History (HIS)

Major and Minor in History

Department of History, College of Arts and Sciences

CHAIRPERSON: Ned Landsman
DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES: Wolf Schäfer
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Minors of particular interest to students majoring in History: Africana Studies (AFS), International Studies (INT), Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LAC), Political Science (POL), Women's Studies (WST), Foreign Languages

Faculty

Charles Backfish, Lecturer, M.A., New York University: American social and culture; social studies education.


Karl S. Bottigheimer, Professor Emeritus, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley: England and Ireland.

David B. Burner, Professor Emeritus, Ph.D., Columbia University: 20th-century U.S. political and social.

Floris Cash, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Stony Brook University: Joint appointment with Africana Studies; U.S. social and political history; African-American history; Latin American history.

Alix Cooper, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Harvard University: Early modern Europe; history of science; environment.

Themis Chronopoulos, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Brown University: 20th-century U.S. urban, political, and social.

Lawrence Frohman, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley: German history; social studies education.

Elizabeth Garber, Professor, Ph.D., Case Western Reserve University: History of physics and thermodynamics; European intellectual and social.

Robert Goldberg, Professor, Ph.D., Brown University: History of religion; history of Judaism; Talmudic literature; ancient history.


Paul Gootenberg, Professor, Ph.D., University of Chicago: 19th-century Latin America; Andean; Mexican; economic.

Susan Hinley, Lecturer, Ph.D., J.D., Stanford, Harvard Law: Modern European history; women's history.

Young Sun Hong, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor: Modern Germany.

Thomas Kliouck, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Yale University: Modern Latin America; labor; gender; environment.

Richard F. Kuisel, Professor Emeritus, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley: Modern Europe; France.

Mario LaMantia, Lecturer, M.A., Stony Brook University: Social studies education.

Ned Landsman, Professor, Ph.D., Stony Brook University: Modern European history.

Brooke Larson, Professor, Ph.D., Columbia University: Latin America; social history; mining and agrarian change.

Herman E. Lebovics, Professor, Ph.D., Yale University: Modern European intellectual and social history.

Helen Rodnite Lemay, Distinguished Teaching Professor, Ph.D., Columbia University: Medieval and Renaissance intellectual; paleography. Recipient of the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1984.

Shirley Lim, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles: Asian-American immigration; women and culture; film.

Sara Lipton, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Yale University: Medieval Europe; gender; religion; culture.

Iona Man-cheong, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Yale University: Modern China and Japan; modern Chinese women.

Gary Marker, Professor, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley: 18th- and 19th-century Russian social history.

April Masten, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Rutgers University: Art, economics, and politics in the nineteenth century.

Janis Mimura, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., University of California at Berkeley: Political, economic, intellectual history of modern Japan.

Wilbur R. Miller, Professor, Ph.D., Columbia University: 19th-century U.S.; Civil War and Reconstruction; crime and police.

Donna J. Rilling, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania: U.S. early national; legal; economic; urban; labor.

Joel T. Rosenthal, Distinguished Professor, Ph.D., University of Chicago: Medieval Europe; England.

Ian Roxborough, Professor, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison: Joint appointment with Sociology; Comparative social structures; development; Latin American politics; social change; Latin American labor movements.

Warnen Sanderson, Professor, Ph.D., Stanford University: Joint appointment with Economics; Economic history; economic demography.

Wolf Schäfer, Professor, Ph.D., University of Bremen: Social history; history of science and technology; global history; geography; historiography, methodology of the social sciences; philosophy of history.

Christopher Sellers, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Yale University: Medical history; environmental history; science and technology.

Nancy Tomes, Professor, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania: U.S. social, medical, and women's history.

Oluferi Vaughan, Professor, Ph.D., University of Oxford: Joint appointment with Africana Studies; African politics and history; international relations.

Fred Weinstein, Professor Emeritus, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley: Psychohistory; Russia.

John A. Williams, Associate Professor Emeritus, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison: British Empire; Africa; the Commonwealth; expansion of Europe.

Kathleen Wilson, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Yale University: Modern British social and intellectual history.

Judith Wishnia, Associate Professor Emerita, Ph.D., Stony Brook University: Women's history; labor history; European history.

Affiliated Faculty

Leslie H. Owens, Africana Studies
Eli Seifman (Emeritus), Social Sciences Interdisciplinary

Adjunct Faculty

Estimated number: 3

Teaching Assistants

Estimated number: 20
History is the systematic study of peoples, states, and societies from antiquity to our current times. Using both written records and material artifacts, historians attempt to reconstruct and interpret change over time in every facet of human experience, from political and economic systems to family life and gender roles, to name a few. The study of history is not only intrinsically interesting, but also contributes useful insights into the contemporary world and its problems.

History majors develop an in-depth knowledge of a specific region of the world, including its history, geography, and culture. In the process, they also learn how to conduct historical research, and to develop convincing arguments based on the evidence they uncover. Effective oral and written communication skills are strongly emphasized in all history courses.

Many History majors choose careers in law, teaching, archival or library science, or museum work. Because it emphasizes research and writing, history is also excellent preparation for many fields, including journalism, diplomacy, and international business. Combined with a concentration in science, the History major is also a good background for medicine or other health science professions.

The Department’s offerings range over many eras, regions, and topics, concentrating on the United States, Europe, Latin America, East Asia, the history of science, and women's history. Surveys of these fields are offered at the 100 level for the United States and Europe and the 200 level for other areas. Students interested in the study of history should take these survey courses first, as prerequisites for more advanced coursework. American and European courses at the 200 level customarily examine a specific period, while 300-level courses typically examine specific topics (such as social or political history) or countries (such as Germany, Brazil, or China). History colloquia at the 400 level are small classes offering intensive reading and discussion on closely focused themes. The study of history emphasizes the mastery of large amounts of information and the ability to demonstrate that mastery through skillful writing.

Each semester the Department issues a booklet with detailed descriptions of its offerings. Students interested in history, whether as a major, a minor, a social science course related to their major, or for general liberal arts purposes, are invited to read this booklet and to seek advice from the Department’s director of undergraduate studies and other faculty members.

Courses Offered in History

See the Course Descriptions listing in this Bulletin for complete information.

HIS 101-F European History: from Antiquity to Revolution
HIS 102-F Modern European History from 1789 to 1914
HIS 103-F American History to 1877
HIS 104-F United States Since 1877
HIS 105-F History Through Documents
HIS 111-F Introduction to the Social History of Medicine
HIS 208-I Ireland from St. Patrick to the Present
HIS 209-I Imperial Russia
HIS 210-I Soviet Russia
HIS 213-J Colonial Latin America
HIS 214-J Modern Latin America
HIS 216-J History of U.S.-Latin American Relations
HIS 219-J Introduction to Chinese History and Civilization
HIS 220-J Introduction to Japanese History and Civilization
HIS 221-J Introduction to Modern African History
HIS 225-J The Formation of the Judaic Heritage
HIS 226-F The Shaping of Modern Judaism
HIS 227-J Islamic Civilization
HIS 235-I The Early Middle Ages
HIS 236-I The Late Middle Ages
HIS 237-H, 238-H Science, Technology, and Medicine in Western Civilization I, II
HIS 241-I The Holocaust: The Destruction of European Jewry—Causes and Consequences
HIS 248-I Europe, 1815-1914
HIS 249-I Modern Europe, 1914-1945
HIS 250-F The Second World War, 1939-1945
HIS 251-I Europe Since 1945
HIS 261-K Change and Reform in the United States, 1877-1919
HIS 262-K American Colonial Society
HIS 263-K Age of the American Revolution
HIS 264-K The Birth of Modern America
HIS 265-K Civil War and Reconstruction
HIS 266-K History of the United States West
HIS 268-K Recent U.S. History, 1919 - Present
HIS 277-K The Modern Color Line
HIS 281-H Global History and Geography
HIS 300-F Global History
HIS 301 Reading and Writing History
HIS 309-I Modern France, 1815-1900
HIS 310-I Modern France, 1900 to the Present
HIS 311-I The Rise of Imperial Germany, 1806-1890
HIS 312-I From Empire to Third Reich: Germany, 1890-1945
HIS 316-F The Healer and the Witch in History
HIS 317-F Expansion of Europe
HIS 318-I Social and Intellectual History of Europe
HIS 321-K Long Island History
HIS 325-K The Civil Rights Movement
HIS 326-K History of Popular Culture
HIS 327-K Origins of American Society
HIS 330-J Topics in Middle Eastern History
HIS 333-K Women in U.S. History
HIS 336-I Women, Work, and Family in Modern European History
HIS 340-J Topics in Asian History
HIS 341-J 20th-Century China
HIS 344-J Modern Japan
HIS 345-J Women and Gender in Chinese History
HIS 346-J Political and Social History of Africa
HIS 348-J History of British India
HIS 349-J History of South Africa
HIS 350-J Topics in African History
HIS 351-J Revolutionary China: Politics, Culture, and Power
HIS 352-H Environmental History of China
HIS 360-I Women in Premodern Europe
HIS 361-K American History/ American Film
HIS 362-K Making Peace With the Sixties
HIS 363-F Topics in American History

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Sample Course Sequence for the Major in History

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<th>Freshman Fall</th>
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HIS 365-K Environmental History of North America
HIS 369-K American Social History to 1860
HIS 370-K U.S. Social History, 1860-1930
HIS 371-K American Economic History to 1860
HIS 374-F Historical Perspectives on Gender Orientation
HIS 375-K American Politics and Diplomacy to 1898
HIS 376-K American Politics and Diplomacy, 1898-1945
HIS 377-K American Politics and Diplomacy Since 1945
HIS 378-F War and the Military
HIS 380-J Topics in Latin-American History
HIS 382-J Politics and Political Change in Latin America
HIS 386-J Modern Brazil
HIS 387-J Women, Development, and Revolution in Latin America
HIS 388-J Slavery in Latin America and the Caribbean
HIS 389-J Modern Mexico
HIS 390-I Topics in Ancient and Medieval Europe
HIS 391-I Topics in Early Modern Europe
HIS 392-I Topics in European History
HIS 393-I Topics in Modern European History
Requirements for the Major in History (HIS)
The major in History leads to the Bachelor of Arts degree. All courses taken to meet Requirements A and B must be taken for a letter grade. No grade lower than C may be applied toward Requirement A. At least 12 credits in Requirement A must be taken within the Department of History at Stony Brook.
Completion of the major requires 36 credits.

A. Study within the Area of the Major
A minimum of ten courses (30 credits) distributed as follows:
1. Two courses at the 100 level
2. A primary field of five courses to be selected from one of the following: United States, European, Latin American, ancient and medieval, or non-Western history. Primary fields developed along topical or thematic lines may be selected with approval of the Department’s undergraduate committee. The primary field, to be selected and filed with the Department no later than the end of the first full semester after declaring the major, shall be distributed as follows:
   Two courses at the 200 level
   Two courses at the 300 level
   One course at the 400 level, excluding HIS 447, 487, 488
3. Three courses selected from outside the primary field and above the 100 level, with at least one of these courses at the 300 or 400 level.

B. Courses in a Related Discipline
Two upper-division courses in one discipline, the discipline to be selected with Department approval no later than the end of the first semester after declaring the major. Courses that are crosslisted with a history course do not satisfy this requirement.

C. Upper-Division Writing Requirement
Students are required to complete one upper-division course from Group A (study within the area of the major) by the end of their junior year. They must inform the instructor of the course in advance of their plan to use the term paper (or papers) in fulfillment of the writing requirement for the major. In addition to the grade for the course, the instructor makes a second evaluation of writing competency in the field of history. If the second evaluation is favorable, the student will have fulfilled this requirement.

Notes:
1. No transferred course with a grade lower than C may be applied toward Requirement A.

The Honors Program in History
Departmental majors with a minimum g.p.a. of 3.00 in history courses and related disciplines as specified in the major requirements are eligible to enroll in the History honors program at the beginning of their senior year.
The student, after asking a faculty member to be a sponsor, must submit a proposal to the Department indicating the merit of the planned research. The supervising faculty member must also submit a statement supporting the student’s proposal. This must be done in the semester prior to the beginning of the project.
The honors paper resulting from a student’s research is read by two historians and a member of another department, as arranged by the director of undergraduate studies. If the paper is judged to be of unusual merit and the student’s record warrants such a determination, the Department recommends honors.

Requirements for the Minor in History (HIS)
The minor is organized around the student’s interest in a particular area of history, defined either by geography (e.g., United States, Latin America) or topic (e.g., imperialism, social change). Courses offered for the minor must be taken for a letter grade. Upper-division courses offered for the minor must be passed with a grade of C or higher.
Completion of the minor requires 18 credits. At least nine of the 18 credits must be taken at Stony Brook, with three of the courses at the upper-division level. The specific distribution of the credits should be determined in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies. An example of an acceptable distribution would be the following:

A. One two-semester survey course in the period of the student’s interest (100 or 200 level)
B. One (additional) course at the 200 level
C. Three courses at the 300 or 400 level, at least one of which must be at the 400 level

Note: HIS 447, 487, 488, 495, 496 may not be used to satisfy minor requirements.