

History Major and Minor

www.pitt.edu/~pitthist

Revised: 02/2007

History can play an important role in any student's undergraduate education. Historians use methods, techniques, and ideas from a wide range of humanistic and social scientific fields. The student is made aware of how materials from many fields are integrated to describe or explain a particular historical time period or topic. History is an open ended discipline, and we welcome students as well as ideas and techniques from other subjects.

History gives a student several options for a future career. Many history majors become lawyers, journalists, civil servants, and business executives. The future of a history major is not limited to college or school teaching, although these are also possible career choices. Expanding opportunities are available in public and private agencies, in businesses, archives, historical societies, museums, and government offices. History courses may help students develop a balanced program that will further their career and intellectual goals. Courses in economics and history could lead to an understanding of economic development and aid a business or civil service career. A combination of language, literature, and history would give a student background that could lead to a career in Foreign Service or teaching. A mixture of communication and writing with history might prepare one for a career in journalism. In short, students in virtually any field can investigate questions that are intellectually exciting and personally helpful by taking history courses related to their programs and ambitions.

Required courses for the History major

The history major requires the completion of 30 credits, 15 of which must be at the 1000 level, distributed as follows.

Core courses

One course in pre-1500 history

One survey course in European from the following list

HIST 0100 Western Civilization 1
HIST 0101 Western Civilization 2
HIST 0200 East Europe Civilization
HIST 1240 Political East Europe

One survey course in U.S. history from the following list

HIST 0600 United States to 1877
HIST 0601 United States 1865 – Present
HIST 0670 Afro-American History 1
HIST 0671 Afro-American History 2

One course in African, Asian, East European, Latin American, Middle Eastern, or Russian and Soviet history

One seminar course from the following list

HIST 1000 Writing Seminar for Majors
HIST 1001 Required Seminar for Majors

Concentration

Four additional courses are to be selected by the student with the help of a faculty member or the undergraduate advisor to form a chronological, geographic, or thematic concentration, which should normally be decided upon by the junior year.

Elective History course

Grade requirements: A minimum GPA of 2.0 in departmental courses is required for graduation.

Satisfactory/No Credit option: Majors may elect the S/NC option for a total of nine credits excluding HIST 1000 and HIST 1001.

Writing (W) requirement: Students must complete at least one W-course in the major.

Related area: A minimum of 12 credits is required in any one Arts and Sciences department chosen in consultation with the major advisor. The completion of an official Arts and Sciences minor or an Arts and Sciences or UCIS certificate also satisfies this requirement.

Honors major requirements: Honors in history consists of fulfilling all requirements for the major, which must include the following.

- one University Honors College (UHC) course in History
- HIST 1901 Independent Study
- six additional credits:
 - HIST 1902 Writing: History Honors Seminar
 - HIST 1903 Honors Thesis/Majors (25-50 pages)

Students may apply for the honors program in their sophomore year upon completion of 12 credits in history with a minimum GPA of 3.5 in history, an overall minimum GPA of 3.35, and the submission of a writing sample for approval by the Undergraduate Committee. No grade below B is acceptable in fulfillment of honors requirements.

Advising: Loretta Lobes
WWPH 3704
412-648-7485
lsl10@pitt.edu

Tony Novosel
WWPH 3711
412-648-7464
pugachev@pitt.edu

Checklist for the History major

_____ HIST _____ (pre-1500 course; see below)
_____ HIST 0100 / HIST 0101 / HIST 0200 / HIST 1240
_____ HIST 0600 / HIST 0601 / HIST 0670 / HIST 0671
_____ HIST _____ (non-western course)
_____ HIST 1000 / HIST 1001
_____ HIST _____ (concentration)
_____ HIST _____ (concentration)
_____ HIST _____ (concentration)
_____ HIST _____ (concentration)
_____ HIST _____ (elective)

Partial list for pre-1500 History courses

HIST 0100 Western Civilization 1
HIST 0400 Traditional East Asia to 1850
HIST 0751 Ancient Worlds
HIST 0755 Religion in Asia
HIST 0756 Introduction to Islamic Civilization
HIST 0788 Women and Men in the Ancient Mediterranean
HIST 1110 Medieval History 1
HIST 1111 Medieval History 2
HIST 1112 Medieval World
HIST 1190 Medieval Government and Society
HIST 1191 English Origins of American Law
HIST 1420 Ancient China
HIST 1422 Late Imperial China
HIST 1431 Traditional Japan
HIST 1475 East Asian Buddhism
HIST 1476 Chinese Religious Traditions
HIST 1477 Japanese Religious Traditions
HIST 1478 Confucianism: Basic Texts
HIST 1740 Meditative Traditions in East Asia
HIST 1765 Israel in the Biblical Age
HIST 1775 Origins of Christianity
HIST 1776 Varieties of Early Christianity
HIST 1781 Roman History
HIST 1783 Greek History
HIST 1788 Alexander and the Hellenistic Age
HIST 1791 Jewish Culture in Medieval Spain

Checklist for the History minor

Two survey courses chosen from the following

_____ HIST 0100 Western Civilization 1
_____ HIST 0101 Western Civilization 2
_____ HIST 0200 East Europe Civilization
_____ HIST 0300 Russia to 1860
_____ HIST 0301 Russia to 1917
_____ HIST 0400 Traditional East Asia to 1850
_____ HIST 0401 Modern East Asian Civilization
_____ HIST 0500 Colonial Latin America
_____ HIST 0501 Modern Latin America
_____ HIST 0600 United States to 1877
_____ HIST 0601 United States 1865 - Present
_____ HIST 0670 Afro-American History 1
_____ HIST 0671 Afro-American History 2
_____ HIST 1240 Political East Europe

Three 1000-level courses providing more in-depth coverage of the geographical area covered in one of the survey courses already taken, chosen in consultation with the major advisor

_____ HIST _____ (1000-level course)
_____ HIST _____ (1000-level course)
_____ HIST _____ (1000-level course)

Note: Students must apply for any official Minor they will complete or have completed at the time they apply for graduation.