History, B.A.

Learning Outcomes

Historical knowledge gives insight into the depth and range of human experience and perspective on the increasingly interconnected world in which we live. Students of history learn how to locate, verify, and interpret many kinds of evidence in order to understand the causes and effects of changes over time. History courses strengthen skills in analyzing and explaining the major ideas and complex problems of the past and the present. The history major provides students with the tools and perspective for active citizenship in a democratic, pluralistic society, as well as for success in graduate studies and a wide range of careers.

The undergraduate program is organized around the intertwined skills of research and communication—whether digital, written, or verbal. Students learn about significant events, places, and people of the past, but just as importantly, they learn how to engage in factual research about the past, how to understand the context of human actions, and how to identify the factors that brought about the world of the past and the world we know today.

- Students of history acquire a broad knowledge of history and historical change, across multiple regions of the globe and a range of historical periods.
- Students gain an awareness of their own place in today’s world and of the connections between past and present. This prepares the way for better understanding between individuals and across cultural boundaries.
- Students learn to value the role of evidence in their understanding of the world, and how to assess and verify different types of data, whether written, visual, oral, statistical, or cultural.
- Students learn how to distinguish between primary and secondary sources, and how each kind of source is used. They develop an understanding of the possible impact of authorial bias, social background, or ideology. Students learn to employ differing methods of analysis, and they explore diverse ways of thinking about the past and human society.
- Students develop skills in research, critical thinking, reading, and writing. History writing assignments sharpen students’ skills in original research and analysis, while reading assignments develop their abilities to synthesize information and grapple with varying points of view.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in history requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 36 s.h. of work for the major. Of the 36 s.h., at least 24 s.h. must be numbered 2000 or above. No more than 3 s.h. in courses numbered HIST:1002-HIST:1099 may count toward the major. Courses that count toward the major may not be taken on a pass/nonpass basis. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core.

College Level Equivalency Program (CLEP) and Advanced Placement Program (APP) credit does not count toward the history major. Transfer work that is equivalent to University of Iowa course work may be accepted toward the major, but at least 18 s.h. of work for the major, including HIST:2151, must be taken at the University of Iowa.

Major requirements include an introductory course and a history portfolio in addition to a range of course work in history.

Undergraduate courses in history are divided into four areas: American history, European history, non-Western history, and courses that have no specific area designation. Students must earn at least 6 s.h. in each of the designated areas (American, European, non-Western), with at least 3 s.h. in each of those areas taken in courses numbered 3000 or above. Courses numbered 1100-1199, 2100-2199 (including HIST:2151 Introduction to the History Major), 3100-3199, 3995-3996, or 4100-4199 do not fulfill a specific geographical area or the pre-1700 requirement.

Students may count a maximum of 18 s.h. earned in American history courses (numbered 1200-1299, 2200-2299, 3200-3299, and 4200-4299) toward the major.

History majors are encouraged to take courses in other fields that illuminate and expand the meaning of history courses and that introduce information and a variety of approaches to understanding how societies and cultures work.

Students majoring in history are encouraged to complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement by choosing a language that fits their interests in history. The department also encourages study abroad programs that complement students' foreign area interests.

The B.A. with a major in history requires the following course work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIST:2151</td>
<td>Introduction to the History Major</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

American History Courses

Two American history courses (numbered 1200-1299, 2200-2299, 3200-3299, or 4200-4299) including at least one numbered 3000 or above

European History Courses

Two European history courses (numbered 1400-1499, 2400-2499, 3400-3499, or 4400-4499) including at least one numbered 3000 or above

Non-Western History Courses

Two non-Western history courses (numbered 1500-1999, 2500-2899, 3500-3899, 4500-4999) including at least one numbered 3000 or above

Pre-1700 History Course

One pre-1700 history course (select from the list below)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIST:3193</td>
<td>Undergraduate History Portfolio</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours

36
**Introductory Course**

Students enroll in HIST:2151 Introduction to the History Major as soon as possible after declaring the major in history. Topics vary, but all sections of HIST:2151 instruct students in the skills they need to succeed in upper-level history courses. Students explore the diverse kinds of sources historians use, including both primary (original) sources and secondary (scholarly) sources. They learn how to frame a historical question, find and interpret relevant sources (in libraries, online, and in archives), and then integrate them into a historical argument, expressed clearly and in accordance with appropriate scholarly conventions. By the end of the semester, students have produced a substantial research paper or project and have a clearer understanding of the historian's craft. Students must include at least one graded paper or project from the course HIST:2151 in their history portfolio (see "Portfolio" below). Introduction to the History Major (HIST:2151) does not count toward the area (American, European, non-Western) or pre-1700 era requirements.

**Pre-1700 History Courses**

A course taken to fulfill the pre-1700 history course requirement also may be counted toward the requirement in American, European, or non-Western history. These courses fulfill the pre-1700 history requirement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIST:1401</td>
<td>The West and the World: Ancient</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST:1402</td>
<td>The West and the World: Medieval</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST:1601</td>
<td>Civilizations of Asia: China from Origins to the 17th Century</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST:1602</td>
<td>Civilizations of Asia: China from the 17th Century to the Present</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST:1604</td>
<td>Civilizations of Asia: Japan</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST:1606</td>
<td>Civilizations of Asia: South Asia</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST:2461</td>
<td>Middle East and Mediterranean: Alexander to Suleiman</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST:2483</td>
<td>History of Britain: Fall of Rome to the Norman Conquest</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST:3211</td>
<td>Native North America I: Precontact-1789</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST:3270</td>
<td>Colonial North America, ca. 1600-1775</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST:3289</td>
<td>The Atlantic World c. 1450-1850</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST:3409</td>
<td>Medieval Civilization I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST:3410</td>
<td>Medieval Civilization II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST:3413</td>
<td>Early Modern Britain: The Tudor and Stuart Era</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST:3758</td>
<td>The Ancient African Past</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST:4400</td>
<td>The Roman Empire</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST:4401</td>
<td>Ancient Egypt and the Ancient Near East</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST:4404</td>
<td>The World of Ancient Greece</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST:4406</td>
<td>Warfare in Ancient Mediterranean Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST:4407</td>
<td>The Hellenistic World and Rome</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST:4411</td>
<td>Economic and Social History of Medieval Europe</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST:4412</td>
<td>History of the Medieval Church</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST:4417</td>
<td>Medieval Intellectual History 300-1150</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST:4418</td>
<td>Medieval Intellectual History 1150-1500</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST:4419</td>
<td>Ancient and Medieval Science</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST:4423</td>
<td>Ireland in the Early Middle Ages</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST:4427</td>
<td>Society and Gender in Europe 1200-1789</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST:4510</td>
<td>Colonial Latin America</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST:4610</td>
<td>Japan - Age of the Samurai</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST:4910</td>
<td>The Book in the Middle Ages</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST:4920</td>
<td>The Transition from Manuscript to Print</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Portfolio**

All history majors must complete a portfolio, enrolling in HIST:3193 Undergraduate History Portfolio during the semester in which they plan to graduate. The portfolio, submitted electronically, includes three graded papers written for history courses (one of the papers should be from HIST:2151 Introduction to the History Major). The portfolio does not affect a student's grade-point average; timely submission fulfills the requirement on a non-graded basis with an assignment of S (satisfactory).

Students should submit their portfolios on the University of Iowa ICON website for HIST:3193 Undergraduate History Portfolio early during the semester in which they plan to graduate.

**Teacher Licensure**

Students interested in teaching in elementary and/or secondary schools should seek admission to the Teacher Education Program (TEP) in the College of Education.

To qualify for licensure in secondary teaching, students in the TEP complete a degree in education as well as a related College of Liberal Arts and Sciences degree. See Teacher Education Program Application and Admission on the College of Education website for details on requirements and deadlines for applying to the College of Education and about TEP choices of majors leading to licensure.

**Combined Programs**

**B.A./M.S. in Business Analytics (Career Subprogram)**

Students majoring in history who are interested in earning a master's degree in business analytics with a career subprogram may apply to the combined B.A./M.S. program offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Tippie College of Business. The program enables students to begin the study of business analytics before they complete their bachelor's degree. Students are able to complete both degrees in five years rather than six.
Separate application to each degree program is required. Applicants must be admitted to both programs before they may be admitted to the combined degree program. For information about the business analytics program, see the M.S. in business analytics (career) in the Tippie College of Business section of the Catalog.

B.A./M.S. in Finance

Students majoring in history who are interested in earning a master's degree in finance may apply to the combined B.A./M.S. program offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Tippie College of Business. The program enables students to begin the study of finance before they complete their bachelor's degree. Students are able to complete both degrees in five years rather than six.

Separate application to each degree program is required. Applicants must be admitted to both programs before they may be admitted to the combined degree program. For information about the finance program, see the M.S. in finance (Tippie College of Business) section of the Catalog.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Normally, students maintain a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 3.33 in history major course work. Students write an honors thesis, which is an extended research paper (25-35 pages). Research for the thesis is done under the supervision of a faculty member who specializes in the field that a student chooses for the research. Students register for 3 s.h. in HIST:3995 History Honors Research Seminar, usually during the spring of their junior year, and HIST:3996 Honors Thesis, usually during the fall of their senior year. The 6 s.h. of credit counts toward the semester hours required for the history major.

University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the University's honors program. Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the history major.

Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the University’s Four-Year Graduation Plan.

Before the fifth semester begins: three courses in the major, including HIST:2151 Introduction to the History Major

Before the seventh semester begins: four more courses in the major and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree

Before the eighth semester begins: three more courses in the major

During the eighth semester: submission of the portfolio of written work (three graded history papers) to the director of undergraduate studies through the HIST:3193 Undergraduate History Portfolio ICON website (a student must be enrolled in HIST:3193 in order to submit the portfolio), enrollment in all remaining course work in the major (two courses), all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

Iowa Degree in Three

University of Iowa majors who are strongly motivated can graduate with a degree in three years under the Iowa Degree in Three. The program is available to students who can complete more semester hours each term than they would on the Four-Year Graduation Plan.

Students sign an agreement during their first semester of enrollment; meet with an advisor at least once a semester to review their plans and progress; take courses during summer sessions, if necessary; meet specific course checkpoints; and maintain the grade-point average required for the major.

Students are allowed to bring Advanced Placement (AP), College Level Examination Program (CLEP), or transfer credit upon admission to reduce the number of semester hours required for their degree. They should consult their advisor about the program.

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

History, B.A.

Course Title Hours
First Year
Fall
RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200 Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature 3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences f 3
Elective course g 3
CSI:1600 Success at Iowa 2

Hours 14-16

Spring
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030 The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric 3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion f 3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab f 4
Elective course g 2

Hours 15-17

Second Year
Fall
HIST:2151 Introduction to the History Major c 3
Major: American history course c, h 3
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning f 3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level 4 - 5
Proficiency or elective course 1
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues f 3

Hours 16-17

Spring
Major: European history course c 3
### History, B.A.

#### Third Year

**Fall**
- Major: 3000+ American history course  
  - 3
- Major: 3000+ European history course  
  - 3
- GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab  
  - 3
- GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level  
  - 4 - 5
- Elective course  
  - 3
- Elective course  
  - 3

**Hours**  
- 16-17

**Spring**
- Major: pre-1700 history course  
  - 3
- Major: 3000+ non-Western history course  
  - 3
- GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level  
  - 4 - 5
- Elective course  
  - 3
- Elective course  
  - 3

**Hours**  
- 16-17

#### Fourth Year

**Fall**
- Major: history elective course  
  - 3 - 4
- GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts  
  - 3
- Elective course  
  - 3
- Elective course  
  - 3
- Elective course  
  - 3

**Hours**  
- 15-16

**Spring**
- HIST:3193 Undergraduate History Portfolio  
  - 0
- Major: history elective course  
  - 3 - 4
- GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture  
  - 3
- Elective course  
  - 3
- Elective course  
  - 3
- Elective course  
  - 3

**Degree Application:** apply on MyUI before deadline  
- typically in February for spring, September for fall

**Hours**  
- 15-16

**Total Hours**  
- 123-133

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- a Students complete at least 12 s.h. in history electives.
- b Students may count a maximum of 3 s.h. numbered HIST:1002-1099 toward the major.
- c Students must complete 24 s.h. from courses in prefix HIST numbered 2000 or above.
- d Consider choosing a course that also fulfills the GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues requirement.
- e Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.
- f GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.
- g Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.
- h Students may count a maximum of 18 s.h. earned in American history courses toward the major.
- i Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.
- j Please see Academic Calendar, Office of the Registrar website for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor. For more information visit http://commencement.uiowa.edu. If applicable search for “Early and Late Participation” to find this page (e.g. walk in graduation ceremony in May, degree conferral in August).

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### Career Advancement

Students of history develop an understanding of change that enables them to function as active, well-informed citizens. Because of the geographical breadth required for the degree, history students develop a global consciousness that helps them to understand developments worldwide.

University of Iowa’s history graduates win admission to the best graduate and professional schools in the country. Employers value history students’ ability to analyze human and social behavior, to research pressing problems, and to express themselves clearly. Graduates of the department occupy prominent positions in government, business, journalism, law, entertainment, education, the nonprofit sector, library science, social work, and philanthropy, among others. A recent study showed that history graduates with a B.A. earn more than graduates in any other humanities field.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.