

Joe Morrel

Joe earned his Bachelor of Arts in history from the University of Dallas, where he studied Islamic history and its impact on Western Civilization. He continued at the same institution for his Master of Humanities, focusing his work on the interactions of Byzantium and the Islamic world. From there too, he earned a Master of Arts in theology, in which he explored the theological interactions between Christianity and Islam. In the UNT doctoral program, he has continued his focus on Byzantium and the Islamic world, especially in matters of military borrowing and emulation. This is his first academic year as a Teaching Assistant at UNT, but he has taught before as an adjunct at the University of Dallas in 2018 and 2019. Joe is working under the direction of Dr. Christopher Fuhrmann, MHC Teaching Fellow. Joe's doctoral dissertation will examine the eminent role of Sicily's Muslims in the Norman kingdom of the eleventh century, especially the soldiery for which the kingdom became well-known.

Joe enjoys bringing history beyond the mere text: he makes ancient and medieval military equipment and practices with various scholarly groups such as The Order of Lepanto, HAMA, and various Japanese Ko-Ryu. As a full-time teacher for Great Hearts Academy, he has helped his students relive the history they have studied in books, making it far more alive for them.

Joe has four children and a generous wife, all of whom are incredibly supportive of many late nights of reading, writing, and grading.

