

Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of General Studies in History

Why study history?

We study the past to gain insight for living in our present. At the collegiate level, studying history comprises much more than memorizing names or dates. Historians examine change over time and are most interested in questions that ask 'why' or 'how.' These questions demand complex answers about who we are and how we have come to be where we are.

A major in History teaches skills in research, evaluation, analysis, and communication that allow us to better understand what it means to be human in an increasingly complex and interdependent world. As a department we are:

Welcoming: In our teaching and research, faculty are committed to recovering and centering voices of people whose historical experiences have been marginalized through systemic racism, gender and sex prejudice, and class bias. We welcome all students in our classrooms.

Relevant: The study of history at the collegiate level prepares students for global citizenship and teaches them to construct evidence-based arguments, even in the face of uncertainty, bias, and incomplete information. Our courses develop skills in critical thinking, analysis of qualitative and quantitative sources, research methods and practices, and effective communication—all of which transfer to any number of future careers and occupations.

Personal: Courses (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/history/#courseinventory>) in the department are usually small, and the larger courses always include trained Graduate Teaching Assistants to give individual attention and feedback. All our required seminars are capped at fifteen students, and each affords the opportunity to work one-on-one with a faculty member.

Prominent: Faculty (<https://history.ku.edu/faculty/>) in the department are nationally and internationally recognized leaders in their field, and they bring this advanced knowledge into the classroom

Flexible: Students must take only two required courses - a seminar on historical methods (HIST 301 (<https://catalog.ku.edu/search/?P=HIST%20301>)) and a senior research seminar (HIST 696 (<https://catalog.ku.edu/search/?P=HIST%20696>)) or honors thesis (HIST 690 (<https://catalog.ku.edu/search/?P=HIST%20690>) & HIST 691 (<https://catalog.ku.edu/search/?P=HIST%20691>)). Because few courses have sequential prerequisites, History is easy to take as a minor or as a second major.

Undergraduate Admission

Admission to KU

All students applying for admission must send high school and college transcripts to the Office of Admissions. Prospective first-year students should be aware that KU has qualified admission requirements that all new first-year students must meet to be admitted. Consult the Office of Admissions (<http://admissions.ku.edu/>) for application deadlines and specific admission requirements.

Visit the International Support Services (<http://www.iss.ku.edu/>) for information about international admissions.

Students considering transferring to KU may see how their college-level course work will transfer on the Office of the University Registrar (<https://registrar.ku.edu/credittransfer/>) website.

Declaring a Major

The Department of History has no admission prerequisites or requirements before declaring a major. You can declare a History major by scheduling an appointment with our Advising Specialist (<https://history.ku.edu/people/mikhayla-sheeley/>) to fill out a Major Declaration Form. We urge you to meet with the Director of Undergraduate Studies (<https://history.ku.edu/people/nathan-wood/>) and our Advising Specialist when you declare, so that we can explain the major requirements and get to know you and your interests. There is no set time for declaring your major, but you should try to contact the department early for advising, preferably before the end of your sophomore year.

First- and Second-Year Preparation

Prospective majors are encouraged to enroll in one or two introductory courses at the 100 or 200 level in the first two years. Students who come to KU with AP or transfer credit should be aware that only nine hours of history course work numbered 100-299 may be counted toward the major.

Many history courses fulfill Core 34: Arts and Humanities or US & Global Culture requirements

Requirements for the B.A. or B.G.S. Major

Code	Title	Hours
History Major Foundational Knowledge and Skills		
Majors must complete a course in the following area:		
The Historian's Craft. Satisfied by:		
HIST 301	The Historian's Craft	3
History Required Electives		
Majors must complete a minimum of 12 hours (4 courses) in both Category I and Category II below. The remaining 6 hours may be taken from either category.		30
History Category I: Western Orientation. Satisfied by courses in Ancient, Medieval, Modern Western Europe, Russia/Eastern Europe, United States:		
HIST 101	Introduction to Western History: _____	
HIST 102	Introduction to History, Honors: _____	
HIST 103	Environment and History	
HIST 105	Introduction to Ancient Near Eastern and Greek History	
HIST 106	Introduction to Roman History	
HIST 108	Medieval History	
HIST 109	The Black Experience in the Americas	
HIST 112	Introduction to British History	
HIST 114	Renaissance to Revolution: Europe 1500-1789	
HIST 115	French Revolution to the Present: Europe 1789-Present	
HIST 117	Russia and its Empires	
HIST 125	The History of Global Capitalism	
HIST 128	History of the United States Through the Civil War	

HIST 129	History of the United States After the Civil War	HIST 358	The Vietnam War
HIST 138	Fascisms in History: Past, Present ... Future?	HIST 359	The Black Experience in the U.S. Since Emancipation
HIST 139	The Global Cold War	HIST 362	The American Way of War Since World War II
HIST 150	Introduction to Food History: Around the World in Eight Dishes	HIST 363	Perspectives on Science, Engineering and Mathematics
HIST 177	First Year Seminar: _____	HIST 364	Taking the Red Pill: Men and Masculinities Today
HIST 201	Writing the Past-Category I/Western Topics: _____	HIST 367	Magic and Superstition in European History
HIST 203	Speaking the Past-Category I/Western Topics: _____	HIST 374	The History of Modern American Conservatism
HIST 208	Latina/o/x Civil Rights Movements	HIST 376	Immigrants, Refugees, and Diasporas
HIST 231	War and 20th Century U.S. Culture	HIST 377	Everyday Communism in Eastern Europe
HIST 250	Study Abroad Topics in: _____	HIST 378	Beyond the Iron Curtain: Soviet Perspectives on the Cold War
HIST 285	Headless Men: Conquest and Cultural Exchange Before the Age of Exploration	HIST 380	Introduction to Public History
HIST 305	Technological Revolutions and Global Transformations	HIST 383	United States in the 1960s
HIST 308	Key Themes in Modern Global History	HIST 384	Chicana/Latina Women's History
HIST 309	Empire and Medicine: Disease, Contact, and the Development of Biomedical Knowledge	HIST 386	Trans: A Global History
HIST 311	Gender and Power in Modern American Politics	HIST 387	Alexander the Great: Man and Myth
HIST 312	American Culture, 1877 to the Present	HIST 388	Julius Caesar: Man and Myth
HIST 314	Globalization: History and Theory	HIST 389	Topics in Western History: _____
HIST 316	Ministers and Magicians: Black Religions from Slavery to the Present	HIST 391	Topics in (Honors): _____
HIST 318	Indian Territory	HIST 396	Hitler and Nazi Germany, Honors
HIST 319	History, Women, and Diversity in the U.S.	HIST 401	Case Studies in: _____
HIST 320	From Goddesses to Witches: Women in Premodern Europe	HIST 402	War and Society in Greece and Rome
HIST 321	From Mystics to Feminists: Women's History in Europe 1600 to the Present	HIST 403	Playing with the Past: History in Games and Gaming
HIST 322	LGBTQ U.S. History, 1600-1900	HIST 404	Technology and the Modern World
HIST 323	LGBTQ U.S. History, 1900-Present	HIST 405	Women, Gender, and Sexuality in the North American West
HIST 324	History of Women and the Body	HIST 407	Technology in American History
HIST 325	The Spanish Inquisition	HIST 408	History of the Great Plains
HIST 331	Age of Empires-The Atlantic 1400-1800	HIST 410	The American Revolution
HIST 332	Sex in History	HIST 412	The Civil War in America, 1828-1877
HIST 333	Eurometro: Visions of the European Metropolis, 1849-1939	HIST 418	Israel/Palestine: The War of 1948
HIST 334	The Great War: The History of World War I	HIST 441	Aviation in American Culture
HIST 335	History of Jewish Women	HIST 442	The Politics of Racial Injustice in the United States
HIST 336	Ethics, Ideas and Nature	HIST 450	Study Abroad Topics in: _____
HIST 337	History, Ethics, Modernity	HIST 475	Professional Skills in the Humanities
HIST 340	The History of the Second World War	HIST 492	Readings in History
HIST 341	Hitler and Nazi Germany	HIST 494	Service Learning in History
HIST 343	The Holocaust in History	HIST 501	Topics in Western History: _____
HIST 344	Modern Jewish History	HIST 502	The Age of Heroes: Early Greece
HIST 345	Hard Times: The Depression Years in America, 1929-1941	HIST 504	Rise of Athens and Sparta
HIST 347	Environmental History of North America	HIST 506	Roman Republic
HIST 348	History of the Peoples of Kansas	HIST 507	Early Roman Empire
HIST 349	Antisemitism: A Long History	HIST 508	Late Roman Empire (284-527)
HIST 350	The Korean War, 1950-1953	HIST 510	Topics in Non-Western History: _____
HIST 356	At the Movies: U.S. History on the Silver Screen	HIST 514	The Civil Rights Movement
HIST 357	History of the American West	HIST 517	The Seventies: An American History
		HIST 518	Capitalism and the Black Experience
		HIST 520	The Age of the Renaissance
		HIST 521	The Age of the Reformation
		HIST 525	France and Its Empire: From Acadia to Zidane

HIST 527	Recent European History, 1870 to the Present
HIST 530	History of American Women--Colonial Times to 1870
HIST 531	History of American Women--1870 to Present
HIST 563	U.S. Environmental Thought in the 20th Century
HIST 564	Medieval Russia
HIST 568	Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union
HIST 574	Slavery in the New World
HIST 630	The United States and the World, 1890-2003
HIST 649	History of Feminist Theory
JOUR 618	First Amendment and Society
History Category II: Non-western Orientation. Satisfied by courses in Africa and Middle East, East Asia, Latin America, Native America:	
HIST 102	Introduction to History, Honors: _____
HIST 103	Environment and History
HIST 104	Introduction to African History
HIST 109	The Black Experience in the Americas
HIST 110	Introduction to Non-Western History: _____
HIST 117	Russia and its Empires
HIST 118	Premodern East Asia
HIST 119	Modern East Asia
HIST 120	Colonial Latin America
HIST 121	Modern Latin America
HIST 124	Latin American Culture and Society
HIST 125	The History of Global Capitalism
HIST 139	The Global Cold War
HIST 150	Introduction to Food History: Around the World in Eight Dishes
HIST 160	Introduction to West African History
HIST 177	First Year Seminar: _____
HIST 202	Writing the Past-Category II/Non-Western Topics: _____
HIST 204	Speaking the Past-Category II/Non-Western Topics: _____
HIST 250	Study Abroad Topics in: _____
HIST 300	Modern Africa
HIST 307	Modern Africa, Honors
HIST 308	Key Themes in Modern Global History
HIST 309	Empire and Medicine: Disease, Contact, and the Development of Biomedical Knowledge
HIST 314	Globalization: History and Theory
HIST 318	Indian Territory
HIST 326	Indigenous History of the Western Hemisphere
HIST 327	The Premodern Middle East
HIST 328	The Modern Middle East
HIST 332	Sex in History
HIST 336	Ethics, Ideas and Nature
HIST 337	History, Ethics, Modernity
HIST 348	History of the Peoples of Kansas
HIST 351	American Indian and White Relations to 1865
HIST 352	American Indians Since 1865
HIST 353	Indigenous Peoples of North America

HIST 368	A History of Afro-Latin America
HIST 376	Immigrants, Refugees, and Diasporas
HIST 378	Beyond the Iron Curtain: Soviet Perspectives on the Cold War
HIST 386	Trans: A Global History
HIST 387	Alexander the Great: Man and Myth
HIST 390	Topics in Non-Western History: _____
HIST 391	Topics in (Honors): _____
HIST 394	Made in China: Chinese Business History
HIST 395	History of Sushi
HIST 397	From Mao to Now: China's Red Revolution
HIST 399	The Samurai
HIST 400	Indigenous People of the Great Plains
HIST 401	Case Studies in: _____
HIST 403	Playing with the Past: History in Games and Gaming
HIST 415	The Rise of Civilization
HIST 422	China and Latin America: A History of Trade, Migration, and Interconnectedness
HIST 450	Study Abroad Topics in: _____
HIST 463	Modern Korean Art and Culture
HIST 480	Travelers' Tales of the Middle East
HIST 481	From Harem to the Streets: Gender in the Middle East, 1900-Present
HIST 492	Readings in History
HIST 494	Service Learning in History
HIST 510	Topics in Non-Western History: _____
HIST 512	Foodways: Latin America
HIST 525	France and Its Empire: From Acadia to Zidane
HIST 561	Liberation in Southern Africa
HIST 564	Medieval Russia
HIST 568	Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union
HIST 570	The Middle East After World War II
HIST 571	Pre-Hispanic Mexico and Central America
HIST 572	Ancient American Civilizations: The Central Andes
HIST 574	Slavery in the New World
HIST 577	The Andean World
HIST 578	Global Indigenous History
HIST 579	The History of Brazil
HIST 580	Economic History of Latin America
HIST 584	Modern China
HIST 598	Sexuality and Gender in African History
HIST 603	History of Tibet
HIST 604	Contemporary Greater China

History Capstone Seminar

Majors must complete a capstone research experience in which they research and write an original thesis based on primary sources. It normally is taken during the senior year. Alternatively, students with a Major GPA of 3.5 or above may choose to write a senior honors thesis. Satisfied by one of the following:

HIST 696	Seminar in: _____
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or HIST 690 Honors Course in History
& HIST 691 and Undergraduate History Honors Seminar

Total Hours **36**

History Major Hours & Major GPA

While completing all required courses, majors must also meet each of the following hour and grade point average minimum standards:

Major Hours

Satisfied by 36 hours of major courses. No more than 2 HIST 492 Readings in History courses may be applied to the major. Only courses taken in the Department of History or cross-listed in other units are accepted for credit toward the major.

Major Hours in Residence

Satisfied by a minimum of 15 hours of KU resident credit in the major.

Major Junior/Senior Hours

Satisfied by a minimum of 27 hours from junior/senior courses (300+) in the major. Of these 27 hours, at least 6 hours (two courses) must be taken at the 500-699 level (in addition to HIST 696).

Major Junior/Senior Graduation (300+) GPA

Satisfied by a minimum of a 2.0 KU GPA in junior/senior courses (300+) in the major. GPA calculations include all junior/senior courses in the field of study including F's and repeated courses. See the Semester/Cumulative GPA Calculator (<https://sis.ku.edu/gpa-calculator/>).

Graduation Plan

With careful planning and commitment to a full-time course load, you can graduate with a degree in History in four years. Consult with an Advising Specialist for help in creating your graduation plan.

Double Majors

Many history majors choose to pursue a second major. Fulfilling the requirements of 2 majors in a timely fashion requires careful choice of courses. Consult with an Advising Specialist for help in creating a graduation plan that fulfills all requirements.

A sample 4-year plan for the BA degree in History can be found here: History (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/history/ba-bgs/ba-history/>), or by using the left-side navigation.

A sample 4-year plan for the BGS degree in History can be found here: History (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/history/ba-bgs/BGS-in-History/>), or by using the left-side navigation.

At the completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Synthesize and assess information gathered from primary and secondary source materials.
- Construct an historical question.
- Conduct historical research and develop informational literacy through the navigation of libraries, databases, and archives.
- Effectively compose and communicate an historical, evidence-based argument to both specialists and a general audience.
- Appreciate and examine diverse perspectives across time and space.

Departmental Honors

The honors program in history allows exceptional undergraduates to work closely with faculty members on a year-long original research project. To graduate with honors, a student must: 1) complete the requirements for the major in history, 2) enroll in the two semester research sequence HIST 690/HIST 691, 3) maintain a 3.5 GPA in History, and 4) successfully defend an Honors Thesis in an oral examination.

Instead of completing the standard capstone course HIST 696, students pursuing Honors in History enroll in a two-semester sequence: HIST 690, in which the student carries out direct research on the topic of their choice under the supervision of a faculty advisor; and HIST 691, which provides a group setting for writing and revision of an Honors Thesis. The rigor of these two courses approximates graduate work and is an invaluable experience for those considering a graduate degree. In exceptional circumstances, a student may complete HIST 696 and, by invitation, enroll in HIST 691 to develop the seminar paper into an honors thesis.

Each student who completes an Honors Thesis must defend it in an oral examination before a thesis committee of three faculty members. In most cases, the committee is composed of history faculty, but committee members from outside the department are encouraged as well. Upon completion, a copy of the thesis is deposited in the department and uploaded to KU Scholar Works.

Petitions for exceptions to these regulations should be submitted to the Honors Coordinator.