History (HIS)

Major and Minor in History

Department of History, College of Arts and Sciences

CHAIRPERSON: Ned Landsman
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STAFF ASSISTANT: Susan Grumet

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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.

Michael Barnhart, Distinguished Teaching Professor, Ph.D., Harvard University: U.S. foreign policy; 20th-century U.S. and modern Japan. Recipient of the State University of New York Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1985, and the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1985.

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, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Stor y 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 Emerita, Ph.D., Case Western Reserve University: History of physics and thermodynamics; European intellectual and social.


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

Susan Hinely, 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 Klübock, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Yale University: Modern Latin America; labor; gender; environment.

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

Ned Landsman, Professor, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania: Colonial U.S. history.

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

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

He len 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, Associate 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-ch eong, 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.

Kathleen Banks Nutter, Lecturer, Ph.D., University of Massachusetts, Amherst: 19th and 20th Century U.S.; women; labor; culture.

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

Alice Ritscherle, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor: Modern Britain; British Imperialism; Decolonization.

Joel T. Rosenthal, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, 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.

Warren 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.

Olufemi 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, 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.

Paul E. Zimansky, Professor, Ph.D., University of Chicago: Ancient Near Eastern archaeology and history; ancient imperialism.

Affiliated Faculty

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

Adjunct Faculty

Estimated number: 3

Teaching Assistants

Estimated number: 30
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.

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### Sample Course Sequence for the Major in History

**Freshman Fall**  |  **Credits**  
--- | ---  
First Year Seminar 101 | 1  
D.E.C. A | 3  
HIS 101 or 103 or 109 | 3  
D.E.C. | 3  
D.E.C. | 3  
Total | 16  

**Spring**  |  **Credits**  
--- | ---  
First Year Seminar 102 | 1  
D.E.C. A | 3  
HIS 102 or 104 | 3  
D.E.C. | 3  
D.E.C. | 3  
Elective | 3  
Total | 16  

**Sophomore Fall**  |  **Credits**  
--- | ---  
Primary Field Course #1 (200 level) | 3  
D.E.C. | 3  
D.E.C. | 3  
Elective | 3  
D.E.C. | 3  
Total | 15  

**Spring**  |  **Credits**  
--- | ---  
HIS 200-level outside primary field | 3  
Primary Field Course #2 (200 level) | 3  
Elective | 3  
D.E.C. | 3  
D.E.C. | 3  
Upper-Division elective | 3  
Total | 18  

**Junior Fall**  |  **Credits**  
--- | ---  
Primary Field Course #3 (300 level) | 3  
HIS 300-level outside primary field | 3  
Upper-Division elective | 3  
Upper-Division elective | 3  
Elective | 3  
D.E.C. | 3  
Elective | 3  
Total | 15  

**Spring**  |  **Credits**  
--- | ---  
Primary Field course #4 (300 level) | 3  
HIS 301 writing seminar | 3  
Related discipline 300-level course | 3  
Upper-Division elective | 3  
Upper-Division elective | 3  
Elective | 1-2  
Total | 16-17  

**Senior Fall**  |  **Credits**  
--- | ---  
Primary Field course #5 (400-level special topics seminar) | 3  
HIS 300-level outside primary field | 3  
D.E.C. | 3  
Elective | 3  
Elective | 3  
Total | 15  

**Spring**  |  **Credits**  
--- | ---  
Related discipline course (300 or 400-level) | 3  
Upper-Division elective | 3  
Upper-Division elective | 3  
Elective | 3  
Elective | 3  
Total | 15

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HIS 363-F  Topics in American History  
HIS 365-K&4 Environmental History of North America  
HIS 369-K&4 American Social History to 1860  
HIS 370-K&4 U.S. Social History, 1860-1930  
HIS 374-F Historical Perspectives on Gender Orientation  
HIS 375-K&4 American Politics and Diplomacy to 1898  
HIS 376-K&4 American Politics and Diplomacy, 1898-1945  
HIS 377-K&4 American Politics and Diplomacy Since 1945  
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HIS 391-I Topics in Early Modern Europe  
HIS 392-I Topics in European History  
HIS 393-I Topics in Modern European History  
HIS 394-H Topics in History of Medicine and Reproduction  
HIS 395-I Topics in Russian History  
HIS 396-K&4 Topics in U.S. History  
HIS 397-K&4 Topics in History of U.S. Immigration and Ethnicity  
HIS 398-H Topics in History of Science and Technology  
HIS 399-K&4 Topics in U.S. History  
HIS 401-403 Colloquium in European History  
HIS 404 Colloquium in the History of the Social and Behavioral Sciences  
HIS 411-414, 441 Colloquia in Global History  
HIS 421-422 Colloquia in Latin-American History  
HIS 431-432 Colloquia in Asian History  
HIS 447 Independent Readings in History  
HIS 451 Colloquium in Medieval History  
HIS 461 Colloquium in the History of Science  
HIS 475 Undergraduate Teaching Practicum  
HIS 487 Supervised Research  
HIS 488 Internship  
HIS 495, 496 Senior Honors Projects in History  

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**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 39 credits.

- **A. Study within the Area of the Major**
  
  A minimum of 11 courses (33 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, Asian, Latin American, ancient and medieval, or global history. Primary fields developed along topical or thematic lines may be selected with approval of the Department’s undergraduate director. The
primary field 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, 495, and 496

3. HIS 301 is a required course for all history majors and must be taken prior to the 400-level seminar.

4. 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 departmental approval. 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 paper will be submitted to the Undergraduate Director for final approval.

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.