

The Institute for Public History

IPH is the administrative unit of the Public History Program responsible for curriculum, degree programs, research, and outreach. Teaching and research activities are meant to produce well-trained historians and to contribute to the historical record of the Gulf Coast region. Students and faculty associated with IPH conduct significant research on several local and regional institutions, including the Harris County Commissioners Court, the City of Houston, METRO, Manchester Terminal Corporation, Gulfport Shipyard, the Houston Bar Association, Galveston Bay, the Hilton Hotel and the hospitality industry, the Houston Park System, the Houston-Galveston Area Council, and several units of the University of Houston. Students also have participated in many corporate and legal history projects, such as Panhandle Eastern Corporation, Baker & Botts law firm, and Shell Oil through the Humanities and the Professions Program. Outreach activities include editorial work related to the *Houston Review*, and sponsorship of numerous lectures, symposia, and conferences under the auspices of the endowed Tenneco Lecture Series.

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Thomas -

I hope your class is doing well, and I'm sure it is. The group was very good. I enjoyed the work-shop and working with you along with good food and drink brought back the good old days without the misery of HPL.

I spoke with Pratt and told him you ~~were~~ are willing to do an article based on your book. He'll eventually get in touch with you, but it wouldn't be a bad idea to write to him and explain what you have in mind. He is working on theme issues -- at least for now.

I've enclosed the first issue of the *Houston Review* as well as some information about Maurice M. Benitez, former Episcopal Bishop of Texas. I thought it might fit somewhere in your files.
Take care - Talk to you later - Tom

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

PUBLIC
HISTORY



New Career Paths in History

The University of Houston is a premier public metropolitan research and teaching university with more than 30,000 students. Founded in 1927, UH is located on an expansive campus south of the downtown Houston skyline. It is one of the most ethnically and racially diverse universities in the United States.



The Public History Program is housed in the Department of History. Public historians use historical skills and methods outside of academic walls to meet the needs of the community—the public—whether that community is defined as a city, a neighborhood, a business, or a historical society. The primary objective of the Public History Program is to train graduate students for history-related positions in the community through rigorous, professional training leading to a 30-hour M.A. in Public History or a minor for both the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees. Every attempt is made to design an individually tailored curriculum for each student. Instruction is meant to prepare students for positions in various historical agencies, government, business, and educational institutions. The Public History class routinely includes approximately 20 majors and minors annually. Graduates of the program are employed in a variety of venues, including the Smithsonian, the Bush Presidential Library, Historical Research Associates, the UH Hilton Archives, the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, and at academic institutions such as California State University, Sacramento.

The Course of Study for the M.A. Track includes a two-semester survey of readings and applied research in public history, a methodological specialty (such as oral history, archives and records management, public policy, material culture, or historic preservation), courses in the history of a major geographic area, an internship, and a thesis. Students must also demonstrate competence in a foreign language (reading skill) or computer science. For the minor, the readings course and two other courses approved by the director are required.



Internships, usually conducted over one semester, offer experience in the practical uses of history in the community at large. They can be paid or unpaid depending on the student's need and the client/sponsor's requirements. Placements have included the Johnson Space Center, Cable News Network, Texas Instruments, Inc., the National Portrait Gallery, the Houston-Galveston Area Council, and a variety of museums and archives in Texas, such as the George Ranch, the Sam Houston Memorial Museum, the Houston Metropolitan Research Center, the Mary Moody Northen Museum, the Harris County Heritage Society, the Houston Fire Museum, and the Houston Museum of Fine Arts.



The History Faculty includes 30 full-time professors, several of whom have fields relevant to public history. These include urban, business, public policy, environmental, medical, family, military, African-American, and Mexican-American history. Geographic emphasis extends from North America to Europe, Asia, and Africa. Specialists from the Houston area in general sometime serve as adjuncts to the program and teach a variety of courses.



Financial Aid at the University of Houston is available in the form of tuition remission scholarships, teaching assistantships, fellowships, and loans. Students also have an opportunity for financial support through internships and contract research.



Applicants must be admitted to either the M.A. or Ph.D. programs in History before being admitted into the Public History Program. The M.A. requires completion of 24 semester hours in History at either the undergraduate or post-baccalaureate level with a GPA of at least 3.33. Ph.D. applicants must have at least a 3.67 GPA. Both degrees require acceptable GRE scores.