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 Credit

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

- Three courses in one of the fields below
- Three courses in a second field
- Three courses in a third field
- At least one course in each field must be an upper-division course.

### History 499: Historical Research (5 credits)
Electives under advisement to reach a minimum 60 credits

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.

At least one-half of the total history credits must be in upper-division (300-400 level) courses.

### United States

- **HIST 103 American History to 1865 (5)**
- **HIST 104 American History Since 1865 (5)**
- **HIST 131 Going to College in America (5)**
- **HIST 152 Being Human (5)**
- **HIST 158 Race/Identity in Modern America (5)**
- **HIST 262 African American History to 1865 (5)**
- **HIST 263 African Americans Since 1865 (5)**
- **HIST 265 LGBT Exp. in U.S. History (5)**
- **HIST 275 The Indian in American History (5)**
- **HIST 314 The Amer & European Enlightenment (5)**
- **HIST 330 American Colonial History (5)**
- **HIST 333 Imperial Russia 1689-1917 (5)**
- **HIST 347 History of the Sciences of Nature (5)**
- **HIST 447 History of the Sciences of Nature (5)**
- **HIST 448 European Intellectual History (5)**

### Ancient

- **HIST 111 Prehistory to 476 (5)**
- **HIST 121 World History to 500 (5)**
- **HIST 151 Communities of the Ancient World (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 349 Women, Gender & Sexuality in Afr. Hist (5)**
- **HIST 408 World War II: The European War (5)**
- **HIST 409 World War II: The Pacific War (5)**
- **HIST 410 First Cities: Urbanization (5)**
- **HIST 412 Ancient Rivers & Roads (5)**

### East and South Asia

- **HIST 280 Intro to East Asian Civilizations (5)**
- **HIST 281 E.A. History-Modern/Modem (5)**
- **HIST 370 Chinese History to 600 AD (5)**
- **HIST 371 History of Ancient Egypt (5)**
- **HIST 372 Chinese History 1800-Present (5)**
- **HIST 374 Pre-Modern Japanese History (5)**
- **HIST 375 Modern Japanese History (5)**
- **HIST 377 Japanese History through Film (5)**
- **HIST 409 World War II: The Pacific War (5)**
- **HIST 412 First Cities: Urbanization (5)**
- **HIST 413 History of the Jews (5)**
- **HIST 414 History of the Sciences of Nature (5)**

### Africa and Middle East

- **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 310 History of Ancient Mesopotamia (5)**
- **HIST 311 History of Ancient Egypt (5)**
- **HIST 369 Women, Gender & Sexuality in Afr. Hist (5)**
- **HIST 385 West African History (5)**
- **HIST 386 Southern Africa (5)**
- **HIST 405 The Traditional Middle East (5)**
- **HIST 406 Middle East, 1800 to the Present (5)**
- **HIST 407 Hist. of the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict (5)**
- **HIST 488 Modern Egypt/Libya & Nile Valley (5)**

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

- **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 376 French Colonial Canada: 1534-1763 (5)**
- **HIST 379 Canadian American Relations (5)**
- **HIST 469 African Slavery in 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 C (5)**
- **HIST 476 World Histories of the Middle Class (5)**
- **HIST 490 Advanced Topics in 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)**
- **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 (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**
- **BGCM: HIST 158, 262, 263, 265, 268, 275, 278, 353**

Check Classfinder or Online Timetable for departmental offerings each quarter.

Revised 9/8/15