director of the Public History Emphasis Program.

### Faculty

**Andrew Bergerson**<sup>2,3</sup>; Professor of History; B.A. (Cornell University); M.A., Ph. D. (University of Chicago).

**Rebecca Miller Davis**<sup>2</sup>; Associate Teaching Professor of History; B.A., M.A. (James Madison University); Ph.D. (University of South Carolina).

**Sandra Enríquez**<sup>2,3</sup>; Associate Professor of History; Director of Public History emphasis; B.A., M.A. (University of Texas, El Paso); Ph.D. (University of Houston).

**David Freeman**<sup>2,3</sup>; Associate Professor of History; B.A. (University of Minnesota-Duluth); M.A., Ph.D. (Emory University).

**Brian Frehner**<sup>2,3</sup>; Department Chair and Professor of History; B.A. (University of California, Los Angeles); M.A. (University of Nevada, Las Vegas); Ph.D. (University of Oklahoma).

**Viviana L. Grieco**<sup>2,3</sup>; Professor of History; B.A. (Universidad de Buenos Aires); M.A., Ph.D. (Emory University).

**Diane Mutti Burke**<sup>2,3</sup>; Professor of History; B.A. (Dartmouth College); M.A., Ph.D. (Emory University).

**Matthew Osborn**<sup>2,3</sup>; Associate Professor of History; B.A. (University of California Santa Cruz); M.A., Ph.D. (University of California Davis).

**David Trowbridge**<sup>2</sup>; William T. Kemper Associate Research Professor in Digital and Public Humanities; Ph.D. (University of Kansas).

**Massimiliano Vitiello**<sup>2,3</sup>; Professor of History; M.A. (University of Rome); Ph.D. (University of Messina); postdoctoral license in medieval studies (Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies).

<sup>1</sup> Associate or Adjunct Graduate Faculty

<sup>2</sup> Members of UMKC Graduate Faculty

<sup>3</sup> Members of UMKC Doctoral Faculty

## **Undergraduate Undergraduate Programs:**

- Bachelor of Arts: History
- Minor in History

## **Graduate Graduate Programs:**

- Master of Arts: History (<http://catalog.umkc.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/academic-departments-programs/history/master-of-arts-history/>)
- Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in History