



History Major and Minor

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“Not to know what happened before you were born is to be a child forever.”

--Marcus Tullius Cicero, Roman orator and statesman

We are all products of history. Imagine waking up one morning without any memory. How would you function in society? Even more importantly, how would society function if everyone’s memory vanished? Students of history recover and analyze the past, preserving memory and learning from it. In doing so, they gain an appreciation of how crucial historical perspective is to being a well-informed, engaged citizen of both the United States and the world -- because historical literacy also entails the ability to understand people different from ourselves, an essential skill as all corners of the globe become increasingly connected.

Customary professional opportunities for History majors include teaching and law, and many History majors have gone on to graduate school in History and other fields. But the future for those who have studied the past can be almost anything. History majors succeed in many fields because they learn analytical and critical thinking skills and become adept in both oral and written communication. Careers of recent graduates bear this out. Our majors have gone on to jobs in business management, finance, tourism, government, medicine, and non-profits as well as taking advantage of opportunities in public history, archival work, historical societies, and museums.

Required courses for the History major

The History major requires the completion of 36 credits, 18 of which must be at the 1000 level, distributed as follows.

Core courses

One course in pre-1800 history

U.S. History

One survey course from the following list
HIST 0600 United States to 1877
HIST 0601 United States 1865 – Present
HIST 0670 African American History 1
HIST 0671 African American History 2

Global Understanding

One course in four of the following six categories
Africa
Asia

Europe
Latin America
Middle East
World/Comparative

Skills

Each student must take the following sequence of two courses.

HIST 1001 Introductory Seminar

HIST 1000 Capstone Seminar

Note: An upper-level writing-intensive (W) course may be substituted for HIST 1001. The alternate course should be taken as soon as practicable. HIST 1001 must be taken before enrolling in HIST 1000.

Concentration

Three 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

Any course offered by the Department of History

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 two W-courses in the major (ordinarily HIST 1001 and HIST 1000).

Honors major requirements

Honors in history consists of fulfilling all requirements for the major, plus an additional six credits for a total of 42 credits. Honors students must take the following courses:

one University Honors College (UHC) course in History (which may count toward another requirement for the major, e.g. Global Understanding or the concentration).

The following three courses should be taken, preferably in sequence.

- HIST 1901 Independent Study
- HIST 1000 Capstone Seminar
- HIST 1903 Honors Thesis (students write a paper of 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

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Checklist for the History major

Core

_____ HIST _____ (pre-1800 course; see list)

Choose one of the following

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

Global Understanding

Choose four from the six categories that follow

- _____ HIST _____ (Africa)
_____ HIST _____ (Asia)
_____ HIST _____ (Europe)
_____ HIST _____ (Latin America)
_____ HIST _____ (Middle East)
_____ HIST _____ (Global/Comparative)

Skills

- _____ HIST 1001 Introductory Seminar
_____ HIST 1000 Capstone Seminar

Concentration

- _____ HIST _____ (concentration)
_____ HIST _____ (concentration)
_____ HIST _____ (concentration)

Elective

- _____ HIST _____ (elective)

Partial list for pre-1800 History courses

HIST 0089 Magic, Medicine, and Science	HIST 1431 Traditional Japan
HIST 0100 Western Civilization 1	HIST 1475 East Asian Buddhism
HIST 0400 East Asian Civilization to 1800	HIST 1476 Chinese Religious Traditions
HIST 0500 Colonial Latin America	HIST 1477 Japanese Religious Traditions
HIST 0751 Ancient Worlds	HIST 1478 Confucianism: Basic Texts
HIST 0755 Religion in Asia	HIST 1610 United States Colonial
HIST 0756 Introduction to Islamic Civilization	HIST 1611 American Revolution, 1763-1791
HIST 0788 Women and Men in the Ancient Mediterranean	HIST 1740 Meditative Traditions in East Asia
HIST 0795 History of Africa Before 1800	HIST 1757 Religion in India I
HIST 1110 Medieval History 1	HIST 1765 Israel in the Biblical Age
HIST 1111 Medieval History 2	HIST 1775 Origins of Christianity
HIST 1115 The West and the World	HIST 1776 Varieties of Early Christianity
HIST 1121 Tudor England	HIST 1781 Roman History
HIST 1190 Medieval Government and Society	HIST 1783 Greek History
HIST 1191 English Origins of American Law	HIST 1788 Alexander and the Hellenistic Age
HIST 1420 Ancient China	HIST 1791 Jewish Culture in Medieval Spain

HIST 1422 Late Imperial China

Checklist for the History minor

This minor requires 15 credits to complete, as detailed below. At least three of the required courses must be taken on the Pittsburgh campus.

Option 1: Regional

Any two lower-level survey courses

_____ HIST _____ (0001-0999)

_____ HIST _____ (0001-0999)

Three upper-level courses on a regional area covered in one of the two lower-level courses. These courses will be chosen in consultation with the major advisor

_____ HIST _____ (1000-level course)

_____ HIST _____ (1000-level course)

_____ HIST _____ (1000-level course)

Option 2: Global Understanding

Any two lower-level survey courses from the categories listed in Global Understanding, above

_____ HIST _____ (0001-0999)

_____ HIST _____ (0001-0999)

Three upper-level courses from three of the categories listed in Global Understanding, above. These courses will be chosen in consultation with the major advisor

_____ HIST _____ (1000-level course)

_____ HIST _____ (1000-level course)

_____ HIST _____ (1000-level course)

Option 3: Thematic

Two lower-level survey courses

_____ HIST _____ (0001-0999)

_____ HIST _____ (0001-0999)

Three upper-level courses that constitute a thematic concentration. These courses will be 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.