What Is the Study of History/Social Studies?

The History/Social Studies major is designed to prepare students to teach history and social studies in secondary schools. In their history courses, History/Social Studies 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. The required courses in economics, geography, and political science are intended to prepare students to teach these subjects in middle and high schools.

Why Should I Consider This Major?

If you want to teach history or social studies in a middle or high school, you should consider the History/Social Studies major. However, this major also prepares students for a wider range of careers. The knowledge students acquire and the skills they develop in their history courses and in courses in social sciences prepare them for law school, graduate programs in public policy and international affairs, and careers as journalists, government officials, and attorneys.

Secondary Education students who wish to be endorsed in Social Studies may choose this major. However, the History/Social Studies degree does not require that a student pursue a teaching certificate. History/Social Studies majors interested in Secondary certification must apply separately to the certification programs, such as those in Woodring College of Education. Students usually apply to Woodring in their senior year or after they graduate.

How to Declare:

There are no prerequisites for declaring a major in History/Social Studies. 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/Social Studies 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/Social Studies.
History/Social Studies Major Requirements: 90 credits

History (60 credits)
- 2 courses in the United States, one pre- and one post -1865
- 2 courses in 600-1450 CE period - one in Europe and one in East Asia, South Asia, Africa, and/or the Middle East
- 2 courses in period since 1450 CE - one course in Europe and one in East Asia, South Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Canada, and/or Latin America
- 2 courses in Ancient (prior to 600 CE), covering two different continents
- History 391 (S) or 392 (S)
- History 499 (S) (W/B)
- Electives under advisement
- At least 30 of the 60 credits must be at the upper-division level

Social Studies (30 credits)
- ENVS 204 Human Geography (4)
- One course from: PLC 101, 261, 271, 291 (S)
- PLC 250 The American Political System (5)
- ECON 206 (4) or ECON 446 (3) (preferred)
- ECON 207 (4) or ECON 447 (3) (preferred)
- Electives in Anthro, Econ, Geogrophy, Poli Sci, Psych or Soc
- Must total 30 credits of social science other than history
- No course with a grade of less than a C (2.0) may be counted in this major. Students must achieve a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 in the courses in this major.

United States before 1865 (US1)
- HIST 103 American History to 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 290 Early Modern Atlantic World (5)
- *HIST 314 American & European Enlightenment (5)
- HIST 348 American Slavery (5)
- HIST 349 History of the US South (5)
- HIST 350 American Colonial History (5)
- *HIST 355 Health & Disease in American History (5)
- *HIST 356 Gender and History (5)
- HIST 360 Religion in Early America (5)
- HIST 363 The American Revolution (5)
- *HIST 365 Sexuality in the U.S. (5)
- HIST 366 The Early American Republic (5)
- HIST 367 US Women to 1865 (5)
- *HIST 380 Food & Environment in America (5)
- *HIST 392 Tribal Sovereignty and WA History (5)
- *HIST 450 Climate & Culture in America (5)
- HIST 452 U.S. Intellectual History 1776-1900 (5)
- HIST 460 Am. Environmental History (5)
- HIST 461 U.S. Urban History (5)
- HIST 464 SNL and the US in the 1970s (5)
- HIST 467 Self/Society in Am. 1790-1910 (5)
- *HIST 474 U.S. Latin American Relations (5)
- HIST 475 Topics in American Indian History (5)

Europe 600-1450 CE (EUR1)
- HIST 112 Western Civilization 476-1713 (5)
- *HIST 232 History of the Jews (5)
- HIST 315 Europe: Early Middle Ages 300-1050 (5)
- HIST 316 Europe: High Middle Ages 1050-1450 (5)
- HIST 318 Medieval England (5)
- HIST 320 War in the Middle Ages (5)
- HIST 414 The Conquering Arms (5)

Europe since 1450 CE (EUR2)
- HIST 113 Western Civilization 1713-PreSent (5)
- *HIST 232 History of the Jews (5)
- *HIST 233 History of the Jews in the Modern Era (5)
- HIST 289 Islam in France (5)
- *HIST 290 Early Modern Atlantic World (5)
- *HIST 314 American & European Enlightenment (5)
- HIST 321 Reformation Europe-Age of Religious Wars (5)
- HIST 330 Germany in the 20th Century (5)
- HIST 331 History of the Holocaust (5)
- HIST 333 Imperial Russia 1689-1917 (5)
- HIST 334 20th Century Russia (5)
- HIST 341 France 1500-1815 (5)
- HIST 342 France 1815-1945 (5)
- HIST 373 Yiddish Monuments & Monstrous in Jewish (5)
- HIST 381 Jewish Nationalisms (5)
- *HIST 408 World War II. The European War (5)
- HIST 421 Gender in Early Modern Europe (5)
- *HIST 447 History of the Sciences of Nature (5)
- HIST 471 Piracy in the Early Mod Atlantic World (5)
- HIST 474 History of the Sciences of Nature (5)
- HIST 475 Topics in American Indian History (5)
- *HIST 480 World History of Football (5)
- *HIST 481 The Chinese Revolution (5)
- HIST 483 Early Modern Japan (5)
- *HIST 486 Religion in Japanese History (5)
- HIST 488 Modern Egypt / Libya & Nile Valley (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 232 History of the Jews (5)
- *HIST 280 Intro to 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 410 First Cities: Urbanization (5)
- HIST 412 Ancient Rivers and Roads (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 (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 Writings for the Profession (5)

Other History options:
- BAE 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

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
- BCGM: HIST 158, 262, 263, 265, 268, 275, 278, 353

Check Classifier or Online Timetable for departmental offerings each quarter.

(see Catalog)

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