

# Guide to Majoring in History

## 2009-2010

The Department is pleased that you have decided to major in history. We hope to provide you with stimulating, thought-provoking, scholarly courses that will help you understand both how you have become who you are and the varying ways people have come to grips with the perennial problems of human existence. As with other liberal arts majors, we will work to provide you with skills in research, analysis, and communication that will serve you well professionally and personally for the rest of your life.

The following is practical information about majoring in history gleaned from written guidelines and seniors' problems:

- I. The major in history consists of a minimum of twenty-seven hours. You must complete all the following requirements to graduate with a history major:
  - a. You must have a minimum of 3 hours in U.S. history. There are no specific requirements within American history. AP credit in American history count toward elective credit in the major but cannot be counted toward this requirement. Latin-American history courses do not count in this category.
  - b. You must have a minimum 3 hours in European history. Russian and Ancient history are considered European. HST 101 and 102 meet the University Divisional Requirement and count toward the major but not toward the European Field Distribution.
  - c. You must have a minimum 3 hours chosen from among courses in the Wider World (African, Asian, Latin-American or Middle Eastern history). HST 103 and 104 meet the University Divisional Requirement and count toward the major but not toward the Wider World Distribution.
  - d. You must have a minimum of one 3 hour course in pre-modern history. Consult with your adviser about which courses meet this requirement.

(If you use HST 311 Special Topics to meet the U.S., European, Wider World Field Distribution, or the pre-modern requirements, you must have the Department chair notify the Registrar and put a note in your departmental file identifying the course and area). HST 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 390, 391, 392, & 398 do not meet the distributional nor the pre-modern requirements.

- e. You must take one history seminar, HST 390, in which you write a major research paper of 6250-7500 words (roughly 25-30 pages, excluding endnotes or footnotes, appendices, and bibliography). Definitely take this course before your last term and preferably in your junior year. Three or four 390s are offered each term, with different faculty members teaching each term. You may not always get into the seminar you prefer. Also, we strongly recommend that you take a 390 only in a field in which you have previously taken a course. If you have no previous coursework, please see the instructor of the 390 for a list of suggested readings to complete prior to the start of the 390.

Students qualifying to enter the departmental honors program may substitute History 392, the individually directed research course, for the History 390 requirement.

Please note that History 390, 391, 392, and 398 cannot be applied to the pre-modern requirement or the field distributions for the major.

- f. Majors may include within the required twenty-seven hours up to six hours of advanced placement or comparable work and up to six hours of any combination of independent study and directed reading other than the hours earned in History 397.
- g. Students must have a minimum GPA of 2.0 within the major to graduate with a major in history.
- h. Each spring there is a competition, with awards being given to the best research paper prepared in the department. For the particulars about this competition, consult any faculty member or the chair of the Honors Committee.
- i. Remember that the college catalog stipulates that you can count no more than 50 hours in history toward the 120 needed for graduation. Hours beyond the 50 must be electives beyond the 120 graduation requirement. (For those using the earlier bulletins, the limit is 42 hours of the 112 hours required for graduation.)
- j. Courses in Directed Reading, History 399, worth 1 to 3 hours, are available for topics not offered in regular courses, but only when a professor agrees to assume the extra teaching load. The department suggests that faculty who provide this tutorial service not supervise more than 6 hours per term. To sign up for 399, you should get a Directed Reading form and a POI form from the departmental office and have the professor sign them with you. Return the Directed Reading form to the History Department Administrative Coordinator in the office and take the POI form to the Registrar. You will be asked to read and report on approximately 1300 pages of reading for each hour.
- k. History 398 is Individual Study and is used to give credit for exceptional history projects such as internships and off-campus research work. Students can enroll in 398 only with prior approval of the project by the department as a whole and the supervising professor. **Please do not confuse 398 Individual Study with 399 Directed Reading.**
- l. Students interested in earning Honors in History should consult with the chair of the department Honors Committee or the HST 391 Honors Seminar instructor.

The general requirements for graduating with honors include an overall GPA of 3.3 with a final 3.5 GPA in history. You must also take History 391 Honors Seminar which is offered each semester. The central requirement for Honors is a major research paper which you may begin writing in a History 390 section or under individual tutelage as History 392.

- m. If, after completing the research project in History 392 or 390 and having the grade filed for that course, the student with the supervising professor agree that more work by the student and the professor will produce additional improvement and learning, the student, with the

official permission of the instructor filed in the History Office, may take History 397 (1.5 hours) Historical Writing Tutorial to improve his or her work. Credit for History 397 does not count toward the major.

- n. The honor society in the field of history is PHI ALPHA THETA. To be invited to become a member you must meet certain standards set by the national organization. You must have at least a 3.0 overall GPA and a 3.1 GPA in your history courses. You must also have completed at least 12 semester hours in history (4 courses).
- o. Anyone considering graduate study should acquire a reading knowledge of one modern foreign language for the MA degree and two for the Ph.D. degree.

I have read and understood the conditions for the History major, as explained above, and I have been provided with a copy of these guidelines for my own records.

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Signature

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Print Name

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Date

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Adviser