

Metrics: Report: U.S. HISTORY

I. Program Overview

A. Department profile (faculty, students, curriculum)

The History Department offers PhD, Masters, undergraduate Honors and undergraduate major degrees. At the end of the 2003/04 school year there were 97 students active in the graduate program (including Europeanists, Latin Americanists and Africanists), about one-third of whom are Americanists. (Note: last year's report cited 176 students in the graduate program. This was correct, but many inactive students are still carried on the enrollment although they have not finished their degrees.) The department is admitted nine students this year to its graduate program, three of whom will focus on U.S. history. Jonathan Prude served as Director of Graduate Studies in 2004/05 as a temporary replacement for Jeffrey Lesser who was on sabbatical.

In 2003/04, undergraduate enrollment in all history courses remained stable at approximately 1000 per semester (not broken down by area of study). There were 216 majors and 12 Honors degrees awarded for the 2003/04 school year. Many U.S. History courses meet general education requirements and thus many non-majors enroll in them. Matthew Payne continues to serve as the Department's Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Europeanist Walter Adamson continues to serve as department chair. U.S. historians comprise one-third of the faculty. Of these, Eric Goldstein and Mary Odem were on sabbatical this year. Although the U.S. History program covers a broad spectrum, it is particularly strong in 19th and 20th century southern history. Joseph Crespino, who specializes in 20th century Southern U.S. history, joined the department in fall 2003 as a replacement for Dan Carter, who left Emory in 2000. The department anticipates conducting searches for additional Europeanists in 2004/05 and 2006/07. A search to fill the position left open by the departure of Michael Bellesisles with a specialist in the U.S. Revolutionary/Federal period is not likely to take place until 2006/07. See Addendum A for a list of current U.S. historians and their research interests.

Currently the History Department's 33 faculty (up from 32 in 2003/04) is fairly evenly divided between specialists in U.S., European, and other geographic areas. Eventually the department hopes to grow to accommodate 40 faculty. Dr. Adamson notes that Emory's history program is following a national trend in gradually evolving toward a greater emphasis on non-U.S., non-European history, and a broader, less geographically focused curriculum. Specifically, the subdiscipline of world history, which stresses cross-cultural, transnational, and transcontinental historical approaches, is beginning to receive more emphasis. As indicated in Eric Nitschke's program plan for European and East Asian History, the History Department is moving toward offering a graduate degree in Jewish history. See under "Collection Management" for more on the implications of this development.

In addition to meeting the General Education Requirements, all undergraduate history majors must complete at least 36 hours (nine courses) in history, at least 24 hours of

which must be at or above the 300 level. They must complete at least one course in each of five “distribution areas”: America before 1860, America after 1860, Europe before 1600, Europe after 1600, and Africa/East Asia/Latin America/Near East. Majors also complete two junior/senior colloquium seminars (HIST 487, 488, or 489) or graduate seminars, and write two research papers, usually as part of these seminars.

B. Coordination/Cooperation/Collaborative Relationships

Due to its interdisciplinary nature, the U.S. History program has fostered close ties with other Emory programs, including African American Studies, Comparative Literature, English, ILA, Jewish Studies, Religion, and Women’s Studies. Many U.S. history courses are cross-listed with courses in other departments, and many history faculty members have joint appointments or serve as associate faculty in other programs.

II. Description of Material Collected

Overall we possess a good research level collection in most traditional U.S. history subfields. A major collection strength is U.S. southern history. In particular, we have expanded beyond traditional Civil War history to build good collections in the areas of slavery, emancipation, and civil rights. The research and teaching interests of Joseph Crespino, hired in 2003, center on Southern whites’ responses to the civil rights movement, a facet of mid-20th century Southern history which has received limited attention, and is an area we are beginning to build upon.

Another area in need of targeted collection building is our holdings in primary source materials, particularly historical newspapers. History faculty have provided us with a prioritized newspaper request list that I am systemically working through, purchasing newspaper runs as funds permit.

I will continue to select additional primary source materials which are usually available in electronic or micro formats. I will purchase major primary source microform sets as availability and funds allow, relying on Special Collections staff to collect original manuscripts and other rare materials. MARC catalog records for selected major microform sets are another priority. Due to the significant amount of time and expertise involved in incorporating these records into EUCLID, their purchase must be coordinated with Technical Services’ workflow.

The Library attempts to subscribe to all U.S. state historical journals. We have most of these titles, but a few gaps in coverage have been identified and I am working to ensure that these are filled.

Due to the departmental initiative to develop a graduate program in Jewish history, we can anticipate increased requests for additional resources in a wide range of Jewish historical sources. Eric Goldstein, who specializes in American Jewish and modern Jewish history, is also exploring avenues for making Emory a leader in Southern Jewish history. I am currently working with Goldstein and Tarina Rosen to build a

collection of historical American Jewish and Yiddish periodicals. There are some grant monies available to assist in purchase of these materials.