

Stetson University Department of History Diversity and Inclusion Statement

The Department of History at Stetson University strongly endorses Stetson University's mission to promote a diverse and inclusive learning environment. In this time of national reckoning with systemic racism and other forms of inequality, notably in the Black Lives Matter movement, we reaffirm our commitment to creating and maintaining learning environments that make space for diverse voices and experiences. Moreover, History as a discipline is dedicated to exploring complex and contradictory aspects of the past. Indeed, it is impossible to study the past without attention to diverse aspects of human experience, including the histories of repression and colonization around the world and across time, along with accounts of activism and struggle. Diversity in all its forms—including but not limited to race, ethnicity, culture, religion, gender, sexuality, physical difference, and social class—is an essential component of historical study. Welcoming diverse voices and studying diverse topics in the classroom and in research environments is also essential to promoting a fuller understanding of the past and to making historical study accessible to all learners and scholars. What we study in the archives and in courses resonates in our daily lives, careers, and communities. We believe that the history we study can play a significant role in transforming the world we inhabit today. Thus, in our curriculum, our teaching practices, and our research goals, the History Department affirms this larger quest for representation and for justice. We recommit to examining important historical questions from diverse perspectives, to include a wide range of people and stories in our courses and major curriculum, and to consider the ways in which the study of the past can help us understand and undermine the inequalities of the present.