



MORAVIAN COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

An overview of the department and its offerings. For further information, visit the website at www.moravian.edu/history.

The history department excels at challenging students with a rigorous program, interesting classes, and opportunities to pursue learning on their own terms. Our curriculum is integrated and thoughtful, with each course level building on the one below.

The history major is strong in a variety of ways: it is well-structured and integrated, proceeding logically from the 100-level to 300-level courses; involves hands-on research wherein students work with primary sources; is taught by faculty with success in research and writing and who practice what they teach; has an international focus and encourages students to make global connections; and graduates students who read, write, and research well.

Strong, Personalized Academic Majors

History students can and do personalize their majors, taking advantage of the broad range of courses and opportunities for independent study, internships, study abroad, and Honors projects. This diversity of courses enables considerable choice.

After the 100-level surveys, which focus on primary sources, the classes are topically based and encourage students to pursue their own areas of interest while providing examples and demonstrating a range of methodologies and approaches.

At the 200 level, students can take courses in subjects as specific as the Holocaust, food and women



in Latin America, or race and inequality in the modern United States. At this level, they shift their attention to historiography and explore how historians interpret data differently. As part of the required historical methods and interpretations course, students interact with faculty members in their role as scholars: each student interviews one professor about his or her approach to history, influences, and areas of research.

The 300-level seminars can be either broadly or narrowly construed, ranging from topics such as the first people of North America to medieval peasants. At this level, students combine primary sources and historiography in original research papers.

History students are taught by scholars with intimate knowledge of the research process and success in writing history. The hands-on research conducted by these students allows them to create new knowledge by asking original questions of primary sources. Students in this department take courses in the history of at least three geographical areas, and they are encouraged to make global connections through study abroad programs.

The department of six faculty includes five nationalities. Between us, we have traveled to and/or lived in more than 60 countries, and we draw on this global experience in our teaching. Our alumni report that the skills we teach serve them well in graduate school and their professional lives.





Hands-On Learning

The history department has long been committed to meaningful collaborative research and scholarship. Such work takes place not only in the context of optional honors programs, internships, and paid research work, but also as a regular and integrated part of our curriculum.

Students learn the basic tools of research in our historical methods and interpretations course, and they implement them in three substantial research projects in their seminar classes, each of which involves both primary and secondary source analysis.

In one of these, the Senior Seminar (required for all history majors except Honors students), students work in conjunction with two faculty members—one overseeing the seminar and one with expertise in their area of study. At the end of the semester, they present condensed versions of their research papers in a “mini conference” to which all history department faculty members, students, and others interested in history are invited.

This department provides students with many opportunities for hands-on learning, including student research, and a number of students assist faculty with their research. Select students may participate in the Honors program or SOAR (Student Opportunities for Academic Research) projects. SOAR offers both semester and summer programs.

Local and regional institutions, including the Moravian Archives, the Historic Bethlehem Partnership, and the National Museum of Industrial History provide opportunities for field study experience. Students are also welcome to design independent studies in topics of their choosing. The independent study culminates with a 20- to 25-page paper based on both primary and secondary

sources. The History Fellowship affords students an opportunity to teach a class while doing their own research on a related topic.

The national history honor society, Phi Alpha Theta, is active on campus, and the History Club invites guest speakers, sponsors discussions, and organizes trips to historic sites around the eastern United States.

Alumni Careers in History

Some history graduates pursue careers in law or attend graduate school, while others make use of their written and oral communication skills in a wide range of professions.

- Bev Beaver '08 is a public defender at the Defender Association in Philadelphia.
- Peter Coutros '08 is working on a doctorate in anthropology at Yale. He did fieldwork in West Africa for his master's degree, and plans to return to West Africa to complete his doctoral research.
- Edward Roach '95 is the historian at the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park in Ohio.
- Erik M. Strohl '94 is the senior director of exhibitions and collections at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, N.Y.
- Danielle Shisko-Guyer '94 is the legislative director of the Pennsylvania governor's budget office.
- Elizabeth Bugaighis, Ph.D., '87 is the dean of education and academic success at Northampton Community College in Pennsylvania.
- Chris Gilbert '86 is a professor of political science at Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota.
- Annette P. Landes '83 is an attorney/partner at Peters, Moritz, Peischl, Zulick, Landes & Brienza, LLP, in Nazareth, Pa.
- Robert L. Freeman '78 is a state representative in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Long before 1776,
Moravian College stood for
life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
As the sixth-oldest college in America,
we believe everyone is born with an innate love of learning.

Our mission is to set it free.

To every student of every circumstance,
we promise the power of the liberal arts,
a whole wide world of experience,
and a deeper enjoyment of life.

Pursue them all with passion.