History, BA

Historical knowledge offers insight into the depth and range of human experience and perspectives 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 historical cause, effect, and change over time. History courses strengthen skills in analyzing and explaining the 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. 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.

Learning Outcomes

Students of history:

- acquire a broad knowledge of history and historical change across multiple regions of the globe and a range of historical periods;
- gain an awareness of their own place in today's world and of the connections between past and present;
- 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;
- learn how to distinguish between primary and secondary sources, and how each kind of source is used;
- develop an understanding of the possible impact of authorial bias, social background, or ideology;
- learn to employ differing methods of analysis and explore diverse ways of thinking about the past and human society; and
- 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. A maximum of 3 s.h. in history courses (prefix HIST) numbered 1002–1099 may count toward the major. Courses that count toward the major may not be taken on a pass/nonpass basis. Students must maintain a grade-point average of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They must also complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core.

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

Students may count up to 56 s.h. of coursework from the Department of History toward credit required for the Bachelor of Arts degree. 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' language area interests.

The BA with a major in history requires the following coursework.

Requirements	Hours
Introductory Course	3
Required History Courses	24
History Electives	9
Portfolio	

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 paper or project from HIST:2151 in their history portfolio (visit the "Portfolio" section that follows). Introduction to the History Major (HIST:2151) does not count toward the area (American, European, non-Western, thematic) or pre-1700 era requirements.

Required History Courses

Undergraduate courses in history are divided into four categories: American, European, non-Western, and thematic history. The first three categories are defined geographically. Courses in the fourth category focus on themes, methods, and/or connections and comparisons between histories in the designated geographical areas. Students must earn at least 6 s.h. in each of the designated geographical areas (American, European, non-Western), with at least 3 s.h. in each of those areas taken in courses numbered 3000 or above. Students must earn at least 3 s.h. in thematic history. Students must also take one pre-1700 course from the list that follows.

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.

Course #	Title	Hours
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		6
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		6
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		6
Thematic History Course		
One thematic history course (numbered 1100-1199, 2100-2199, 3100-3199, 4100-4199), excluding 2151, 3101, 3191, and 3193		3
Pre-1700 History Course		
One pre-1700 history course (select from the list that follows)		3
History Electives		
Additional history courses selected by the student		9

Pre-1700 History Course

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

Course #	Title	Hours
HIST:1401	The West and the World: Ancient	3
HIST:1402	The West and the World: Medieval	3
HIST:1601	Civilizations of Asia: China From Origins to the 17th Century	3
HIST:1602	Civilizations of Asia: China from the 17th Century to the Present	3
HIST:1604	Civilizations of Asia: Japan	3
HIST:1606	Civilizations of Asia: South Asia	3
HIST:2444	Engineering and Technology in the Ancient World	3
HIST:2461	Middle East and Mediterranean: Alexander to Suleiman	3
HIST:3270	Colonial North America, ca. 1600-1775	3
HIST:3289	The Atlantic World c. 1450-1850	3
HIST:3401	The Mediterranean World after Alexander the Great	3
HIST:3404	The World of Ancient Greece	3
HIST:3409	Medieval Civilization I	3
HIST:3410	Medieval Civilization II	3
HIST:3413	Early Modern Britain: The Tudor and Stuart Era	3
HIST:3427	Family, Gender, and Society in Early Modern Europe	3
HIST:3443	Rome at War	3
HIST:3448	Barbarians and the Fall of Rome	3
HIST:3758	The Ancient African Past	3
HIST:4400	The Roman Empire: 31 B.C.E. to 565 C.E.	3
HIST:4406	Warfare in Ancient Mediterranean Society	3
HIST:4407	The Roman Republic: 509 B.C.E. to 31 B.C.E.	3

Portfolio

All history majors must complete a portfolio, enrolling in the portfolio course HIST:3193 Undergraduate History Portfolio during the semester in which they plan to graduate. The portfolio includes three papers or projects completed in history courses and submitted electronically. One paper/project should be from HIST:2151 Introduction to the History Major. A history honors thesis may replace the other two papers/projects. The portfolio does not affect a student's grade-point average; timely submission fulfills the requirement with a grade of S (satisfactory).

Students should submit their portfolios on the University of Iowa ICON website for HIST:3193 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. Visit Apply 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.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Honors in the major gives students the opportunity to conduct independent research on a topic of their choosing, and write an original piece of scholarship based on that research. The product is a 30–35 page thesis written under the supervision of a faculty member who specializes in the field. To graduate with honors in history, students must maintain a cumulative University of Iowa grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.33, as required by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and a 3.33 GPA in the major as set by the Department of History. 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.

Career Advancement

A major in history provides broad training in evaluating and interpreting data, thinking critically, and understanding issues in a global context that prepares history graduates to succeed in careers in nearly any field.

Employers value history students' ability to analyze human and social behavior, research pressing problems, and express themselves clearly. Graduates of the department occupy positions in government, business, journalism, law, entertainment, education, the nonprofit sector, library science, social work, and philanthropy, among others. Iowa's history graduates who choose to continue their education frequently earn admission to top graduate and professional schools.

Career outcomes show that graduates with a history BA fare comparatively well in the workforce. History graduates enter a wide range of professions, and mid-career salaries tend to be strong, particularly in the categories of education, business, and law. Salaries for history graduates are generally higher than those of graduates in other humanities disciplines across all job fields.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs. History students are also encouraged to meet with the departmental advisor and their faculty mentors to discuss their career plans as they prepare for the future.

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 history papers/projects, preferably graded) 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 coursework in the major (two courses), all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate.

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, visit MyUI.

History, BA

Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
GE CLAS Core: Sustainability [a]		
	Hours	**0**
First Year		
Fall		
Major Elective: history elective course [b, c, d, e]		3 - 4
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030	Interpreting Literature or Rhetoric: Writing and Communication	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences [f]		3
Elective course [g]		3
CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	1
	Hours	**13-15**
Spring		
Major Elective: history elective course [b, c, e, h]		3 - 4
RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200	Rhetoric: Writing and Communication or Interpreting Literature	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Understanding Cultural Perspectives [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 [b]	3
Major Elective: American history course [b, i]		3
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues [f]		3
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning [f]		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course [j]		4 - 5
	Hours	**16-17**
Spring		
Major Elective: European history course [b]		3
Major Elective: non-Western history course [b]		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course [j]		4 - 5
Elective course [g]		3
Elective course [g]		3
	Hours	**16-17**
Third Year		
Fall		
Major Elective: 3000+ American history course [b, i]		3
Major Elective: 3000+ European history course [b]		3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab [f]		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course [j]		4 - 5
Elective course [g]		3
	Hours	**16-17**
Spring		
Major Elective: pre-1700 history course [b]		3
Major Elective: 3000+ non-Western history course [b]		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course [j]		4 - 5
Elective course [g]		3

Elective course [g]		3
	Hours	**16-17**
Fourth Year		
Fall		
Major Elective: history elective course [b, c, e]		3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts [f]		3
Elective course [g]		3
Elective course [g]		3
Elective course [g]		3
	Hours	**15-16**
Spring		
HIST:3193	Undergraduate History Portfolio	0
Major Elective: history elective course [b, c, e]		3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Values and Society [f]		3
Elective course [g]		3
Elective course [g]		3
Elective course [g]		3
Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall) [k]		
	Hours	**15-16**
	Total Hours	**122-132**

a Sustainability must be completed by choosing a course that has been approved for Sustainability AND for one of these General Education areas: Natural Sciences; Quantitative or Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Society.

b Students must complete 24 s.h. from courses in prefix HIST numbered 2000 or above.

c Students complete at least 12 s.h. in history electives.

d Consider choosing a course that also fulfills the GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues requirement.

e Students may count a maximum of 3 s.h. numbered HIST:1002-1099 toward the major.

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 toward the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.

h Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.

i Students may count a maximum of 18 s.h. earned in American history courses toward the major.

j Students who have completed four levels of a single language or two levels of two different languages in high school or college have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Students who have completed three levels of a single language may complete a fourth-level course in the same language or may choose an approved World Language and Cultural Exploration course. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course. Contact your academic advisor or CLAS Undergraduate Programs Office with questions concerning the World Languages requirement.

k Please see Academic Calendar, on 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 or Degree Services.