

Welcome to the History Department

Ursinus College Admitted Students Day 2020



Hello!

Normally we'd speak face to face about our department. I'm sad we can't do that, but I hope this PowerPoint helps you understand what the Ursinus College History Department is all about. Our webpages are full of information, too, and my colleagues and I are happy to answer questions and talk further via email, phone, or video call.

A note about tech. There are some basic animations in this PowerPoint, but I've kept it very simple so that it works on different devices and platforms. You won't miss anything if the animations don't work.

We all wish you the best as you navigate this big decision.

-- Dr. Throop, Chair



Academics

A ground-breaking new curriculum

Our courses are **uniquely Ursinus.**

You won't find them anywhere else.

We redesigned our entire department curriculum in 2018-2019 in order to capitalize on our key strengths:

- Interdisciplinarity;
- active learning;
- digital skills;
- global connections.

What sets us apart?

- Breadth of the major
 - World/comparative
 - U.S. and American
 - Non-Western
 - European and Mediterranean
- Depth of the major and emphasis on research skills and 'doing' history
 - HIST-200W in the second year
 - 4 300-level courses
 - Capstone seminar
- Student choice and flexibility
 - 6 established concentrations plus the option to design your own

Interdisciplinary opportunities

42% of Ursinus history majors complete a double major or teaching certification.

In recent years, history majors have pursued double majors in **14 different programs** in the arts, humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences.

Ursinus history faculty are involved in **5 different interdisciplinary programs** on campus, contribute Linked Inquiry (LINQ) courses to the Ursinus Quest Core Curriculum, and are currently involved in generating new interdisciplinary programs, for example in the Digital Liberal Arts.



Dr. Glenda Chao

East Asian and world history

Archaeology, material culture, cultural studies, East Asian studies



Dr. Lori Daggar

Early American and Native American history

Gender, race, ethnohistory, history of U.S. colonialism/imperialism



Dr. Johanna Mellis

Modern European/Mediterranean and world history

Sport history, oral history, international relations



Dr. Catherine Murray

Early American history

Women's history, gender, social history, the Atlantic world



Dr. Edward Onaci

Modern U.S., African, and African-American history

Africana Studies, music, pop culture, activism, gender



Dr. Susanna Throop

Pre-modern European/Mediterranean and world history

Violence/war, religion, gender, the Middle Ages

Active, student-centered learning

We want our majors to be doers as well as thinkers.

And we know that with the right balance of support and challenge, individual effort and community, our students can surpass their own expectations.

What sets us apart?

- Challenge AND support
 - We developed the only peer-tutoring Help Room outside of STEM: the History Help Room.
- Talented, versatile, up to date teaching
 - Lots of programs claim to be “discussion-based.” We go well above and beyond to be the best active learning instructors we can be.
- Innovative and unique learning experiences
 - Design and create a public digital history project. Study and make digital music. Examine the world by understanding the ways objects and goods have moved around the world. Explore public history through the city of Philadelphia itself. Learn how to study the history of sport through oral history. (And more.)



A number of faculty use the ground-breaking Reacting to the Past curriculum in their courses. Student engagement often spills out of the classroom into the whole campus. This photo reflects such “overspill” in Dr. Throop’s course on the controversial reign of Henry VIII of England.

Digital engagement

We study the past, but we work in the 21st century.

Digital projects and digital skills, including information fluency, are central in our curriculum, and many of our faculty are part of the Digital Liberal Arts Working Group on campus.



Students celebrate the successful launch of their digital public history projects in #BearsMakeHistory.

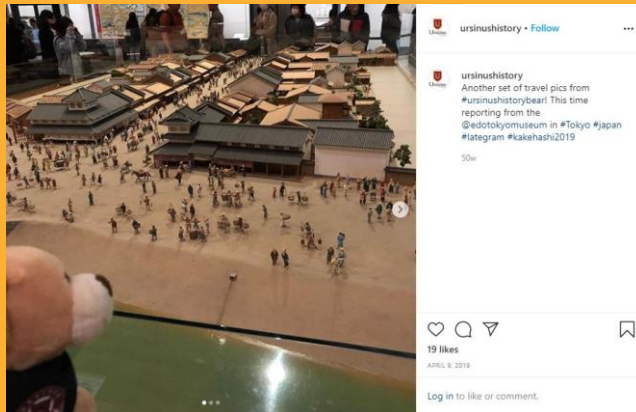
What sets us apart?

- It's not just one course
 - We have certain courses that particularly emphasize digital skills—but **all** our courses work together to ensure students acquire skills and experience thinking about digital ethics.
- It's not just one professor
 - Together, our faculty have a wide range of different digital skills and experience.
- We'll help you learn step by step
 - Digital skills and platforms can be intimidating. We will help you learn one step at a time—from understanding email etiquette to database research and designing public digital projects.

Global connections

We are committed to the study of world history.

We want you to understand how the histories of different countries and regions are both distinct and interrelated. (And please, study abroad!)



What sets us apart?

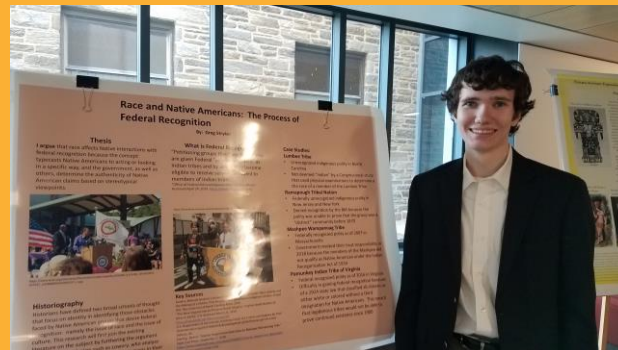
- More than just a token course
 - As a major, you'll take at least two world or comparative history courses and two non-Western history courses. Your “methods” course (HIST-200W) also takes a global perspective, and many American history courses do, too.
- Natural connections with other programs
 - It's not unusual for students to combine history with International Relations, East Asian Studies, Modern Languages, and other programs that also emphasize a global perspective.
- Commitment to international experiences
 - The department is always as flexible as it can possibly be when counting courses taken abroad for requirements. We know that time spent studying abroad is invaluable and irreplaceable.

When folks are abroad, our mascot History Bear goes with them—and appears on Instagram posts. Just one way we signal our commitment to a truly global world!

Beyond the classroom

Our majors excel, on and off campus

- Internships and externships
- Independent research
- Study abroad
- Teaching certification
- Conferences, publications, awards & honors
- Graduate school acceptances...with funding!



Your professors

Our faculty excel, too

More than 90% of courses taught by full-time, tenure-track or tenured professors.

100% of full-time faculty are actively publishing scholars in their fields, recognized for cutting-edge work that is driving their fields forward.

The strengths of our faculty create unique opportunities for our majors, both at Ursinus and after graduation.

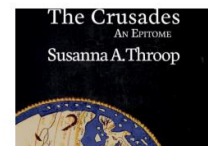


News

Crusades Book Recognized by "Forbes" as a Must-Read

FEBRUARY 12, 2019

Susanna Throop, a professor of history, has added to her impressive collection of published works with *The Crusades: An Epitome*.



Susanna Throop's book was recognized by "Forbes" as a must-read.

News

Bright Institute Chooses Ursinus Professor for First Cohort

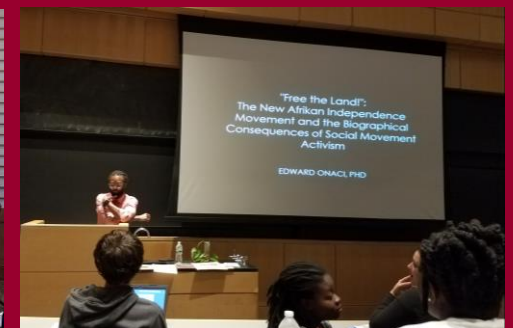
MARCH 16, 2018

Lori Daggar will join 13 other early American history professors during a two-week, in-residence summer seminar for three years at Knox College in Illinois.

The Bright Institute is designed for professors who teach at liberal arts colleges from across the United States.



Lori Daggar



Our community

We make history together

Our department is a community.

We place a high value on leadership, collaboration, mentorship, and teamwork.

Our community extends off campus into departmental alumni, many of whom come back each year to network with students and help them think about life after graduation.



After Ursinus

What will YOU do?

Our majors are **successful** in a **wide range** of careers, and we're committed to helping students find their path forward.

90% of history majors are employed or in graduate school full-time a year after graduation. (We have a **proven track record** with graduate programs: M.A., M.S., M.L.I.S., J.D. and Ph.D.)

We partner with the **Office of Career and Post-Graduate Development** on annual events and in integrating professional preparation into key courses.

Just some of the organizations that employ alumni from our department.



Meet some of our majors

Garrett Bullock '20

Majors: History, International Relations, Politics **Minor:** Spanish
Activities: Student Government, Phi Alpha Theta, Melrose Fellow
Experiential Learning: Study Abroad, Internship, Honors Research

"Being a part of the History Department at Ursinus is frankly awesome. Every bit of work you do is balanced by fun, engaging professors and equally invested students."



2020 Watson
Fellowship



Tiffini Eckenrod '20

Major: History **Minor:** Museum Studies
Activities: Yearbook Editor, Digital Liberal Arts Fellow, Berman Museum Collections Worker, History Help Room Tutor
Experiential Learning: Internship

"I enjoy research and doing hands-on work. Also, I have an interest in the digital humanities... My goal is to incorporate digital tools with my interest in history and museum work to create unique and engaging projects."

Amanda Galczyk '20

Majors: History and Educational Studies
Activities: Women's Rugby (Captain), Phi Alpha Theta, Tau Sigma Gamma
Experiential Learning: Honors Research

"I found a home in the history department my freshman year. I was immediately drawn to the challenges the coursework provided me and to the tight-knit community of professors and students."



Morgana Olbrich '20

Major: History (and teaching certification!)
Activities: Pi Gamma Mu, Phi Alpha Theta, Props Master for Ursinus Theater, History Help Room Tutor
Experiential Learning: Internship, Student Teaching

"I transferred into Ursinus my junior year and was a little apprehensive of where I was going to fit in on campus. However, the History Department welcomed me with open arms and has become my biggest support system equipped with some of my closest friends. I would not trade this department for anything."

Sarah Johns '21

Major: History **Minors:** Education and Psychology
Activities: Writing Fellow, Phi Alpha Theta, Communications Peer Associate, Gold Ambassador, Student Mentor (Freedom, Citizenship, and Equality Program)
Experiential Learning: Internship, (Planned) Honors Research

"The History Department gives you so many opportunities to pursue your topics of interest, and every single professor is always willing to support and guide your work."



Caroline Bormann '21

Majors: History and Theater
Activities: B'Naturals Women's Acapella, Ursinus Theater Productions, Gold Ambassador, Berman Museum of Art Gallery Guide
Experiential Learning: Study Abroad

"My experience with Ursinus at large has been wonderful, beginning to end. Each professor genuinely cares about your success in their course, and do their best to make sure you are comfortable and confident in the course material...you also become dear friends with fellow majors in your department and your mentors."

Andrew Moore '22

Majors: History and Anthropology

Activities: Tour Guide, Ultimate Frisbee Team Captain

Experiential Learning: Archaeological field work in Ireland

"The History department has been nothing but helpful in regards to my academic learning, and figuring out what I actually want to do with my degree once I graduate. My classes have been tough, but they push me to think about historical events, and how the modern world is impacted by them in ways I never would have thought about before."



Neva McGowan '22

Majors: History and HEP (Health and Exercise Physiology)

Activities: Ursinus College Ambassadors

Experiential Learning: Study Abroad

"When I first entered Ursinus as a freshman, becoming a History major was not on my radar at all. This quickly changed after I took my first History class with Dr. Mellis and connected with Dr. Throop... I ended up taking on the history major and I am so happy that I did! My advisors in both departments have been wonderful in making everything work and the major has opened up so many doors for me, moving forward."

Katie Sanfield '23

Majors: History and Educational Studies
(with teaching certification)

Activities: Gold Ambassador, Concert Band,
Theater Productions, Student Breakaway Productions,
Interactive Education program employee at the Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

"The school has lived up to everything it said it would be. At Ursinus, I have been able to become part of a supportive community, with a well-rounded student body and professors who want to get to know you and help you succeed. The History Department has been the best example of this aspect of the school. I have gotten to know many of the professors, and am a part of a welcoming, motivated group of students."



Jonny Gherman '23

Majors: History and English **Minor:** Education

Activities: Wrestling, Assistant Coach for the UC Women's Rugby Team

"My experience at Ursinus has been nothing short of spectacular. The college has challenged me to strive towards my goals, but also supported me throughout."

Meet some of our alumni

"Ursinus College has helped me embrace people from all walks of life and utilize my liberal arts education to find a common ground with all people. Moreover, the History Department has helped me to critically think and contextualize people and situations in order to be empathetic and solution oriented."

Jennifer Thompkins '09
Directors of Programs, TriZen LLC

"As a history major at Ursinus College, I established superior research, evaluation, analysis, and storytelling skills that my team at Under Armour relied upon in seeking out the latest startup technology. In my current role, it is essential to my clear and concise communication with executives and across our organizations."

Kelly Becker '10
Regional Operations Manager, Technology, WeWork

"Studying history at Ursinus profoundly changed my career trajectory. The education I received at Ursinus College allowed me to focus on my true interest: comparing and analyzing governments of different eras and across the world. This deep interest inspired me to get more involved in politics, eventually leading to working in the nonprofit sector, Capitol Hill in a Congressional office, and now the private sector as a member of a government relations team."

Dylan Pasiuk '17
Government Relations Assistant, Policy Resolution Group, Bracewell LLP

"My history degree prepared me for doing research and effective writing in my current marketing role. Additionally, Ursinus' history program empowered me to formulate a clear, evidence-based argument and be able to defend it."

Andrew Clark '09
Marketing Strategist, Duckpin

2020 Rising Star
Alumni Award



2018 Rising Star
Alumni Award



"My independent research project during my senior year at Ursinus gave me an opportunity to fall in love with the research process.... These experiences inspired my current justice system reform activism, including my opportunities to testify before the Pennsylvania State Senate."

Caitlin Taylor '06
Associate Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice, LaSalle University



"The History curriculum at Ursinus challenges conventional thought and the 'traditional' approach to history... the Ursinus History Department offers students the opportunity to ask 'why?' This philosophical training has carried with me into my professional career where I am frequently called to question, problem solve, and consider multiple approaches and viewpoints."

Erik Derr '11
Associate (Attorney), Kennedys



"Ursinus, and particularly in History Department, helped me become a more analytical and multifaceted thinker. My job now requires more than a single set of skills and a high level of communication.... While my time studying history didn't teach me the technical skillset of my job, it was something I was able to pick up quickly with the help of my manager. The rest of the skills I've employed, such as critical thought, time management and interpretation were developed in the History department and have only helped me to excel in my position over the past year."

Liam Griffin '18
Operations Specialist, Commonwealth Payroll



"The History department is Ursinus at its best: the professors are lucid and engaging and the courses are enjoyable and challenging. History at Ursinus doesn't merely seek to offer 'one thing after another,' but an ongoing investigation into our relationship with the past."

Joe Makuc '19
M.A. student, Public History, Temple University

Questions?

For more information, see:

www.ursinus.edu/academics/history

Follow us:

@UrsinusHistory on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)

We'd love to speak with you on a phone or video call.
If you're interested in that, please just let Admissions staff know.