



**MA History 2020-21**

**University of Southampton**

**History Department**

**Course outline and optional modules choices  
handbook**

## The History MA in 2020-1

The History MA programme at the University of Southampton provides wide-ranging opportunities for the development of expertise in areas of real interest to you. We have around 50 specialists working in all sorts of historical fields, and our MA programme captures some of that diversity. This booklet is designed to give more information on the sorts of things you can pursue during your time at Southampton, but if there's anything we can assist with, don't hesitate to get in touch.

The consequences of Covid-19 are in all our minds and we have made a number of adjustments to the History MA programme for 2020-1 as a result. When planning for next year, the university asked us to ensure:

- That all plans for next year are resilient, given the potential for a Covid-19 second wave. If a member of staff is unwell or has to take leave in order to care for an unwell relative, we need to have others on hand to step in and take over to ensure that your education is not disrupted. So, next year, all modules will be team-taught, involving 2 or more members of staff.
- That all plans for next year are sustainable. We have had to consider whether any changes would enable us to maintain the quality of the teaching provided. If a member of staff has too many modules to teach, then it goes without saying that the quality of what we teach would be affected. It is also widely recognised that teaching online generally takes more time than face-to-face teaching. As we have been told to expect that much, or possibly all, of our teaching will be online next year, it is important for us to be sure we have the resources to get our online learning environments to a high standard. With this in mind, as well as the fact that we are team-teaching, then there is naturally a need to slightly reduce the number of modules we can offer.
- That we continue to offer choice. It goes without saying that we wanted this too: we pride ourselves on the chronological and methodological range of option modules we teach; we think this allows us to give you one of the best range of choices of any UK History department.

This booklet contains an outline of how the programme will be taught. Despite all that is going on, we will continue to run a range of exciting, engaging modules as originally intended.

We look forward to welcoming you to the MA programme in September!

Professor Chris Woolgar, History MA Convenor ([c.m.woolgar@soton.ac.uk](mailto:c.m.woolgar@soton.ac.uk))

Dr Chris Prior, Director of Programmes, History ([c.prior@soton.ac.uk](mailto:c.prior@soton.ac.uk))

## The MA programme: an overview

The History MA is made up of compulsory and optional modules. In your year (or two years, if you are a part-time student), you need to complete a total of 180 credits.

There is a blend of compulsory and optional modules, the former to develop critical reflection on issues such as what purposes history might serve in the modern age, and to develop research skills to produce innovative, exciting research of your own. The option modules allow you to explore the areas of history of particular interest to you; you may wish as well to include some that are entirely new to you.

### *Compulsory modules*

You will take HIST6081 Research Skills (30 credits, in semester 1) and HIST6082 Public History (15 credits, in semester 2). The MA has a compulsory dissertation module, HIST6092, which is worth 75 credits. Full-time students undertake their dissertation after the end of semester 2, with the work to be submitted by a date in September 2021. We will expect you to do a presentation (in some form) on your dissertation in semester 2, or in semester 2 of year two if you are doing the programme part-time.

### *Option modules*

The balance of your programme is designed to give you choice in pursuing your studies. All students must complete a total of 60 credits worth of options. This is normally made up of four optional modules of 15 credits each, to total 60 credits. One of those options is the Individually Negotiated Topic (INT) HIST6087/8, which is also worth 15 credits. The INT enables you to develop a personal interest in a specific historical topic under the supervision of members of staff in the History discipline with specialist knowledge and research experience in that field, who can guide your study and help you to develop a small research project in that field. We are keen that you pursue a mix of individual and collective intellectual endeavours, however, as so you may do no more than two INTs as part of your degree. You are also able to choose, subject to timetabling constraints, any MA option offered by other Humanities disciplines (most are 15 credit options; if you wish to take a 30 credit option, that is possible, but you will also need to ensure that you have right pattern of credits overall: do contact staff to confirm in this instance). In the past students have taken full advantage of the range of modules offered in other disciplines such as English, Philosophy, Music, and Film to complement their interests in History (or, indeed, to take a brand new path into the unexplored).

### **Semester 1 2020-1**

In the exceptional circumstances of 2020-1, we have rebalanced the course and **all full-time students** in semester 1 do HIST6081, Research Skills, and the INT HIST 6087 as their option, unless they choose a 15 credit option from another Humanities discipline.

**Part-time students** may elect to do either or both HIST6081 and HIST6087 in semester 1.

## Semester 2 2020-1

In this semester **all full-time students** do HIST6082, Public History, two option modules from those listed below, and the INT for semester 2, HIST6088.

**Part-time students** can choose whether to do HIST6082 in this semester or in year 2 of their degree. They need to complete a total of four option modules (including INTs if they wish) over the course of the degree, and they therefore choose whether to do an option or an INT in this semester (if you do take two in one semester, there will be another semester when you will in fact not need to take an option module; and vice versa, if you choose not to do an option or INT in this semester, you will need to do two in another semester).

All of this can be depicted as follows:

### History MA (Full-Time)

Semester 1	Semester 2	After Semester 2
<b>HIST6081 Research Skills (30 credits)</b>	<b>HIST6082: Public History (15 credits)</b>	<b>HIST6092: Dissertation Module (75 credits)</b>
<b>HIST6087 INT (15 credits)</b>	<b>Two Option Modules (15 credits each – choose from list below = 30- credits)</b>	
	<b>HIST6088 INT (15 credits)</b>	

## **SEMESTER 1**

### **HIST6087: Individually Negotiated Topic (15 credits)**

#### **Professor Chris Woolgar (co-ordinator)**

The Individually Negotiated Topic. This enables you to develop a personal interest in a specific historical topic under the supervision of member(s) of staff in the History discipline with specialist knowledge and research experience in that field, who can guide your study and help you to develop a small research project in that field. You will be supervised one-to-one or one-to-two, or exceptionally in groups of three or four, over a small number of meetings totalling up to six hours. Each meeting will be devoted to specific readings, comprising primary sources and historiography. The end piece of assessed work is a single 3,000-word essay. Two supervisors will be appointed for each INT.

## **SEMESTER 2**

### **HIST6088: Individually Negotiated Topic (15 credits)**

#### **Convenor: Professor Chris Woolgar (co-ordinator) (as semester 1)**

### **HIST6129 Themes in Modern European History**

#### **Convenor: Professor Neil Gregor**

What does it mean to write modern European history in the early C21st? On the one hand, traditional master narratives, conceived at a time when the 'national' was regarded as a natural frame, have lost much of their purchase. On the other, optimistic teleologies of post-national integration appear increasingly unpersuasive. Yet with the turn to global history, and the attendant 'provincialisation' of Europe, the question of what histories this region has in common, and how those histories might be written, remains as pressing as ever. This module pursues these questions via a series of themes, such as colonialism and decolonisation, violence, urbanity, gender, migration, citizenship, consumerism, hierarchy and subalternity.

Having successfully completed this module, you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of...

- A1. Approaches taken by historians to the selected themes
- A2. Ways of interrogating source material in the field
- A3. The multifaceted nature of modern European history

### **HIST6130 Themes in Imperial History**

#### **Convenor: Professor Christer Petley**

This module will provide students with an opportunity to explore some key themes in imperial history, with a likely focus on the history and historiography of the British Empire. Topics may be drawn from any period in imperial history, from the beginnings of British/European overseas expansion, through mercantile empires, the age of global imperialism, to decolonisation and imperial remnants and legacies.

Having successfully completed this module, you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of...

A1. Selected themes or topics in imperial history

A2. Some of the sources and methods used in the writing of imperial history

A3 Some key historiographical debates within the study of imperial history

### **HIST6131 Themes in American History**

**Convenor: Professor Kendrick Oliver**

An indicative list of topics on this module would include: re-interpreting American history: transformations in historiography; Black lives matter: slavery and race in American history; the state in American history; religion in American history; American modernity: science and technology; America abroad: varieties of American empire; and sources and secrecy in American history.

Having successfully completed this module, you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of...

A1. Key shifts in interpretations of American history

A2. Diverse subject fields in and variety of approaches to American history

A3. Detailed comprehension of and critical intellectual engagement with one particular subject field or approach in coursework

### **HIST6132 Themes in the Long Eighteenth Century**

**Convenor: Dr Julie Gammon**

The long eighteenth century 'defies easy characterisation' (F. O'Gorman) but is a fascinating period to explore Britain's place in the world. In this module you will consider British social and political history between the Glorious Revolution of 1688 and the early nineteenth century within the context of Empire building. You will examine broad themes such as 'travel and trade', 'social hierarchies', 'Enlightenment and faith', 'Public and private' through the close examination of a range of primary sources and associated secondary literature.

Having successfully completed this module, you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of...

- A1. The conceptualisation of a ‘long’ eighteenth century
- A2. Britain’s place in the world and how this was changing
- A3. A range of primary source material for exploring social and political histories.

### **HIST6133 Themes in Ancient History**

**Convenor: Dr Annelies Cazemier**

Ancient history covers a vast geographical and chronological span, from Ancient Egypt to Classical Greece, from Rome to Imperial China, and from the Mediterranean into Europe, Africa, and the Near East. This module allows you to explore your interest in the Ancient World, and to learn about approaches to studying its past. Themes may include: representations of power; cultural interaction in the ancient world; and religious diversity (from polytheism to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam). We could also cover: war and the military in society; gender in myth and history; travel, mobility, and migration; or the afterlife of the ancient world.

Having successfully completed this module, you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of...

- A1. Sources and key concepts in the areas chosen for study
- A2. Approaches taken by historians to the selected themes
- A3. The Ancient World through the selected themes.

### **HIST6134 Themes in Modern British History**

**Convenor: Dr Eve Colpus**

Historians have become interested in ‘ordinary people’ again in recent years. Why? This module explores this question through looking at case-studies of women’s, men’s and children’s histories in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Britain, and at varieties of ‘ordinary sources’. We examine how a focus on ‘the ordinary’ maps onto, and complicates, other historically-shifting identities – race, ethnicity, class, gender, age, ability, region, and religious faith – and the implications. Claire Langhamer has asked, ‘Who do we mean when we refer to ordinary people and who did the people we study mean?’ (2018), and we will also consider this key question through tracing the roots of the historiographical turn to ‘the ordinary’.

Having successfully completed this module, you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of...

- A1. a diverse range of case-studies and scholarship on ordinary people’s histories in 19th and 20<sup>th</sup> century Britain
- A2. recent developments in the historiography of social and cultural history, and their roots in longer-established historiographical fields

A3. methodological approaches to studying the histories of experience and identity

### **HIST6135 Themes in Early Modern History**

**Convenor: Dr Craig Lambert**

The module will introduce you to the wide range of uses historians have made of documentation from 1485-1750. Approaches to the study of sources are often oblique and many classes of record are employed to support research on themes far from those envisaged by their original creators. Seminars will follow themes, partly set by student choices: an indicative list of areas for study would include the trade and economy; maritime expansion; and war. The primary focus of the course will be north-western Europe, particularly the British Isles.

Having successfully completed this module, you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of...

A1. Sources in chosen areas

A2. Approaches of historians to the selected themes

A3. How methods and source materials can be used to illuminate particular questions

### **HIST6136 Themes in Jewish History**

**Convenor: Professor Tony Kushner**

This module introduces the evidence and its problems relating to specific and crucial periods for the study of Jewish/non-Jewish relations, including Graeco-Roman antiquity; middle ages; early modern; and late modern. It studies everyday interaction of Jews and non-Jews in various environments such as the Hellenistic world, the Roman Empire, medieval Europe; early modern England; nineteenth and twentieth century Britain, continental Europe and the USA. It also considers the influence of theology on the representation and treatment of the Jews in the Christian era. Theories of Jewish/non-Jewish relations, including the seminal work of James Parkes, will be used throughout.

Having successfully completed this module, you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of...

A1. Change and continuity in the nature of hostility towards Jews, including the appropriateness of using the modern concept of antisemitism to explain earlier manifestations of antipathy

A2. Change and continuity in the nature of positive reactions and responses towards Jews, including the concept of philosemitism

A3. The creation of Jewish identities in relation to 'others'

### **HIST6137 Themes in Medieval History**

**Convenor: Dr Rémy Ambuhl**

The module will introduce you to the wide range of uses historians have made of medieval documentation from 1000 to 1500. Approaches to the study of sources are often oblique and many classes of record are employed to support research on themes far from those envisaged by their original creators. We will introduce you to these methods in the first seminar through case studies in selected documentary classes.

Subsequent seminars will follow themes, partly set by student choices: an indicative list of areas for study would include the nobility; nation and community; the uses of the past; lordship; everyday life; war; political and religious culture.

Having successfully completed this module, you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of...

A1. A wide variety of sources for the selected themes

A2. Different Approaches of historians to the selected themes

A3. the Medieval world through the selected themes