

# 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.

### 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, students choose other history courses and political science courses as electives that best suit their professional objectives. Students complete the program by enrolling in a capstone course (HIST 6394 or POLS 6394).

#### 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.

**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. Names and contact information for at least two individuals who can speak to 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    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>Master of Arts in History and Political Science <sup>1</sup></b> |                                      |          |
| <b>Required Courses</b>                                             |                                      | <b>6</b> |
| HIST 5301                                                           | Methods in History                   |          |
| POLS 5301                                                           | Scope & Methods of Political Science |          |
| <b>Required Capstone Course (choose one)</b>                        |                                      | <b>3</b> |
| HIST 6394                                                           | Seminar in History                   |          |
| POLS 6394                                                           | Capstone                             |          |
| <b>Prescribed Electives: History</b>                                |                                      |          |
| <b>War and Violence</b>                                             |                                      |          |
| Select one course from the following:                               |                                      | <b>3</b> |
| HIST 5333                                                           | Pre-Modern World History             |          |

|           |                                              |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------|
| HIST 5338 | Empires in 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 5380 | American Historiography                      |
| 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 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 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 additional course(s) (not previously taken) from the above HIST lists: <sup>2</sup>

3-6

**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 5362 | Seminar in Political Theory               |
| 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 additional course(s) (not previously taken) from the above POLS lists: <sup>2</sup> 3-6**Total Hours** 33-39<sup>1</sup> It is strongly recommended that students contact their employer, prior to registration, to request a credentialing review for elective courses.<sup>2</sup> Students must complete 18 credits in HIST and 18 credits in POLS. Depending on whether the student chooses HIST 6394 or POLS 6394 for the capstone requirement, student will need to choose either one course (3 credits) or two courses (6 credits) in this section to bring the totals to 18 credits in HIST and 18 credits in POLS.**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.