



**NCCentral**  
UNIVERSITY

Department of History

**North Carolina  
Central University**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**

M.A. Program Handbook

**2021 - 2022**

NORTH CAROLINA  
CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

“  
**I AM TRULY GRATEFUL  
 FOR THE OPPORTUNITY  
 OF BEING A PART OF THE NUMBER  
 ONE HISTORY PROGRAM IN THE  
 COUNTRY.”**

- Beverly Boone



**THE DEPARTMENT  
 OF HISTORY IS  
 ESSENTIAL**

to the core of liberal arts at North Carolina Central University. Our diverse population of faculty and students are involved in teaching and learning history through innovative research, exciting courses, student projects, digital humanities, public history, and service learning.

**OUR AWARD-  
 WINNING FACULTY  
 OF 12 SCHOLAR-  
 TEACHERS**

offer instruction in African, African Diaspora, African American, American, European, Latin American, South Asian, and Public History. The department also offers a concentration in Hip Hop Studies and a minor in Women and Gender Studies, which allows students to deepen their interdisciplinary understanding of culture and identity.



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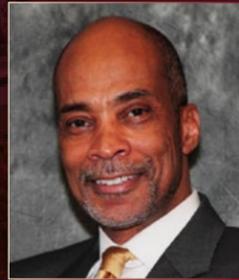


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# DEPARTMENT FACULTY



**Dr. Jim Harper, II**  
CHAIR & PROFESSOR



**Dr. Carlton E. Wilson**  
INTERIM DEAN CASH



**Dr. Lydia Lindsey**  
PROFESSOR



**Dr. Jerry B. Gershenhorn**  
PROFESSOR, JULIUS CHAMBERS  
ENDOWED PROFESSOR



**Dr. Charles D. Johnson**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



**Dr. Joshua Nadel**  
PROFESSOR



**Dr. Balylna W. Muhammad**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR



**Dr. Sean C. Colbert-Lewis, Sr.**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR



**Dr. Freddie L. Parker**  
RETIRED PROFESSOR EMERITUS



**Dr. Tony Frazier**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR



**Dr. Manna Duah**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



**Patrick Douthit  
(9th Wonder)**  
ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE



**Ms. Feleshia Hill**  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSOCIATE



**NEVER LIMIT YOURSELF  
BECAUSE OF OTHERS'  
LIMITED IMAGINATION; NEVER LIMIT OTHERS  
BECAUSE OF YOUR OWN LIMITED IMAGINATION.**

- Dr. Mae Jemison

# INTRODUCTION

## STUDYING HISTORY @ NCCU

There is no limit to where a history degree can take you. One-third of all Fortune 500 CEO's have degrees in the Humanities, including some notable history majors: Robert Johnson of BET, Facebook co-founder Chris Hughes, Carly Fiorina of Hewlett-Packard. Supreme Court Justices Elana Kagan and Anthony Kennedy and former Attorney General Eric Holder hold history degrees. President Joe Biden majored in history as did Senator Cory Booker and comedians Sacha Baron Cohen and Steve Carrell. Former NBA commissioner David Stern majored in history, as did Kareem Abdul Jabbar. So, when someone asks you what you can do with a history degree, the answer is simple: anything I want.

North Carolina Central University's History Department is small, family-oriented, cohesive, and student engaged, with a diverse student population and faculty. We aim to maximize our students' potential, providing essential skills that will serve them throughout their lives—research, writing, speaking, and critical thinking.

The department has a long-established reputation for distinguished scholarship. We have produced more graduates who have gone on to earn the Ph.D. in history than any other historically black institution in the nation. More than 80 of our students have received doctorates in history from institutions such as Howard University, Ohio State University, UNC-Chapel Hill, Morgan State University, Northwestern University, the University of California at Berkeley, Rutgers University, Miami (Ohio) University, University of South Carolina, and University of Florida at Gainesville.

Recent NCCU History graduates have gone on to become historians, lawyers, teachers, State Department employees, librarians, museum curators, and stand-up comedians. Why? Because we teach you how to think and solve problems, how to express yourself clearly, and how to be flexible and adapt. A History degree prepares you for the jobs of today and provides the skills to excel in professions that haven't been created yet.

In our B.A. program, you will gain hands-on research experience—in the classroom, internships, and study abroad experiences. You will work with our award-winning faculty and with archivists and museum curators to develop innovative research projects, and you will have chances to present your findings at university and national conferences. In the end, you will be prepared to enter graduate and professional schools in history, women's and gender studies, law, or business. The world will be open to you.

*Dr. Jim Harper, II*

DR. JIM HARPER, II  
DEPARTMENT CHAIR



# DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY @ NCCU

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**Jim C. Harper, II**  
CHAIR AND PROFESSOR  
919-530-6271  
[jcharper@nccu.edu](mailto:jcharper@nccu.edu)

**Jerry Gershenhorn**  
GRADUATE DIRECTOR  
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# MISSION

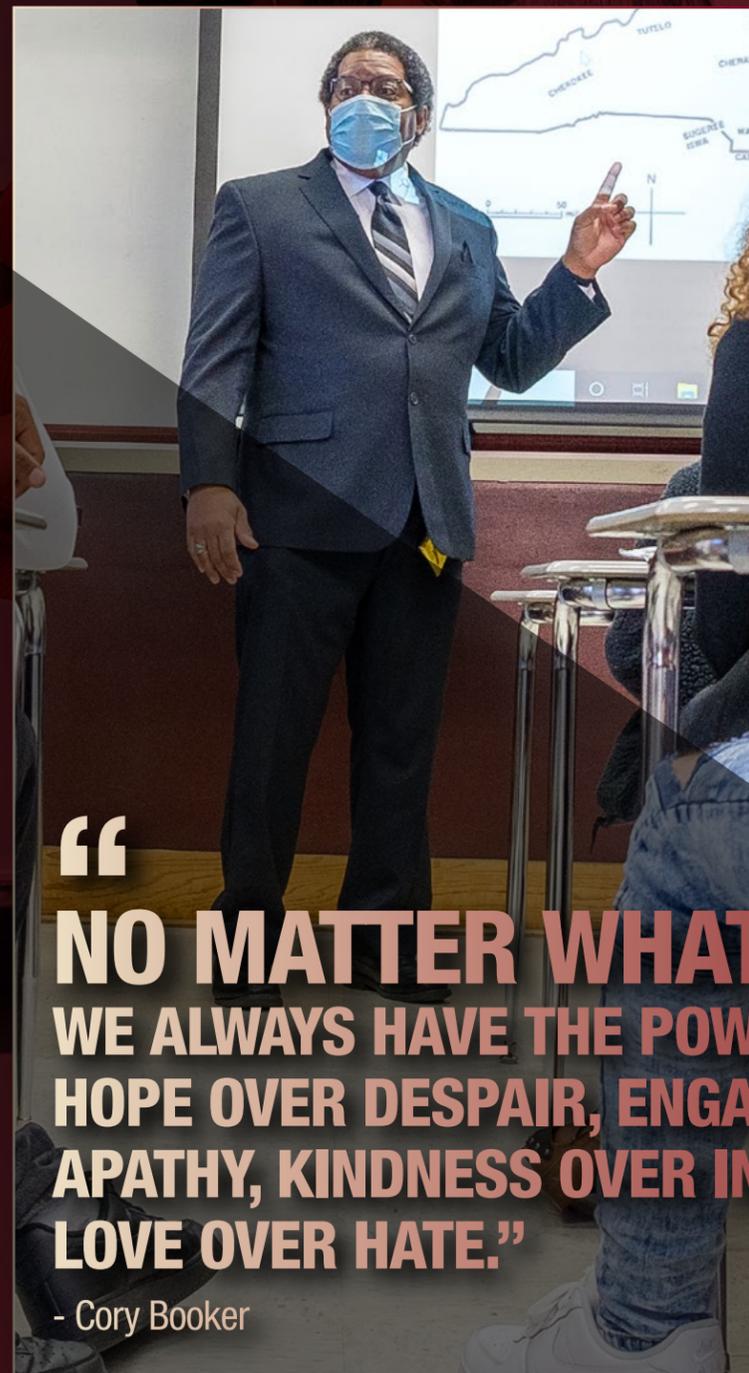
The M.A. Program in History prepares students to teach in secondary and higher education, to work as public historians, or to advance their graduate or professional education. In doing so, the program produces historians who demonstrate excellent research, writing, and analytical skills.



“  
**ALLOW YOURSELF TO  
BE PROUD OF YOURSELF  
AND ALL THE PROGRESS YOU'VE MADE.  
ESPECIALLY THE PROGRESS NO ONE  
ELSE CAN SEE.”**

- Unknown

# ADMISSION | PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS



## Admission and Requirements

The Department of History requires an undergraduate degree, preferably in history, at least a 2.7 undergraduate grade point average, two letters of recommendation, transcripts, a writing sample, and a personal statement. The GRE is NOT required.

## Program Curriculum Requirements

Students must declare the intention to pursue either the Thesis option or the Non-thesis option by the beginning of their second semester in the graduate program.

“  
**NO MATTER WHAT,  
WE ALWAYS HAVE THE POWER TO CHOOSE  
HOPE OVER DESPAIR, ENGAGEMENT OVER  
APATHY, KINDNESS OVER INDIFFERENCE,  
LOVE OVER HATE.”**

- Cory Booker

# AREAS OF STUDY



“  
**ONE OF THE LESSONS THAT  
I GREW UP WITH  
WAS TO ALWAYS STAY TRUE TO YOURSELF  
AND NEVER LET WHAT SOMEBODY ELSE SAYS  
DISTRACT YOU FROM YOUR GOALS.”**

- Michelle Obama

• African History

• African American History

• African Diaspora History

• European History

• Latin American History

• Public History

• United States History

# M.A. IN HISTORY DEGREE

## • Non-Thesis Option

### Core Course - 12-15 Hours

- a. HISG 5000 - Historical Method and Bibliography (3)
- b. HISG 5710 - Introduction to Public History (3)
- Graduate History Seminar (3)

### Project (3-6 Hours)

“

**AS A STUDENT OF NCCU'S HISTORY DEPARTMENT ESPECIALLY WORKING WITHIN THE PUBLIC HISTORY PROGRAM, I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITHIN A WIDE RANGE OF PROJECTS FROM MAPPING BLACK COMMUNITIES IN DURHAM, INTERVIEWING UNIQUE AND INFLUENTIAL LOCAL RESIDENTS, OR HELPING TO PUT TOGETHER PUBLIC EXHIBITS. THESE EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED A PATHWAY FOR ME LE TO GAIN A LOT OF WISDOM BOTH PROFESSIONALLY AND PERSONALLY.”**

- Kyrie Mason

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# M.A. IN HISTORY DEGREE

## • Thesis Option

### Core Courses - 6 hours

- a. HISG 5000 - Historical Method and Bibliography (3)
- Graduate History Seminar (3)

### Thesis 3-6

- a. HISG 5900 Thesis

## • Elective Courses in History - 21 hours

- a. Course electives may be selected from any graduate history courses (HISG 5000 level)

### Total Credit Hours - 33-36 hours

“

**THE PATH TO SUCCESS IS NOT AS FIXED AND INFLEXIBLE AS YOU THINK.”**

- Misty Copeland

# EXIT REQUIREMENTS

- **Non- thesis option** - Completion of 30 credit hours of course work with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher.
- **Non- thesis option** - Successful completion of a project (3-6 credit hours) and of the oral examination in defense of that project.
- **Thesis option** - Completion of 27 credit hours of course work with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher.
- **Thesis option** - Successful completion of a thesis (3-6 credit hours) and of the oral examination in defense of that thesis.
- **Both options** - Successful completion of a comprehensive written examination and foreign language examination.

## Graduate Curriculum Guide for History

### Year 1

#### Fall Semester

- **HISG 5000** .....Historical Method and Bibliography (3)
- **HISG 5020** .....United States History to 1865
- **HISG 5100** .....Independent Readings in European History (3)

#### Spring Semester

- **HISG 5210** .....U.S. History: Colonial Period to the Age of Jackson (3)
- **HISG 5220** .....U.S. History: Age of Jackson to 1900 (3)
- **HISG 5230** .....United States Since 1900 (3)

#### Summer Year 1

- **PROG 5RRR/5PPP** ..... Graduate Research/Project (3)
- **Qualifying Examination/Admission to Candidacy**

# EXIT REQUIREMENTS

### Year 2

#### Fall Semester

- **HISG 5400** .....Independent Readings in African History (3)
  - **HISG 5510** .....Topics in African American History to 1865 (3)
  - **HISG 5520** .....Topics in African American History Since 1865 (3)
- Approval of Thesis Plan or Project Plan

#### Spring Semester

- **HISG 5900** .....Thesis (1-3)
- or
- **HISG 5900** .....Graduate Project (6)

#### Thesis Defense or Project Defense Summer Year 2 (as Needed)

- **HISG 5900** .....Thesis (1-3)
- or
- **HISG 5900** .....Graduate Project (6)
- Thesis Defense or Project Defense  
Year 3 (As Needed)

“  
**YOU COME IN A STUDENT  
AND YOU COME OUT A REVOLUTIONARY.”**

- Taleore L. Marsh

# JOINT JD/ M.A. DEGREE PROGRAM

## Overview

The joint degree program permits students to pursue a Juris Doctorate at the School of Law and a Master of Arts in History in the Department of History (JD/MA). A partnership of law and history is essential to the understanding of past processes of effective government and provides not only historical context but also the ability to analyze current events. Today's lawyers need to be deeply engaged in their clients' needs in the public and private sector. The history program provides skills to prepare individuals to work in government agencies, the nonprofit sector, and in organizations that conduct substantial business with government agencies. The program of Law and History offers students a chance to examine law and its relationship to the larger world of social movements, economic change, politics and government - in the context of studying the legal and constitutional history of the United States. It is designed to reflect the present evolution of interdisciplinary university education in our rapidly changing world. A deep understanding of law and history is not only essential to effective government, but also leads to meaningful careers in politics, government, and academic institutions, among others.

## Coursework and Financial Structure of the Program

Students in the joint degree program may complete both degrees in four academic years. A student must complete the core courses in the MA program and a minimum of 79 credit hours at the Law School. The Law School may count up to the equivalent of 9 credits from upper-level work completed in the MA program.

In the first two years of the program, students are generally required to enroll for one full year of study at the Law School and for one full year of study in the MA program; either can come first. In the third and fourth years of the program, joint degree students are enrolled in, and take courses at, both the Law School and the Department of History. Both schools have their own requirements for these upper-level years.

In addition to expanding professional options, the NCCU joint degree programs offer tremendous value; tuition is often the same as for a single degree program, and the joint degree program can be completed in less time than pursuing each degree separately.

# JOINT JD/ M.A. DEGREE PROGRAM

## Admissions

Prospective students must apply to each program separately and must be separately admitted to both the Law School and the Graduate School, each of which will independently review and admit applicants. Applicants need to complete both the GRE and LSAT exams.

Questions relating to the admissions processes at each school should be addressed directly to the individuals listed below.

## Administrative Matters

Once enrolled, a student intending to leave the joint degree program must petition the Department of History and the Law School for permission to leave the program and complete only one of the two degree.

Grades earned in courses of one program will not be included in the GPA calculations of the other program.

Students will be expected to complete all Department of History and Law School exams and requirements at the times they are scheduled; exceptions are at the sole discretion of school/department, in accordance with their respective policies.

Students will not be permitted to enroll in History MA and Law School courses with time overlaps. Students will remain on student e-mail lists at both programs for all four years of the joint degree program.

**Credit Hours:** 79 credit hours for School of Law and 33 credit hours for the Department of History

**Pre-requisites:** Students must meet the requirements to be eligible to be admitted to both programs.

**“IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE  
UNTIL IT IS DONE.”** - Nelson Mandela

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**NC Central**  
UNIVERSITY

Department of History



**Facebook:** Department of History at North Carolina Central University | **Twitter Username:** @nccu\_history | **Instagram username:** @nccuhistory

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