

History

Contact Information

Website: www.uis.edu/history

Email: his@uis.edu

Office Phone: (217) 206-6779

Office Location: UHB 3050

- History (p. 1)
- World History Concentration
- History Minor

Department Goals and Objectives

The Department of History explores links between the past and present. By studying history, students learn to understand and create stories about the past using artifacts like documents, photographs, objects, and other cultural products. They compare elements of their own culture with those of other cultures and from other times and places. Students explore the impact, lives, and perspectives of people in the histories of both the United States and the world. This includes the appreciation of the national and transnational structures and forces such as cultures, economics, the environment, gender, religions, politics, and war. Students examine historical perspectives, while considering ways of recovering perspectives that have been overlooked or silenced.

Learning Experiences

Learning experiences available to History majors include regular classroom courses; independent studies and tutorials; study away; and internships at libraries, archives, historic sites, and other institutions, particularly in state government. The History curriculum includes courses on the American colonial era and the United States from its founding to the present, as well as the history of Europe, Asia, and other world regions. Courses also cover interdisciplinary, transnational themes of imperialism, race and ethnicity, religion, public history, and women, gender, and sexuality.

Course-embedded portfolio model

Students will develop a portfolio of Honors work by completing enhanced work in four upper-level HIS courses. 'Enhanced' course work requires the research and creation of a project in addition to those required by the standard 400-level course (this project should not simply be a longer version of a class assignment). Students should notify instructors early in the course of their intentions to complete enhanced work. These projects should be tailored to the academic and professional goals of the student. Students developing honors portfolios should work closely with at least one History faculty member as they plan and complete elements. Examples of enhanced portfolio projects include:

- Research papers
- Creation of a research-based website
- Historiographical essay
- Development of a teaching curriculum

- Creative products and digital/multimedia projects
- Study abroad
- Department-approved internships and community engagement efforts

For study abroad and internships, students must design and develop a project based on time spent at their activity.

Honors in History

The UIS History Honors program provides students the opportunity to develop and share a deep appreciation of historical practice, as they become creators of innovative history projects that speak to their unique intellectual interests. The program offers high-performing students in the major an opportunity to dig deeper into researching and creating history. It focuses on developing skills that will assist students who plan to further their education in graduate and professional schools, and/or in pursuing careers in history or related fields. Completion of the Honors program results in the History Department's highest designation of student academic success.

The Department strongly encourages students who plan to do post-baccalaureate work to complete the History honors requirements. To be eligible students must have a minimum 3.65 GPA in History course work and a cumulative 3.5 GPA.

Honors Portfolio and Defense

Students will submit their completed Honors Portfolio to the Department Honors Committee, comprised of three members of the History Department. Students will present for 20 minutes on their portfolio, followed by an oral examination of that portfolio by the committee. This presentation can be conducted via Zoom for online students. During the presentation, students will reflect on how their enhanced work has contributed to their intellectual and professional development and discuss how their projects relate to each other and/or build on each other.

Honors Recognition and Designation

Students who successfully complete and present their Honors portfolio will receive recognition at College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences honors celebration and have placed on their transcripts and diplomas the designation "With Honors."

The Bachelor's Degree

- World History Concentration

The baccalaureate curriculum is organized for students who hope to place their world in historical perspective. Education in history at the University of Illinois Springfield is broad-based humanities training, providing students with research capabilities, analytical methods, and communication skills that are useful in many fields. The curriculum prepares students for careers in fields such as history, museums and archives, politics, state, federal, and local government, business, law, journalism, writing, and administration. Through internships, students are able to test career possibilities where the research and analytical skills of the historian are applicable.

Advising

Each student is assigned both an academic advisor to assist in planning an individual program of study responsive to the student's

interests and goals and designed to meet the requirements of the History Department. Students are strongly encouraged to consult with their advisors regularly, especially before enrolling for their first and last semesters. Questions about advising may be directed to the History Department or the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

Grading Policy

History courses for which the student has attained a grade of C or better will be applied toward the B.A. degree (grades of C- or lower will not be accepted). History courses taken as CR/NC will be applied toward the degree if a grade of CR is attained. History majors may repeat program courses for grade improvement only once without seeking department approval.

Program Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete a B.A. in History should be able to:

1. Read critically; that is, they will be able to identify a thesis, evidence, interpretation, and the different voices in a text.
2. Define and distinguish between primary and secondary sources and explain the strengths, weaknesses, and appropriate uses of each.
3. Interpret and analyze primary documents, and place them within the appropriate historical context.
4. Identify characteristics and practitioners of major schools of historiographical thought.
5. Craft a narrative based on primary sources.
6. Locate different kinds of sources for historical research.
7. Appropriately document and cite sources in academic work.
8. Explain roles that history and historians play in contemporary society as well as current issues under debate within the profession and within the public arena.
9. Explain the purpose and use of historiographical essays. (limited to HIS 401)
10. Compose an historiographical essay. (limited to HIS 401)

Requirements

To pursue a major in history, students must complete two courses from the following list of classes on historical regions and themes (six hours total). The 2 courses must be from different categories of historical regions and themes. Alternatively, students can transfer equivalent courses from an accredited institution. Comparative Societies courses with an HIS prefix can be used to fulfill both the Comparative Societies requirements and history lower-division requirements provided students graduate with sufficient total credits.

Lower-Division Requirements

Two Courses from different categories historical regions or themes

Select 2 course from the following region or theme options: **6**

World History

HIS 118 Making of the West

HIS 119 Gods & Heroes of Early Europe

HIS 125 The History of Everywhere

Comparative Religion

HIS 150 Topics in Comparative Religion

Europe

HIS 202 European History

HIS 212 History of Russia: Peter I to Putin

United States

HIS 204 U.S. History to 1877

HIS 205 U.S. History Since 1877

HIS 206 American Immigration History

Middle East

HIS 160 Topics in Middle Eastern History

HIS 161 Introduction to the Modern Middle East

HIS 211 Women in the Middle East

East Asia

HIS 176 History of Premodern East Asia

HIS 177 History of Modern East Asia

Total Hours **6**

Upper-division Core Requirements ¹

HIS 301 The Historian's Craft ² **3**

HIS 401 Senior Seminar ¹ **3**

Eight hours of non-U.S. History Courses from the following: 8

HIS 360 Topics in Warfare

HIS 365 ECCE: Culture Wars/Europe

HIS 371 Islamic Civilization

HIS 373 ECCE: Reading Arab Past

HIS 375 ECCE: Conflict in the Middle East

HIS 378 ECCE: Christian-Muslim Encounters

HIS 411 ECCE: Democracy and Democratic Theory

HIS 412 Alexander the Great

HIS 414 ECCE: Cleopatra's Egypt

HIS 415 ECCE: Archaeology of Global Slavery

HIS 416 Rise of Rome

HIS 417 Caesar to Charlemagne

HIS 419 Egyptology

HIS 422 ECCE: Politics and Religion: Culture Wars

HIS 424 Ancient Sport and Spectacle

HIS 462 ECCE: Conflict in 19th Century Europe

HIS 463 Europe In The 20th Century

HIS 470 Topics in 20th Century World History

HIS 471 ECCE: The Pacific War: World War II in East Asia

HIS 472 Imperial Russia

HIS 473 Russia from the Revolution to the New Cold War

HIS 475 ECCE: Nationalism and Imperialism

HIS 476 Modern China

HIS 477 Premodern Japan

HIS 479 ECCE: From Vikings to Hackers: A Pirate's World History

HIS 480 Topics in Pre-Modern World History

HIS/WGS 481 Women in Chinese and Japanese History

HIS 482	Samurai in History and Romance
HIS 485	Cold War and the Middle East
HIS 486	ECCE: Exhibiting Asia: Trans-Pacific Material Culture
HIS 487	History of Christmas
HIS 488	Eastern Christianity

Upper Division Elective History Courses

Options: any 300-level or 400-level HIS course not used to fulfill another HIS degree requirement. 19

Total Hours 39

¹ Students may fill up to 4 credit hours of upper-division core requirements with HIS 499.

² Students must earn no less than a C in HIS 301 as a prerequisite for HIS 401. HIS 301 and HIS 401 may not be taken during the same semester.

Courses from other departments may count for history credit when they support the student's degree plan and are approved in advance.

Minors

- History Minor

Online

The online History degree program is identical to the on-campus program, except for admissions requirements. The online program allows students to participate actively in dynamic, diverse, and interactive online learning communities and to complete their degrees in their own time and at their own pace. The asynchronous online format enables students to complete course work using the latest networked information technologies for increased access to educational resources, advisers, and materials.

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