What Is the Study of History?

Most students are required to study history in both elementary and secondary schools. At that level, students often are given the impression that the study of history simply requires memorization of names, dates, and other facts about events in the past. At the college level, however, the study of history facilitates the development of research, analytical, evaluative, and interpretive skills. History majors learn how to locate and access a wide range of sources, to analyze historical evidence, including textual and visual sources, to evaluate historical interpretations, and to develop and support their own interpretations. The quantity of writing and discussion required in history courses also helps students to develop effective communication skills.

Why Should I Consider This Major?

If you like to read, write, and learn about the experiences of people in different places and times, you should consider the history major. No other major prepares students for as many different careers. History majors’ strong communication skills are valued by all employers, including businesses and government agencies. The research, analytical, and evaluative skills that history majors develop prepare them for graduate study in many humanistic disciplines, public affairs, and library science and for careers as journalists, government officials, and attorneys. A growing number of history majors have made careers in the expanding field of public history. They work in museums, archives, and historical preservation.

How to Declare:

There are no prerequisites for declaring a major in History. Students who have earned Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate credit in history should not take the equivalent courses at Western. It is recommended that students who are considering a major in History take at least three introductory courses in History during their first year. These courses include HIST 103, HIST 104, HIST 111, HIST 112, HIST 113, HIST 121, HIST 123, HIST 273, HIST 274, HIST 277, HIST 278, HIST 280, HIST 281.

It is recommended that students contact a faculty advisor in the department as soon as they wish to declare a major in History.
History, BA, Major Requirements: 60 Credits

Credits for the history degree are to be distributed as follows:

- Three courses in three different fields
- At least one course in each field must be an upper-division course.
- History 499: Historical Research (5 credits)
- One 400-level course in addition to 499
- Must total 60 credits with at least 30 upper-division courses
- A minimum grade point average in History courses of 2.5 is required for graduation. No class with a grade less than C- may be counted in this major.

United States (US)

HIST 103 American History to 1865 (5)
HIST 104 American History Since 1865 (5)
HIST 131 Going to College in America (5)
HIST 141 History of American West (5)
HIST 262 African American History to 1865 (5)
HIST 263 African American History Since 1865 (5)
HIST 265 LGBT Exp. in U.S. History (5)
HIST 268 Introduction Asian American History (5)
HIST 273 The Indian in American History (5)
*HIST 290 The Early Modern Atlantic World (5)
*HIST 314 The Amer & European Enlightenment (5)
HIST 348 American Slavery (5)
HIST 390 World War II: The European War (5)
HIST 414 The Carolingian Era (5)
HIST 421 Gender in Early Modern Europe (5)
HIST 447 History of the Sciences of Nature (5)
HIST 471 Piracy in the Early Modern Atlantic World (5)

Ancient (ANCT)

*HIST 111 Prehistory to 476 (5)
HIST 121 World History to 500 (5)
HIST 151 Communities of the Ancient World (5)
HIST 220 Intro to South Asian History (5)
*HIST 280 Intro to East Asian Civilizations (5)
HIST 310 History of Ancient Mesopotamia (5)
*HIST 311 History of Ancient Egypt (5)
HIST 312 History of Ancient Greece (5)
HIST 313 History of Ancient Rome (5)
HIST 370 Chinese History to 600 AD (5)
HIST 385 West African History (5)
HIST 410 First Cities: Urbanization (5)
HIST 412 Ancient Rivers & Roads (5)

East and South Asia (ASIA)

HIST 220 Intro to South Asian History (5)
HIST 280 Intro to East Asian Civilizations (5)
HIST 281 E.A. History-Early Modern/Modern (5)
*HIST 370 Chinese History to 600 AD (5)
HIST 372 Chinese History 1800-Present (5)
HIST 373 Yoko: Monsters & Monstrous in Japanese Hist (5)
HIST 374 Pre-Modern Japanese History (5)
HIST 375 Modern Japanese History (5)
HIST 409 World War II: The Pacific War (5)
HIST 479 Med & Early Mod Chinese History (5)
HIST 480 Modern Chinese Social History (5)
HIST 481 The Chinese Revolution (5)
HIST 483 Early Modern Japan (5)
HIST 486 Religion in Japanese History (5)

Africa and Middle East (AFME)

*HIST 232 History of the Jews (5)
HIST 233: History of the Jews in the Modern Era (5)
HIST 285 African History to 1800 (5)
HIST 286 African History, 1800 to present (5)
HIST 287 Intro to Islamic Civilization (5)
HIST 288 History of Modern Middle East (5)
HIST 290 The Early Modern Atlantic World (5)
HIST 310 History of Ancient Mesopotamia (5)
HIST 311 History of Ancient Egypt (5)
HIST 335 Women and Gender in Judaism (5)
HIST 369 Women, Gender & Sexuality in Afr. Hist (5)
HIST 381 Jewish Nationalism (5)
HIST 382 U.S. Neo-conservatism and Middle East (5)
HIST 383 Modern Iraq (5)
HIST 384 Palestine, Zionism, and Israel (5)
HIST 385 West African History (5)
HIST 386 Southern Africa (5)
HIST 387 Africa since the 1960s (5)
HIST 404 Colonialism and the Middle East (5)
HIST 405 The Traditional Middle East (5)
HIST 406 Middle East, 1800 to the Present (5)
HIST 471 Piracy in the Early Mod Atlantic World (5)
HIST 488 Modern Egypt/Libya & Nile Valley (5)

Western Hemisphere (outside U.S.) (WHEM)

HIST 273 Latin America: 1492-1824 (5)
HIST 274 Latin America: 1824-Present (5)
HIST 277 Canada: A Historical Survey (5)
HIST 278 Multiculturalism in Canada (5)
HIST 290 The Atlantic World (5)
*HIST 326 Immigration in the Americas (5)
HIST 327 Soccer in Latin America (5)
HIST 376 French Colonial Canada: 1534-1763 (5)
HIST 379 Canadian American Relations (5)
HIST 411 Latin America in WWII (5)
*HIST 408 African Slave & Atlantic World (5)
HIST 474 U.S. Latin American Relations (5)
HIST 477 World War I & Canadian Society (5)
HIST 478 Hist. of Nationalism in French Canada (5)

Courses for areas depending on topic:

HIST 123 World History, 1500 to Present (5)
HIST 364 Film as History: Variable Topics (5)
HIST 390 Topics in History: Variable Topics (5)
HIST 393 Introduction to Public History (5)
HIST 401 Methods of Research and Analysis (5)
HIST 470 World History of Democracy, 19th & 20th C (5)
HIST 476 World Histories of the Middle Class (5)
HIST 490 Advanced Topics in History (5)
HIST 493 Topics in Public History (5)
HIST 494 Public History Internship (3-5)
HIST 498 Editing History Writing for the Profession (5)

*Course may be used to fulfill only one area requirement.

Other History options:

BA, History/Social Studies (90 credits)
B.A., History-Elementary (45 credits)
Minor in History (25 credits)
Minor in Foreign Cultures (see Catalog)
Minor in Public History (25 credits)
Major or minor in Area Studies: Canadian-American Studies, East Asian Studies, Latin American Studies (see Catalog)

These courses are required (or advised) for this major and may be used to satisfy General University Requirements:

HUM: HIST 103, 104, 111, 112, 113, 121, 123, 131, 151, 152, 277, 314
BIOM: HIST 158, 262, 263, 265, 268, 275, 278, 353
Check Classfinder or Online Timetable for departmental offerings each quarter.

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