

MASTER OF ARTS IN HISTORY AND POLITICAL STUDIES

The Master of Arts in History and Political Studies is a fully online degree program designed for graduate students who have interdisciplinary interests and for educators who want to expand their professional credentials to teach courses in both history and government.

Requirements

The program entails 36 hours of coursework, split evenly between history and political science, and an interdisciplinary portfolio.

Coursework

All students are required to start with two introductory courses that provide an overview of the disciplines of history and political science as well as a grounding in each field's methodological approaches. Students are then required to take one course in each of the History Department's three thematic tracks (War & Violence, Rights & Identity, and Encounters & Exchanges) and the Political Science Department's three principal subfields (American Politics, Comparative Politics, and International Relations). Following those requirements, which account for twenty-four credit hours, students can choose any two other history courses and any two other political science courses as electives that best suit their professional objectives.

Thematic Tracks for History

- **War & Violence:** Courses examine how different societies have experienced, conducted, and remembered military conflict, mass killing, and genocide.
- **Rights & Identity:** Courses explore how individuals and collectives have defined themselves at different times and places around the world.
- **Encounters & Exchanges:** Courses explore how the world's diverse peoples have encountered and interacted with one another on a large scale over time.

Subfields for Political Science

- **American Politics:** Courses examine political institutions and political behavior in the United States.
- **Comparative Politics:** Courses explore the diverse political systems around the world.
- **International Relations:** Courses explore the cooperative and conflictual interactions of sovereign states and non-state actors on the global stage.

Portfolio

Students will submit an interdisciplinary portfolio in their final semester, reflecting their development and work in the program, and consisting of the following components:

- **A synthetic essay** that builds connections between history and political science courses and addresses a broader interdisciplinary question.
- **Either an annotated bibliography** of books and major articles read throughout the program, organized by course, **OR a teaching portfolio** consisting of a teaching statement that describes their philosophy, strategies, and objectives for teaching both history and political science courses; a draft syllabus for a course in history and a course in political science; and a sample of course materials.
- **A compilation of written work from completed courses**, such as research essays, book reviews, and response papers.

Additional Information: Reference the Program Landing Page (<https://www.shsu.edu/programs/graduate/history-and-political-studies/>) for additional information, such as cost, delivery format, contact information, or to schedule a visit.

Students seeking admission to the MA in History and Political Studies must meet the following requirements and submit all documents to the Office of Graduate Admissions (<https://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-admissions/transition.html>):

1. Graduate Application (<https://www.shsu.edu/admissions/apply-texas.html>): The Graduate Application is an institutional application required by SHSU. Students must provide biographical and educational information and information relevant to determining State of Texas residency.
2. Application fee (<https://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-admissions/application-fee.html>): An application fee is required for all applications to graduate programs at SHSU.
3. Statement of intent: This is a written statement explaining why the applicant wishes to pursue an MA in History and Political Studies; how the applicant's educational background or work experience has prepared him/her to undertake an interdisciplinary graduate degree; and what the applicant plans to do professionally with the degree.
4. Transcripts documenting all prior degrees.
5. Two letters of recommendation that discuss the applicant's academic and professional potential.
6. An optional academic writing sample demonstrating the applicant's ability to advance an argument in professional prose.

Code	Title	Hours
Master of Arts in History and Political Science		
Required Courses		

HIST 5301	Methods in History	3
POLS 5301	Scope & Methods of Political Science	3

Prescribed Electives: History**War and Violence**

Select one course from the following: 3

HIST 5333	Pre-Modern World History
HIST 5336	Pre-Modern European History
HIST 5342	The Japanese Colonial Empire
HIST 5351	Early Medieval Europe
HIST 5352	High and Late Medieval Europe
HIST 5355	Holocaust & Genocide
HIST 5363	Seminar In Military History
HIST 5364	Seminar in War & Violence
HIST 5365	Film and War in America
HIST 5366	The Reconstruction Era
HIST 5367	World War II
HIST 5371	Revolutionary America
HIST 5373	United States Civil War
HIST 5374	Seminar in the History of the American South
HIST 5383	United States Diplomatic History
HIST 5392	The Ottoman Empire, 1300-1922
HIST 5393	European Diplomatic History

Rights & Identity

Select one course from the following: 3

HIST 5321	American Immigration History
HIST 5340	Recent African-American History
HIST 5353	Legacies of the Reformations
HIST 5362	Seminar in American Environmental History
HIST 5371	Revolutionary America
HIST 5372	Early National America
HIST 5374	Seminar in the History of the American South
HIST 5375	Recent America, 1876-1933
HIST 5376	Contemporary America, 1933-Present
HIST 5378	American Cultural and Religious History
HIST 5380	American Historiography
HIST 5382	Topics In the History Of Women
HIST 5386	African American Civil Rights
HIST 5390	China in Revolution
HIST 5394	Early Modern Europe
HIST 5395	Later Modern Europe

Encounters & Exchanges

Select one course from the following: 3

HIST 5307	Intellectual History
HIST 5320	Mesoamerican Civilizations
HIST 5322	Debates in Global Migration
HIST 5338	Empires in World History
HIST 5359	The Audible Past
HIST 5360	African Environmental History
HIST 5370	Colonial America
HIST 5375	Recent America, 1876-1933
HIST 5377	The American West
HIST 5381	World Historiography

HIST 5384	Texas History	
HIST 5385	Latin American History	
HIST 5388	Public History	
HIST 5389	Great Britain and the British Empire	
HIST 5396	Cross-Cultural Interactions	
Select two additional courses (not previously taken) from the above HIST lists:		6
Prescribed Electives: Political Studies		
American Politics		
Select one course from the following:		3
POLS 5330	American Politics	
POLS 5332	State Governments, Policies, and Politics	
POLS 5334	Judicial Politics	
POLS 5336	The United States Presidency	
POLS 5337	The United States Congress	
POLS 5339	American Political Parties	
POLS 5360	Seminar in American Politics	
POLS 5385	Public Policy	
Comparative Politics		
Select one course from the following:		3
POLS 5319	Women in Politics	
POLS 5340	Political Attitudes & Behavior	
POLS 5364	Media & Politics	
POLS 5371	Comparative Politics	
POLS 5372	Seminar in Comparative Politics	
International Relations		
Select one course from the following:		3
POLS 5367	Seminar in International Relations	
POLS 5373	International Relations	
Select two additional courses (not previously taken) from the above POLS lists:		6
Total Hours		36

Note: Courses listed under two requirements may only be taken once and may only fulfill one requirement.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) marketable skills initiative is part of the state's **60x30TX plan** and was designed to help students articulate their skills to employers. Marketable skills are those skills valued by employers and/or graduate programs that can be applied in a variety of work or education settings and may include interpersonal, cognitive, and applied skill areas.

The MA in History and Political Studies is designed to provide graduates with the following marketable skills:

- Problem solving/research: critical, analytical, and evaluative thinking, while building an informed belief system by synthesizing knowledge and posing questions about different societies and cultures.
- Communication/presentation: professional expression of ideas through written, verbal, and visual work.
- Leadership/teaching: effective engagement in local, state, regional, national, and global communities while promoting civil discourse and civic participation.