

HISTORY IS ALL OVER

Macalester College History Department

FALL
2021



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome Back

New Faculty and Staff

Class Spotlight

Fall Events

Spring 2022 Classes

New Majors and Minors

December Graduates

Alumni Updates

Faculty News

Media Recommendations

Welcome Back

The start of the academic year always holds tremendous optimism, even when we face significant challenges. The Department of History at Macalester College has a tradition of seeing these moments as opportunities. This fundamental commitment to a positive attitude is a reflection of the department's longstanding commitment to leadership on campus, across the Twin Cities and around the world.

This Fall, there is so much to celebrate. Professors Jessica Pearson and Katrina Phillips have both been awarded tenure for their outstanding teaching, research, and service to the college. (More on this in the spring newsletter). Professor Amy Sullivan published her new book, *Opioid Reckoning*, a deep and revealing study of addiction in the United States. Our students' capstone research projects showcased a range and depth of analysis that set the standard for history majors around the world.

Even as the campus adjusted to new leadership over the last year, students and faculty in the department have provided steadfast guidance to colleagues in every department to maintain a strong sense of community. As we celebrate our determination and achievements through 2021, we also face new challenges in 2022. I know we will meet them and move forward together through the Spring.

It is my honor to serve our academic community as the department chair, and I can never emphasize enough how inspired I am by our time together. Have a wonderful holiday season, and let's make the next year even more memorable.

Walter D. Greason, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair, Department of History
Macalester College

Welcome New Staff and Faculty



Dr. Walter Greason joined Macalester this fall as the new History Professor and Chair. His research spans topics from metropolitan growth, urban development, and economic history from the historical perspective. Dr. Greason is also a science fiction writer and, in 2003, started working with Marvel Comics to develop the Wakanda Syllabus. This inspired work around Afro-futurism, digital media, and social activism.

He “got sick of seeing really good projects being funded by bake sales”, so became an administrator. Dr. Greason is excited to use governance and the administration to increase social justice. A committed teacher since in high school, Dr. Greason

wanted to be somewhere that teaching is the priority and, after following Dr. Duchess Harris on social media, chose Macalester. The best part has been his colleagues who have “rolled out the red carpet” and inspire him with their “creativity and vision”. This semester, Dr. Greason is excited about working with the Rondo community to let students do innovative community engagement work and “use class time to accomplish real things in the world”.

Dr. Tara Hollies (*below right*) is a Visiting Assistant Professor of African History for 2021-22. Her research focuses on gender, law, and justice in pre-colonial and colonial Igboland, southeastern Nigeria. A native of Michigan, Dr. Hollies considers Minnesota to be her second home and came to Macalester given her background in liberal arts. She approaches historical study and teaching in a small group manner and loves the enthusiasm for learning Mac students have.

This semester, Dr. Hollies is teaching two African history courses. She’s surprised (in a good way) by the number of questions students ask and the level at which she’s being challenged in making her a better professor and scholar. One person Dr. Hollies recommends learning about is Queen Nzinga, a skilled diplomat, leader, and warrior who fought off the Portuguese and re-conquered her kingdom of now Angola.

Carla Zelada (*below left*) begins her first year as the Department Coordinator for History and Classical Mediterranean and Middle East. Prior, she was an Associate Director in Admissions at both Macalester and Carleton College, for a total of 14 years. She also spent 10 years as a high school Spanish teacher in St. Paul Public Schools. Carla is excited to be in a support role and has really enjoyed meeting and working with the faculty and students at Mac.



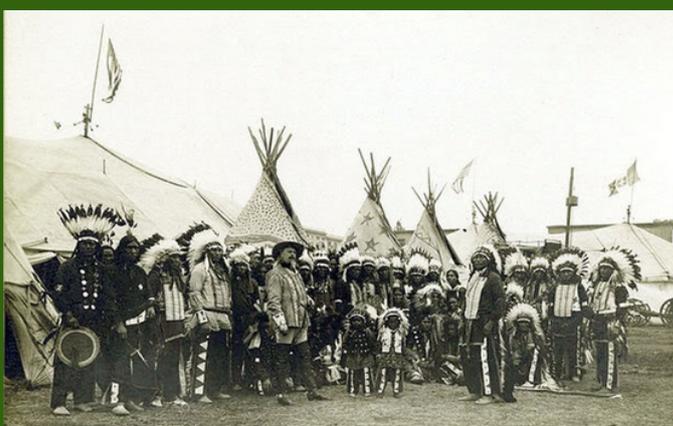
The opioid epidemic is always a focus this class, but in the last few years, the epidemic has taken a turn for the worse. Fake pills and other substances are increasingly laced with unregulated and often lethal doses of fentanyl. With the number of overdoses and deaths skyrocketing, the Uses & Abuses class is focusing on why history matters when solving social issues and epidemics.

HIST 271-01: Uses & Abuses



A lethal dose of fentanyl

HIST 294-01: Native Americans in Popular Culture



Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show in Rome, 1890.

"We did an assignment where each person in the class added an advertisement that used Native imagery or stereotypes to a slide deck. We analyzed each ad and talked about why -- and how -- the imagery was used to sell a particular product. The range of products and the lengthy history of some of these companies and products really underscored how pervasive this imagery is. The students found some really incredible ads, and it was a great way to start thinking about how these images and stereotypes are deeply embedded in so many facets of American culture."

— Professor Katie Phillips

Led by Professor Pearson, this three-student tutorial explored Queer history from a global perspective, engaging with both historical scholarship and theoretical perspectives. Members selected readings of both primary and secondary sources for discussion from their geographic and/or thematic areas of interest and used them to develop a syllabus for a future Queer history class.

HIST 604: Queer History Tutorial





Fall Events



Fall Kick-Off

Luring in the students with food! In mid-October, members of the department met with students to introduce themselves and get ready for a great year (and eat snacks).



History Club

Membership is growing! There are currently over sixty members on the mailing list, most of whom are brand new. A highlight of this fall was a collaboration with Prof. Masha Fedorova's Rise/Fall of Tsarist Russia Class to play a Russian history timeline game. History Club meets Thursdays at 4:45 in Old Main 410.



The Inaugural History Hike

On October 3rd, students, staff, and faculty of the History Department took an afternoon trip to Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve in Savage, MN. After a masked hike, snacks and drinks were provided, and attendees spent time hanging out and chatting.



Pre-Registration Soup Lunch

In order to familiarize students with the courses, the department hosted a soup lunch shortly before spring registration where faculty introduced what they were going to teach the next semester and answered questions from the students.



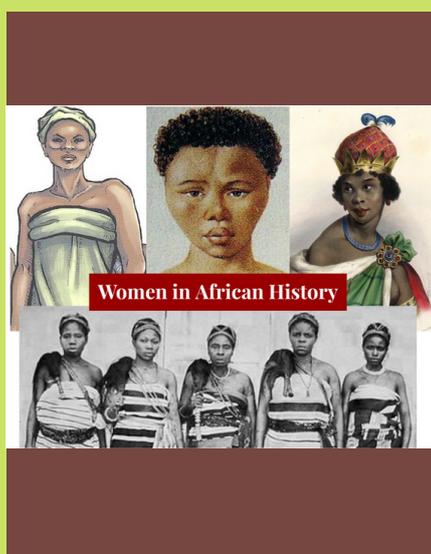
Class Reunions

In late September, Professor Jess Pearson organized a reunion of her Module 5 class. They had a good time eating snacks and catching up.



Spring 2022 Class Schedule

HIST 115-01	Africa Since 1800	MWF	2:20-3:20 pm	Tara Hollies
HIST 140-01	Introduction to East Asian Civilization	MWF	12:00-1:00 pm	James Coplin
HIST 164-01	Global Health Histories	TR	1:20-2:50 pm	Jessica Pearson
HIST 164-02	Global Health Histories	TR	3:00-4:30 pm	Jessica Pearson
HIST 181-01	Introduction to Latin America	MWF	2:20-3:20	Ethan Besser Fredrick
HIST 213-01	Women in African History	MWF	10:50-11:50 am	Tara Hollies
HIST 222-01	Imagining the American West	MWF	10:50-11:50 am	Katrina Phillips
HIST 226-01	American Indian History Since 1871	MWF	9:40-10:40 am	Katrina Phillips
HIST 274-01	The Great Tradition in China Before 1840	MWF	2:20-3:20	James Coplin
HIST 284-01	Imaging the Modern City	MWF	1:10-2:10 pm	Ernesto Capello
HIST 290-01	History: Then and Now	TR	3:00-4:30 pm	Walter Greason
HIST 294-01	Culture and Science in the Cold War	MWF	10:50-11:50 am	Maria Fedorova
HIST 294-03	Religion and Law in Africa	TR	3:00-4:30 pm	Tara Hollies
HIST 294-04	Sailing East/Marching West: Contemporary History of British and Chinese Empires in the 19th Century	TR	9:40-11:10 am	James Coplin
HIST 340-01	US Urban Environmental History	TR	9:40-11:10 am	Chris Wells
HIST 343-01	Imperial Nature: The United States and the Global Environment	TR	1:20-2:50 pm	Chris Wells
HIST 350-01	Race, Gender, and Medicine	MW	7:00-8:30 pm	Amy Sullivan
HIST 353-01	Oceans in World History	MW	8:00-9:30 am	Karin Vélez
HIST 394-01	Indigenous Activism	MWF	1:10-2:10 pm	Katrina Phillips



HIST 213-01: Women in African History

Women in African History is designed to teach students how to think like Africanist historians, interpreting the stories of the past in meaningful ways that privilege indigenous African perspectives. We will explore case studies, analyzing the lived experiences of various women from four different parts of Africa who lived from the sixteenth to the twentieth century.

In this course, we will do the following: examine different feminist theories and understand how they do or do not apply to different African contexts, dissect several trends of globalization (the Atlantic slave trade, colonialism, the “human zoo,” and cultural appropriation), and compare the perspectives of Africans and Europeans concerning the roles that women played in these interactions.

New Majors and Minors

Majors:

Miles Baeur '24, Carly Benusa '23, Ana Berman '23, Sarah Beth Hobby '24, Declan Manasse-Boetani '24, Leander Moe '24, Isu Muenala Reed '24, Fiona Mulholland '24, Morgan Niven '24, Don Padilla '24, Hollis Quasebarth '24, Sean Restivo '24, Sophia Salinas '24, Emma Salomon '24, and Henry Walker '24, Cheyenne Woerman '24

Minors:

Louise Blair '22, Liliana Brunner '22, Nick Howland '23

December Graduates

Majors: Edgar Li and Brooke Sapper

Minors: Paul Brinson, Zirui Han, Pierce Lundt, Nicholas Salvato, and Kelsey Straw, Aidan Trummel



Alumni Updates

In June, **Karlos Hill '02** published "Community-Engaged History: A Reflection on the 100th Anniversary of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre" in the *American Historical Review*.

Jemma Kloss '19 is working as an archival assistant at Macalester, easing the transition between new head archivists in addition to supervising student workers. She is in the second semester of her MLIS program at St. Kate's.

Ben Trumble '20 spent the last year earning his Masters of Arts in Teaching from NYU. He is currently back in his home state of New Hampshire teaching history at a public high school.

Cori Simon '12 won the inaugural Western History Association Prize for best dissertation with her work, "Shadowland: Indian Territory's Contested Past and Uncertain Future, 1800-1910."

In September, **Kate Stier '12** began her position as Curator for Gunston Hall in Lorton, Virginia.

Have an update? Let us know at history@macalester.edu

Faculty News



Professor Amy Sullivan's book, *Opioid Reckoning*, was published in October.

Professor Jess Pearson has taken on a leadership role in the African Studies Concentration.

Professor Tara Hollies is the new Macalester liaison for Phi Alpha Theta, the history honor society.

Professor Linda Sturtz is on sabbatical 2021-22.

Professor Yue-him Tam will be on a one-semester sabbatical this spring. James Coplin will teach three classes in the spring while Professor Tam is on leave.

In September, Professor Katie Phillips led a discussion at UMN called "Staging Indigeneity: Salvage Tourism and the Performance of Native American History."

Professor Greason presented his work on Afrofuturist Design at the University of Michigan and opened the Peripheral Centralities seminar at the University of Melbourne (Australia) the following week.

Professor Ernesto Capello taught a combined FYC called Nature and Power this fall and will be chairing the Theater Department in the Spring of 2022.

Professor Masha Fedorova led an event in early December that commemorated the anniversary of the fall of the Soviet Union.

Professor Karin Vélez continues to work as the Faculty Coordinator of the Mellon Mays program, in addition to her role as Associate Professor in History.