

Graduate Specialization in Great Plains Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Program Description

The Great Plains Studies interdepartmental area of specialization fosters the study of people and the environment in the Great Plains. This vast region stretches westward from the Missouri River to the Rocky Mountains, and northward from the Rio Grande into the Canadian prairie provinces. The specialization is facilitated through the College of Arts & Sciences by the Center for Great Plains Studies, the oldest and largest interdisciplinary, intercollegiate, regional research and teaching center in the U.S., and the only interdisciplinary program chartered by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents for all campuses of the University.



Hal Holoun, *Strange Victory*, 1990. Courtesy of the Great Plains Art Collection, UNL.

Resources

The Center for Great Plains Studies offers access to the Great Plains Art Collection's research library in the Christlieb Gallery, 1155 Q Street, Hewitt Place. This resource contains 6,400 volumes of western Americana and includes 1,100 books on Canadian Plains topics.

Faculty

The specialization includes faculty working within the Center and the Center's 187 Fellows, drawn from the University of Nebraska's four campuses. Primary Center faculty are James Stubbendieck, J. Clark Archer, Charles Braithwaite, Robert F. Diffendal Jr. (Emeritus), Richard Edwards, Stephen Lavin, Gary Moulton, David Wishart, and George Wolf (Emeritus).

Advisory Committee

Professors Archer, Brandle, Crews, Hayden, Horst, Kaye, R. Lee, Scholz, Supalla, Swinehart, Winkle; Associate Professors Ertl, Parsons; and Assistant Professor S. Wunder.

Course Offerings

The masters degree requires nine (9) credit hours of Great Plains Studies courses from departments outside the student's major department. For the doctoral degree, fifteen (15) credit hours are required. The total credit hours must include the Center's Seminar in Great Plains Studies (GPSP 800, 3 cr). The Center also offers an internship (GPSP 895, 1-6 cr).

Research Grants-in-Aid

The Center sends out a Request for Proposal for Graduate Student Grants-in-Aid twice each year for a total of \$6,000 in grants.

Career Opportunities

Students interested in this specialization may wish to acquire an inclusive knowledge of regional literature and to pursue careers in some aspect of the Great Plains region such as agriculture, anthropology, architecture, communication, cultural traditions, economics, education, geography, history and historical archives, museum management, natural resource sciences, community planning, and various types of scientific research including textile research.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the program will follow a two-step process. Student files will be reviewed for admission to the participating departmental or interdepartmental program. Following acceptance by the Graduate Committee, the student's files will be forwarded to the Specialization Advisory Committee for admission to the Great Plains Studies specialization. One member of the student's examining committee should be a Fellow of the Center for Great Plains Studies.

Participating Departments

(Masters):

Agricultural Economics; Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication; Agronomy/Horticulture; Anthropology/Geography; Architecture; Communication Studies; Community and Regional Planning; Economics; English; Geosciences; History; Natural Resource Sciences; Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education; and Textiles, Clothing and Design.

(Doctoral):

Agricultural Economics; Agronomy/Horticulture; Communication Studies; Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education; Economics; English; Geography; Geosciences; History; Natural Resource Sciences; and Textiles, Clothing and Design.

Contact:

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