

# HISTORY MAJOR

Students must also complete the Undergraduate Registration Requirement (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/requirements-policies/undergraduate-registration-requirement/>) and the degree requirements of their home school.

**NOTE:** This Catalog describes Weinberg College BA requirements that pertain to students who matriculated at Northwestern after spring quarter 2023. Refer to the Archives (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/archives/>) if you are following BA requirements described in the 2018-2019 through 2022-2023 editions.

The history major enables students to broaden their intellectual horizons as they study the experiences of people in times and places other than their own. Courses are designed to develop the ability to read insightfully, think critically, and write with precision and polish. Students enroll in a range of historical courses as well as develop an area of concentration.

## Major Requirements (12 units)

- 2 undergraduate seminars. With department advisor permission a seminar course may also be counted as a course inside or outside of a concentration, but double-counting does not reduce the total number of courses required for the major.
  - At least 1 unit HISTORY 393-0 Approaches to History (taken as soon as possible after declaring the history major)
  - At least 1 unit HISTORY 395-0 Research Seminar
- 10 courses split between courses inside and outside a concentration
  - Students doing a geographic concentration take 6 courses inside one of these areas, with the remaining 4 outside the concentration: African/Middle Eastern history (p. 1), Asian/Middle Eastern history (p. 1), English/European history (p. 2), History of the Americas (p. 2)
  - Students doing the Global history concentration take Global History: Early Modern to Modern Transition (HISTORY 250-1) and Global History: The Modern World (HISTORY 250-2), 2 additional Global history (p. 2) courses, and either 2 from each of 3 geographic areas or 3 from each of 2 geographic areas
- Additional rules include:
  - No more than 1 may be an introductory colloquium (either HISTORY 101-7 or HISTORY 101-8).
  - At least 2 of the courses at the 200- and 300-level must be focused on Europe or the Americas before 1800, OR on Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, or Global (any period).
  - Up to two may be specific courses taught by other departments and programs, including CLASSICS 211-0, CLASSICS 212-0, ECON 318-0, ECON 323-1, ECON 323-2, ECON 324-0, RELIGION 264-0, RELIGION 265-0, other classes taught by History Department faculty (core faculty, visiting faculty, or history lecturers), and (with permission of the director of undergraduate studies) some class offerings of ECON 315-0. Substitute courses might be applied inside or outside the concentration, but may not be substituted for HISTORY 393-0 or HISTORY 395-0 (undergraduate seminar requirement).
  - Up to three courses completed on a study abroad program may be counted towards the major with approval of a faculty advisor.
  - With adviser approval 1 unit of Chicago Field Studies may be applied towards the major.

- No credit based on test scores (such as AP or IB) may be counted towards the major.
- Courses completed with a grade of P may not be applied to the major; see Weinberg College - Grade Requirements (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/#graderequirements>).

## Concentration course lists for the major

### African/Middle Eastern history

Course	Title
HISTORY 255-1	African Civilizations
HISTORY 255-2	Africa in the Age of Early Modern Empires
HISTORY 255-3	Modern Africa
HISTORY 270-0	Middle Eastern/Islamic Civilization
HISTORY 271-1	History of the Islamic Middle East: 600-1200
HISTORY 271-2	History of the Islamic Middle East: 1200-1789
HISTORY 271-3	History of the Modern Middle East, 1789 - Present
HISTORY 272-0	History of Ancient Egypt, 3100-c. 1000 B.C.E.
HISTORY 356-1	History of South Africa, Early Times to 1879
HISTORY 356-2	History of South Africa, 1879-on
HISTORY 357-0	East Africa
HISTORY 358-0	Topics in West African History
HISTORY 373-1	The Last Empire of Islam: The Ottomans in Europe and Asia in the Early Modern Era
HISTORY 373-2	The Ottoman Empire in the Age of Nationalism: From "Grand Signor" to the "Sick Man of Europe"
HISTORY 374-0	The Arabian Peninsula Since the 18th Century
Other as approved by department advisor.	

### Asian/Middle Eastern history

Course	Title
HISTORY 270-0	Middle Eastern/Islamic Civilization
HISTORY 271-1	History of the Islamic Middle East: 600-1200
HISTORY 271-2	History of the Islamic Middle East: 1200-1789
HISTORY 271-3	History of the Modern Middle East, 1789 - Present
HISTORY 272-0	History of Ancient Egypt, 3100-c. 1000 B.C.E.
HISTORY 281-0	Chinese Civilization
HISTORY 284-1	Ancient and Medieval Japan: From the Realm of the Gods to the Age of the Samurai
HISTORY 284-2	Early Modern Japan
HISTORY 286-0	World War II in Asia
HISTORY 373-1	The Last Empire of Islam: The Ottomans in Europe and Asia in the Early Modern Era
HISTORY 373-2	The Ottoman Empire in the Age of Nationalism: From "Grand Signor" to the "Sick Man of Europe"
HISTORY 374-0	The Arabian Peninsula Since the 18th Century
HISTORY 381-1	Qing China
HISTORY 381-2	Modern China: The Twentieth Century
HISTORY 381-3	Modern China: Post-Mao Reforms, 1978-2016
HISTORY 381-SA	Beijing: Politics and Power in Modern China
HISTORY 382-0	The Modern Japanese City
HISTORY 383-0	Japan's Modern Revolution
HISTORY 384-1	History of Modern Japan: The Modern State, 1860-1943
HISTORY 384-2	History of Modern Japan: War and postwar Japan, 1943-present
HISTORY 385-1	History of Modern South Asia, 1500-1800
HISTORY 385-2	History of Modern South Asia, ca. 1750-present
HISTORY 386-2	Southeast Asia in the Age of Empire

HISTORY 386-3	Southeast Asia: Decolonization & Independence
HISTORY 388-0	The Mongol Empire
Other as approved by department advisor.	

### English/European history

Course	Title
HISTORY 201-1	Europe in the Medieval and Early Modern World
HISTORY 201-2	Europe in the Modern World
HISTORY 203-1	Jewish History I: 750-1492
HISTORY 203-2	Jewish History II: Early Modern, 1492-1789
HISTORY 203-3	Jewish History III: 1789-1948
HISTORY 261-0	Sex after Shakespeare
HISTORY 330-0	Medieval Sex
HISTORY 331-0	Women in Medieval Society
HISTORY 332-1	Medieval Europe I: Early Middle Ages, 300-1000
HISTORY 332-2	Medieval Europe II: High & Late Middle Ages, 1000-1450
HISTORY 333-0	The European Renaissance
HISTORY 334-0	The Reformation of Religion
HISTORY 336-0	Spain 1500 - 1700: Rise and Fall of a European Empire
HISTORY 337-0	History of Modern Europe
HISTORY 338-1	Europe in the 20th Century, 1900-1945
HISTORY 338-2	Europe in the 20th Century, 1945-Present
HISTORY 340-0	Gender, War, and Revolution in the 20th Century
HISTORY 341-0	Paris: World City, 1700 to the Present
HISTORY 342-1	The French Revolution and Napoleon
HISTORY 342-2	History of Modern France: 19th c. to present
HISTORY 343-0	Modern Italy
HISTORY 344-1	German History: Weimar and Nazi Germany
HISTORY 344-2	German History: Germany Since 1945
HISTORY 345-1	History of Russia, 800-1917: From Kievan Rus to the Bolshevik Revolution
HISTORY 345-2	History of Russia, 1917-1991: The Soviet Union
HISTORY 345-3	History of Russia, 1991-Present: After Communism
HISTORY 346-0	East Central Europe under Communist Rule and Beyond, 1945 to the Present
HISTORY 347-0	Christians and Jews
HISTORY 348-1	Jews in Poland, Ukraine, and Russia
HISTORY 348-2	Jews in Poland, Ukraine, and Russia
HISTORY 349-0	The Holocaust
HISTORY 350-0	Soviet History Through Film
HISTORY 351-0	Europe in the Age of Total War
HISTORY 353-0	History of Capitalism, 1500-1850
HISTORY 360-0	Tudor and Stuart Britain
HISTORY 362-1	Modern British History, 1688 - 1815
HISTORY 362-2	The Victorians: liberalism, empire, and morality, 1780-1900
HISTORY 362-3	Britain since 1900: The Decline and Fall of Empire
HISTORY 364-0	Gender and Sexuality in Victorian Britain
Other as approved by department advisor.	

### Global history

Students doing the Global History concentration complete

HISTORY 250-1 and HISTORY 250-2 plus two of the following to complete 4 courses inside the concentration.

Course	Title
HISTORY 248-0	Global Legal History
HISTORY 251-0	The Politics of Disaster: A Global Environmental History
HISTORY 252-0	Global History of Refugees
HISTORY 253-0	A Global History of Prisons and Camps
HISTORY 254-0	Entrepreneurship: A Global History
HISTORY 262-0	Pirates, Guns, and Empires
HISTORY 352-0	A Global History of Death and Dying
HISTORY 376-0	Global Environments and World History
HISTORY 379-0	Biomedicine and World History
Other course as approved by department advisor.	

### History of the Americas

Course	Title
HISTORY 210-1	North America and the United States to 1865
HISTORY 210-2	History of the United States, Reconstruction to the Present
HISTORY 211-0	American Wars
HISTORY 212-1	Introduction to African-American History: Key concepts from 1700-1861
HISTORY 212-2	Introduction to African American History: Emancipation to Civil Rights Movement
HISTORY 214-0	Asian American History
HISTORY 215-0	History of the American Family
HISTORY 216-0	Global Asians
HISTORY 218-0	The History of Latinas and Latinos in the United States
HISTORY 219-0	History of the Present
HISTORY 221-0	Famous American Trials
HISTORY 260-1	Becoming Latin America, 1492-1830
HISTORY 260-2	History of Modern Latin America
HISTORY 264-0	The Age of Revolutions, 1775-1848
HISTORY 303-1	American Women's History, to 1865
HISTORY 303-2	American Women's History, since 1865
HISTORY 304-0	Asian American Women's History
HISTORY 305-0	American Immigration
HISTORY 308-0	The American West
HISTORY 309-0	American Environmental History
HISTORY 310-1	Early American History: Contact and Colonization
HISTORY 310-2	American Revolution: From British Colonies to Republican Empire
HISTORY 311-0	Democracy and its Discontents: The US from the Constitution to the Mexican War
HISTORY 314-0	The Civil War and Reconstruction
HISTORY 315-1	The United States Since 1900: Early 20th C.
HISTORY 315-2	The United States Since 1900: Mid-20th C.
HISTORY 315-3	The United States Since 1900: Late 20th C. to Present
HISTORY 316-0	The Sixties
HISTORY 317-1	American Cultural History: 19th C.
HISTORY 317-2	American Cultural History: 20th C. to Present
HISTORY 318-1	Legal and Constitutional History of the United States: Colonial Period to 1850
HISTORY 318-2	Legal and Constitutional History of the United States: 1850 to Present
HISTORY 319-0	US Foreign Relations
HISTORY 320-0	The Fourteenth Amendment
HISTORY 321-0	The Vietnam Wars

HISTORY 322-1	Development of the Modern American City: to 1880
HISTORY 322-2	Development of the Modern American City: 1880-Present
HISTORY 324-0	US Gay and Lesbian History
HISTORY 325-0	History of American Technology
HISTORY 326-0	U.S. Intellectual History
HISTORY 327-0	Histories of Violence in the United States
HISTORY 365-0	Medicine in Latin America: From Chocolate to Che Guevara
HISTORY 366-0	Latin America in the Independence Era: American Indians and Nations
HISTORY 367-0	History of Mexico
HISTORY 368-2	Revolutions in Latin America and the Caribbean from Haiti to Mexico
HISTORY 369-0	Development and Inequality in Modern Latin America
HISTORY 370-0	Music and Nation in Latin America
Other as approved by department advisor.	

## Honors in History

Junior majors with strong academic records and an interest in pursuing honors attend informational sessions during winter quarter. They submit a thesis proposal and a letter of recommendation from a Northwestern history professor by an early spring deadline. Those chosen enroll as seniors in a 3-quarter thesis seminar (HISTORY 398-1, HISTORY 398-2, HISTORY 398-3) and submit a completed thesis in May. All 3 thesis seminar quarters (HISTORY 398-1, HISTORY 398-2, HISTORY 398-3) may count toward the major; see the department for details.

Students whose theses and grades meet department criteria are recommended to the college for graduation with honors. For more information consult the director of undergraduate studies and see Honors in the Major (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/#academicoptionstext>).