

To whom it may concern:

The MA of Social Studies in World History will fill an important need for secondary social studies teachers. I know many middle and high school teachers who love history and would like to continue their studies at the graduate level. They are frustrated, however, by the lack of classes offered in the evening and summer. A Master's program in history is usually not feasible for full-time teachers. Moreover, traditional graduate programs do not address the concerns of *teaching* history and the social sciences. Social studies teachers currently have few options but the School of Education for graduate work.

Professors of history and other social sciences should also support this new graduate program. Their undergraduate students are products of our secondary schools. Professors who lament the poor preparation of college students should embrace ways to enhance the teaching of world history in middle and high schools.

It is especially beneficial that this new graduate program is based on an interdisciplinary approach to world history. World history is a key component of middle and high school curricula, yet teachers often feel underprepared to teach it. Even social studies teachers with degrees in History Education (who are **not** the majority) have taken few classes World History or related courses. The interdisciplinary approach is vital for the realities of social studies education today. Social Studies teachers do not simply teach history; they must also address state and national standards in economics, geography, and government. Teachers are also responsible for meeting the Common Core standards, which emphasize analytical reading and writing across disciplines.

For summative projects:

One of the biggest complaints from World History teachers is the lack of resources, especially compared to US History. Participants in the program might develop document-based lessons and units modeled after these:

<http://sheg.stanford.edu/?q=node/45>

<http://web.wm.edu/hsi/?svr=www>

Another idea is an assessment bank for World History, like this one,

<http://beyondthebubble.stanford.edu/assessments>

One more idea is a web-based collection of World History documents for teachers. The main one that exists now, The Internet Modern History Sourcebook at Fordham U., caters more to

university-level students. Teachers have to put in quite a bit of work to make documents accessible to younger students.

Sincerely,

Lisa Prueter
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