

HISTORY

History
510.430.2338
history@mills.edu

A knowledge of history is essential for an understanding of the present. Who are we and how did we get here? History is the ever-changing process by which we in the present try to understand our parents, grandparents, and previous generations in the past. In what ways were they similar and how did they differ from us? History means seeking out sources that speak to us about the peoples and cultures that came before us. It is a dynamic process with ever-new discoveries and meanings. In studying history you acquire skills, including seeking out source material, evaluating and analyzing evidence, and presenting sound arguments based on your findings. You experience the excitement of discovery.

The Mills history curriculum is designed to provide you with a broad background in the human past and the skills of doing historical research and analysis. Historical study fosters skills and habits of mind crucial to careers in law, political advocacy, journalism, teaching, museums, and business. Our graduates in history have pursued careers in all these areas, as well as continuing their studies in graduate and professional schools.

Program Goals

- Possess the ability to appraise historical and archival resources.
- Possess the ability to distinguish and evaluate competing positions and narratives.
- Possess the ability to construct and articulate independent, reasoned, and historically grounded perspectives.

Majors & Minors

Major

History Major—BA (<https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/history/history-ba>)

Minor

History Minor (<https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/history/history-minor>)

Faculty & Staff

Faculty

R. Ben Brown

Visiting Assistant Professor, Spring
Vera Long 106, 510.430.2113, rbrown@mills.edu
Professional Interests: US legal and constitutional history

William Issel

Visiting Professor
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Professional Interests: US intellectual, cultural, social, and political history; religion and politics in US history; civil liberties and civil rights in US history

Marianne B. Sheldon

Professor of History

Program Head
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Professional Interests: Colonial and revolutionary America, US immigration history, history of women and the family in the US, American South, US urban history

Staff

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Resources

American Historical Association (<http://blog.historians.org>)