ABOUT THE HISTORY MAJOR

Coursework in this major prepares students to think critically, to construct sound arguments based on evidence, to write creatively, and to understand the historical processes that have shaped the world in which we all live.

Our classes enable students to develop skills that have practical applications in areas such as law, professional writing, research, and international relations. Students also have the opportunity to complete internships and gain experience in public history.

The history program here offers a range of courses that span the globe, as well as time period from the ancient world to the present. Classes are delivered in a variety of formats from interactive lectures to small discussion-based seminars on specific themes. All courses allow students to work directly with faculty and develop projects that are of special interest to the student. Faculty work with students to develop senior and honors theses.
RESEARCH & EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING
We offer our majors the chance to take their history classroom knowledge and apply it through a range of local internship opportunities. Students have interned at the Marion County Historical Society, the Delaware County Historical Society and the Marion Women's Club, earning course credit while exploring how their history major could lead to careers in archival and library management, museum work, or historical education.

We require history majors to take at least two upper-level history seminars in which they work on semester-long research projects. We also encourage students to continue this practice of independent research by offering one semester “independent study” courses or a multi-semester undergraduate thesis, supervised by our faculty. To support this independent research, our majors may apply for Ohio State Marion Travel Research grants.

Our program also offers “service learning” courses in which students divide their time between the classroom and the wider community, working on historical projects in partnership with local organization and institutions. Students research local history, and then share their discoveries with the wider community at public presentations.

SAMPLE CLASSES
The history program offers a range of courses that span the globe, as well as time period from the ancient world to the present. Classes are delivered in a variety of formats from interactive lectures to small discussion-based seminars on specific themes.

History of Public Health, Medicine, and Disease: "Plagues, Prevention, & Cures: Premodern Epidemics & Public Medicine from China to Italy"

History of African Cinema: Explores the origins of African cinema from the earliest days of the invention of motion pictures to the present.

The Silk Road: Commerce and Culture in Eurasia: "Jade, Horses, and Noodles: An Alternative History of the Silk Road"

OUR FACULTY
Ohio State Marion history faculty are leading scholars in their fields, as well as award-winning teachers. Our courses offer a blend of lecture and discussion formats that allow students to interact closely with faculty. We also offer a range of faculty-guided hands-on experiences like internships, service-learning courses, and seminars that provide the chance for students to carry out independent research.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
Keily Cunningham
history alumna
Marion, Ohio

“The career and growth benefits of gaining a history degree at Ohio State Marion are enormous. Not only do history students have that one-on-one connection with their history professors, but they are actually getting real life experience in classes rather than getting basic information about history from a bigger campus.”