The Undergraduate Study of History at
San Francisco State University

The History B.A., The History Honors B.A., and The History Minor

THE STUDY OF HISTORY provides a way of knowing, a mode of understanding human behavior by examining things in the light of their origins, of the changes they have undergone during their existence, and of the processes by which they have reached their present state. Students who major in history will learn how to apply such an approach to the study of human communities. History students can expect to encounter such issues as these: How did the Depression of the 1930s influence changes in American government? How has the communist revolution affected the Chinese family? Why did European nations create empires in the 19th century?

STUDENTS OF HISTORY can expect to develop both knowledge about the past and skills of analysis and interpretation. They learn how to assess the adequacy of evidence, how to compare and contrast, how to synthesize, and how to draw conclusions. Some history majors will find careers teaching history, and others will present history to the public through archives, museums, writing, preservation programs, and the like. Other history majors will choose fields such as foreign service or will pursue professional studies in fields such as law, business, library science, or journalism. Because the skills learned in the study of history can be applied to a variety of circumstances, they will prove useful throughout life regardless of one's eventual choice of career.

THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT at S.F.S.U. offers several programs designed to meet the needs of different groups of students interested in history. The history major provides a foundation in the history of Western Civilization or World History, the history of the United States, and historical analysis, plus advanced work in the history of three regions of the world. The Honors Concentration builds upon the history major by adding an honors thesis. The Waiver Program for the Secondary Teaching Credential in History/Social Science builds upon the history major by adding courses designed to provide appropriate subject competency for the prospective secondary teacher. The history minor allows majors in other fields to pursue a structured introduction to history. Within any of these four undergraduate programs, ample opportunity exists for students to develop special interests, for example, urban development, diplomatic history, women's history, or the history of ideas. Students may choose to pursue interests in depth or to explore a wide variety of concerns within their major. History faculty members have earned their doctoral degrees at leading universities throughout the nation and the world. Many have achieved significant recognition for their contributions to their fields.

THE HISTORY MAJOR -- REQUIREMENTS:

Lower Division Courses (usually taken in freshman and sophomore years)
These courses should be taken as soon as possible because they lay a foundation for further study of history. They are prerequisites for the upper division courses. These courses may be taken at a community college. To ascertain what your community college course equates to at sfsu, please visit assist.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>History 114, World History to 1500, and History 115, World History since 1500</td>
<td>3</td>
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Upper Division Courses (usually taken in junior and senior years)
These courses cannot be transferred from a community college. History 300 and the History Proseminar must be completed in residence at San Francisco State University.

History 300, Seminar in Historical Analysis 3
You should take History 300 as soon as possible after you have completed your lower division requirements and before you take most of your other upper division courses. You must complete History 300 before you take the required Proseminar. History 300 may not be taken for CR/NC.

Primary field (chosen from the fields listed below and explained at the end of this manual) 12
Secondary field (chosen from the fields listed below and explained at the end of this manual) 6
Secondary field (chosen from the fields listed below and explained at the end of this manual) 6

One course from the primary field or either of the secondary fields must be a History Proseminar (courses numbered 640, 642, or 644). The Proseminar will apply the knowledge that you have learned from your other courses at an advanced level. The History Proseminar may not be taken for CR/NC.

Total Units in Major: 39

At least 27 of the 39 units must be upper division (courses numbered 300 or higher).

Fields of Concentration:  Students are required to take courses from three fields in order to earn their Bachelor’s degree in History:

One field must be U.S. History, and two other fields must be chosen from the following geographic areas: Africa, Asia, Europe (pre- or post-1500), Latin America, or The Middle East.

The primary field consists of 4 courses in one of the three fields. Two courses in each of the 2 remaining fields shall be completed to meet the secondary field requirements. This insures that students have a well-rounded understanding of History.

No more than six units in your major program may be taken for CR/NC, and neither History 300 nor the History Proseminar will be accepted toward your degree if taken for CR/NC. With an adviser's consent, you may select up to 6 units from the offerings of other departments to count toward your history major.

THE HISTORY MINOR -- REQUIREMENTS:

The History Minor provides an opportunity for students majoring in fields other than history to pursue a structured course of study in History and to have it reflected on their transcript through designation of history as a minor field of study.
**Lower Division Courses** (usually taken in freshman and sophomore years)
These courses should be taken as soon as possible because they lay a foundation for further study of history. They are prerequisites for the upper division courses. These courses may be taken at a community college. To ascertain what your community college course equates to at SFSU, please visit assist.org

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**Upper Division Courses**
History 300, Seminar in Historical Analysis                               | 3     |
Upper Division Electives, Chosen on Advisement                              | 9     |

**Total Units in Minor**                                                   | 24    |

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**THE HONORS HISTORY MAJOR --REQUIREMENTS:**

**Prerequisites:**
In order for a student to be eligible for admission to the History Honors Program, the following requirements must be met:

1. An overall GPA of 3.25 in courses at the college level and an overall GPA of 3.25 in history courses taken.
2. Students must also complete each of the following courses with a grade of B or better:
   - History 110, Western Civilization I, and History 111, Western Civilization II or 6
   - History 114, World History to 1500, and History 115, World History since 1500
   - History 120, History of the U.S. to Reconstruction
   - History 121, History of the U.S. since Reconstruction

**Total Prerequisite Units**                                               | 12    |

The courses listed above are SFSU courses and should be taken as soon as possible because they form the basic introduction to the subject matter of history. They may be taken out of sequence. Equivalent courses from other institutions are also acceptable.

**Required Courses for the Honors Program in History:**

**Major Program**
Upper Division Courses (usually taken in junior and senior years)
These courses cannot be transferred from a community college. History 300 and the History Proseminar must be completed in residence at San Francisco State University.
History 300, Seminar in Historical Analysis

Units

3

You should take History 300 as soon as possible after you have completed your lower division requirements and before you take most of your other upper division courses. You must complete History 300 before you take the required Proseminar. History 300 may not be taken for CR/NC

Primary field (chosen from the fields listed below and explained at the end of this manual) 12
Secondary field (chosen from the fields listed below and explained at the end of this manual) 6
Secondary field (chosen from the fields listed below and explained at the end of this manual) 6

Unlike the regular history major the Proseminar (History 640, 642, or 644) may not be used toward this part of the degree requirement.

Honors Program
History Proseminar (HIST 640, 642, or 644) 3
History 697, Honors Thesis 3

Total Units in Honors Major 45

At least 33 of the 45 units must be upper division, i.e., courses numbered 300 or higher.

Fields of Concentration: Students are required to take courses from three fields to earn their Bachelor’s degree in History. One field must be U.S. History, and two other fields must be chosen from the following geographic areas: Africa, Asia, Europe (pre- or post-1500), Latin America, or The Middle East. The primary field consists of 4 courses in one of the three fields. Two courses in each of the 2 remaining fields shall be completed to meet the secondary field requirements. This insures that students have a well-rounded understanding of History.

No more than six units in your major program may be taken with CR/NCR grading. With an adviser’s consent, you may select up to 6 units from the offerings of other departments to count toward your history major.

Extended Requirements for the Honors Major

1. Language or Statistics/Data Processing Proficiency: To graduate in the History Honors Program, a student must demonstrate either proficiency in statistics/data processing or proficiency in a foreign language at a level comparable to that of students who have successfully completed one year of college courses. This level of proficiency is to be demonstrated as follows:

   Two semesters of college-level language or statistics/data processing with a grade of B or better or
   Equivalent proficiency in a foreign language based on successful completion of an examination to be administered by the Foreign Languages Department.
2. Grade Performance Requirement: Students are expected to maintain a minimum grade of B in each course offered to meet the Honors major requirements, and a grade point average of 3.25 in all courses taken to complete the Honors Program. Students failing to maintain the required GPA will be dropped from the program. Additionally, students will be required to have an overall grade point average of 3.25 in all university-level courses taken to fulfill the University requirements for the Honors degree.

HISTORY COURSES, BY FIELD OF CONCENTRATION

1. A course may be counted only once within the major, even though it may be listed in more than one field.

2. A course may be applied to a field other than the one identified here only if approved by a department advisor, based on the appropriateness of the substitution within the context of the student’s entire program.

3. Courses marked with an asterisk (*) are variable topic courses and may be applied to a field only if the specific topic is appropriate.

4. Up to six units from departments other than History may be counted toward the History major, with the consent of a departmental advisor, based on the appropriateness of the courses for the student’s entire program.

AFRICA

313, Comparative History of Love and Sexuality*
405, Atlantic World*
604, Islamic World I
605, Islamic World II
609, Approaches to the African Past
610, History of Africa
611, Modern Africa
619, Topics in World History*
632, Jewish History I, to 1650
644, Proseminar in World History*
698, Directed Reading in History
699, Special Study

ASIA

313, Comparative History of Love and Sexuality*
569, Ancient Chinese Civilizations
570, Imperial China
571, History of Modern China
575, Women in China and Japan
578, History of Japan
583, Hindus and Muslims
584, India and the British Empire
585, India Since Ghandi
588, Southeast Asia
600, Ancient Near East*
603, Ancient Near East to Muhammad
604, Islamic World I
605, Islamic World II
606, History of Iran and Afghanistan
607, Imperialism and Nationalism in the Recent Near East
619, Topics in World History*
632, Jewish History I, to 1650
644, Proseminar in World History*
698, Directed Reading in History
699, Special Study
### EUROPE PRIOR TO 1500

- 313, Comparative History of Love and Sexuality*
- 320, Archaic and Classical Greece
- 321, Hellenistic Greece
- 322, The Roman Republic
- 323, Imperial Rome
- 325, Late Antiquity
- 326, The Byzantine Empire
- 328, Early Christian Church to 313
- 329, Early Christian Church 313-787
- 330, Early Middle Ages
- 331, High Middle Ages
- 334, The Renaissance
- 349, Topics in European History*
- 600, Ancient Near East*
- 619, Topics in World History*
- 632, Jewish History I, to 1650
- 640, Proseminar in European History
- 644, Proseminar in World History*
- 698, Directed Reading in History
- 699, Special Study

### EUROPE SINCE 1500

- 313, Comparative History of Love and Sexuality*
- 317, Holocaust and Genocide
- 334, The Renaissance
- 336, The Reformation
- 337, Knowing and Unknowing in Early Modern Europe
- 338, Europe and the Wider World
- 342, Europe and the French Revolution
- 344, Nineteenth Century Europe
- 346, Recent European History
- 347, Women in Modern Europe
- 348, Recent European Intellectual History
- 349, Topics in European History*
- 350, Greece and the Balkans
- 351, Venetians and Ottomans
- 385, The Russian Revolution
- 386, Soviet Union and Russia since WWII
- 389, European and International History, 1848-1918
- 390, European and International History, 1918 to Present
- 400, Modern European Imperialism
- 405, Atlantic World*
- 619, Topics in World History*
- 633, Jewish History II, 1650 to present
- 640, Proseminar in European History
- 644, Proseminar in World History*
- 698, Directed Reading in History
- 699, Special Study

### LATIN AMERICA

- 313, Comparative History of Love and Sexuality*
- 405, Atlantic World*
- 500, Colonial Latin America
- 501, Latin America: The National Period
- 520, Central America and the Caribbean
- 524, History of Mexico
- 528, History of Brazil
- 535, Women in Latin America
- 550, Social Change in Modern Latin America
- 619, Topics in World History*
- 644, Proseminar in World History*
- 698, Directed Reading in History
- 699, Special Study

### MIDDLE EAST

- 313, Comparative History of Love and Sexuality*
- 600, Ancient Near East*
- 603, Ancient Near East to Muhammad
- 604, Islamic World I
- 605, Islamic World II
- 606, History of Iran and Afghanistan
- 607, Imperialism and Nationalism in the Recent Near East
- 619, Topics in World History*
- 632, Jewish History I, to 1650
- 633, Jewish History II, 1650 to present
- 644, Proseminar in World History*
- 698, Directed Reading in History
- 699, Special Study
“History illuminates the human condition.” (1) As a field of study, history provides the context with which we define our relationship with our local community, nation, and the world. Without the careful study and analysis of history, the past “remains an impenetrable wilderness.”  (2) History offers an ordered account of past experiences and their significance to our present lives. It transforms obscure, contradictory and confusing events into meaningful occurrences. Analyses of how positive changes have been achieved and how evil has been confronted give us the hope to strive for a better future.
The past affects and shapes everyone’s lives. Its study connects diverse peoples together and provides a measure by which our actions, ideas, goals, and conduct can be evaluated. Knowledge of the past and an understanding of current events enables us to see cause and effect, to perceive what we must maintain or change, and to better analyze political, social, cultural, and economic events to their greatest advantage.

The awareness and incorporation of history into our daily lives fosters personal growth, professional competence, and civic responsibility. Students who undertake study in history develop a frame of reference with which to master other disciplines and build a strong foundation for a career in any field.

Consider supplementing core history requirements with electives that will sharpen logical, critical, and analytic thinking. A general understanding of the mathematical sciences, economics, legal studies and political science, coupled with the ability to express oneself in both written and spoken English is critical. One should select subjects, which focus on human thought and behavior, such as psychology, anthropology, sociology, and comparative literature. In addition, master the ethical dimensions of life in general through courses in religion, ethics, logics, and philosophy. Below are some career possibilities for history majors in five areas: the private, public, and non-profit sectors, education and small firm or individual enterprises.

**Private Sector Opportunities** The private sector offers many opportunities for students with a history or liberal arts background. Listed are numerous, but by no means exhaustive, examples of the types of businesses and industries which rely on employees who can research, document, analyze, synthesize, and communicate effectively.

**Marketing and Advertising** Researching market performance, determining trends for future decisions, analyzing historical marketing techniques and systems and advertising strategies.

**Publishing** Copyediting, manuscript evaluation, researching market demands for historical publications and their uses (educational, personal, etc.)

**Public Relations** Research and analysis of public trends, presentation of clients’ activities based on historical interpretation, manage company archives, write historical material for organizational promotional purposes.

**Manufacturing** Analysis of markets, financial, economic, political risk over-time, staff training in corporate history and foreign cultures through diversity and multiculturalism workshops, collect and document oral histories for organizational diagnosis, manage company archives and curate exhibits of archival materials and memorabilia.

**Mineral Extraction Industries** Analyze political risk and key political figures with reference to economic implications for business; research claims and geographical and land use history, write for corporate communications and public relations, manage company archives and information retrieval services.

**Other Industries** Research, analysis studies, writing public relations and educational materials, archival and records management, etc.

**Utilities** Review local issues and concerns, policy and management studies, information services, historical analysis, manage archives.

**Law** Research public and private archives and records collections, collect oral history for depositions, develop support material form historical evidence.
Banking Produce historical financial, economic, and political risk analyses, manage archives, research policy issues, write and teach staff corporate history, curate and exhibit historical displays.

Insurance Research and evaluate case histories, prepare studies of policy matters, perform legislative analysis, manage company archives.

Investment Services Archival and records management, and research and analysis for companies which specialize in the purchasing, issuing, and selling of corporate equity, such as brokerage firms and investment banking houses.

Communications Research and write historical documentaries and narratives; analyze public trends over time, provide information and archival services to motion picture firms, network and cable television companies, and record and tape industries.

Journalism Searching and researching historical records, interviewing with oral history techniques, writing and editing for newspapers, news, trade, and professional (scholarly) journals, historical and popular periodicals and magazines, textbooks, and books.

Public Sector Opportunities The government is one of the largest employers of students with training and degrees in history and related fields.

Executive Branch Cabinet-level departments: The Department of State, Department of the Interior, National Park Service, etc. Independent organizations within the federal government: National Endowment for the Humanities, Smithsonian Institution, etc. perform such duties as current issues studies, analysis of policy performance, long-range trends, etc., preservation and organization of institutional records, editing of public records and documents.

Legislative Branch Opportunities can be found within the historical offices of state legislatures, the Senate and the United States House of Representative performing such duties as staff and committee investigations, publication of bibliographic material, service on study commissions, and research assistance where needed.

Judicial Branch The United States Supreme Court Curator’s Office and various historical offices, projects, and regulatory agencies. Records collection and preservation, policy analysis, research where needed, writing of reports and various office correspondence, etc.

Military Services Manage the museums and archival and records centers for the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and National Guard. Lecture on specific issues, prepare institutional histories, etc.

The Foreign Service A test is required for entrance and placement analysis. Duties include such activities as research and writing on the diplomatic, economic, political, social, and cultural history of various areas.

Civil Service A test is required for entrance and placement analysis. Duties depend on the type of location placement is granted.

National Archives and Records Service Archival, manuscript, and records management

Other Opportunities Employment in libraries, historic sites, museums, community history education centers, etc. Work in policy history, oral history, public administration, cultural resource management, genealogy and family history, public works, land-use management, urban history and development, demographic history,
environmental history, archaeological projects, etc.

**Non-Profit Sector Opportunities** In addition to appointments within the United States government, the non-profit sector (organizations with 501(c)3 status) offers a wide array of professional positions in research, administration, education, and exhibition design. History majors in particular are well-suited for appointments within the following institutions: historical commission, associations, and societies, scholarly and professional associations, galleries and museums, colleges and universities, research foundations and institutional “think tanks” and with service institutions (agencies, foundations, and other philanthropic organizations which provide educational, social, and cultural services to the public).

**Opportunities Within the Field of Education** If teaching history is what you would like to do, appointments can be found in public and private elementary and secondary schools, community colleges, small and large undergraduate and graduate colleges and universities. Other possibilities include district and state offices for curriculum and text preparations, state and federal departments of education, adult education centers, and in corporate training programs.

**Consulting: Cultural Resource Management** Make contracts with developers, public agencies, business firms, and counseling service on preservation and cultural resource management policy, research and prepare cultural resource statements for environmental impact reports, identify and evaluate historic structures and other cultural resources, select structures for legal protection; prepare and teach preservation education programs.

**Consulting: Cultural Resource Research/Writing** Prepare histories, etc., search and research public and private records, perform legal and policy research services, oral history interviewing and transcribing, work in historical editing and indexing.

**Genealogical Services** Firms offering historic preservation/restoration services, rehabilitation of historically accurate building and artifacts, information services on the field, research on preservation law and tax benefits.

**Writing** Author your own historical books, pamphlets, articles and research papers of freelance for various publication agencies.

**Sources of Information**
American Association for State and Local History: 172 Second Avenue North, Suite 202, Nashville, Tennessee 37201.
National History Education Network: Department of History, The University of Tulsa, 600 South College Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74104-3189.
American Historical Association: 400 A Street, SE, Washington, D.S. 20003.

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS IN HISTORY**

**History Students Association**
The History Students Association is an approved student organization, funded by student fees through the
Associated Students, and open to all students (both undergraduate and graduate) with an interest in History. Members elect officers annually. Members and officers plan the annual program, which may include discussions by faculty members of work-in-progress, lectures by distinguished visiting historians, films, and social gatherings. The HSA also organizes an annual conference which presents student research. To get on the HSA email announcement list, send a message to hsa@sfsu.edu, or leave a message in the HSA mailbox in the History Department.

**Phi Alpha Theta**  
(Honor Society for Students in History)

Founded in 1921, Phi Alpha Theta has, as its primary purpose, the encouragement and recognition of excellence in the study of history. Membership in Phi Alpha Theta should be listed among other university honors when applying to graduate or professional schools or when applying for employment in any history-related field. The national organization publishes *The Historian*, a quarterly journal that presents articles from all fields within the discipline of history. Student members, both graduate and undergraduate, are eligible to participate in annual prize paper awards.

The Kappa Phi chapter was founded at what was then San Francisco State College in 1965. Kappa Phi chapter members take part in the activities of the History Student Association on campus, and participate in the northern California regional meeting of Phi Alpha Theta held each spring on the campus of one of the northern California chapters. At this meeting, students present their research, and prizes are awarded for the outstanding papers.

To qualify for membership, undergraduate students must meet three conditions: (1) have completed at least 60 semester units toward the B.A. degree, (2) have at least twelve semester hours in history with an overall GPA of at least 3.50 in history courses, and (3) have an overall GPA of at least 3.0 in all college work. Graduate students must meet two conditions: (1) have completed at least twelve units toward their Graduate Approved Program (GAP), and (2) have an overall GPA of at least 3.50 in history graduate courses.

For information on Phi Alpha Theta, contact the History Department office.

**Phi Beta Kappa**  
(Honor Society for Students in the Liberal Arts)

Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest honor society in the United States, maintains a chapter at San Francisco State University. Known as Omicron of California, the chapter grants membership, by invitation only, to students in their senior year. Requirements for membership are outlined at www.sfsu.edu/pat/
Permanent History Faculty

Maziar Behrooz.  PhD., University of California, Los Angeles, 1993.  *Islamic World, History of Iran*


Sarah Crabtree. PhD, University of Minnesota, 2007.  *Early America, Transatlantic, Religious History*

Christopher Chekuri. Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2004.  *South Asia*

Sarah Curtis.  Ph.D., University of Indiana, 1994.  *Nineteenth-Century Europe, European Women, France, Social History, Cultural and Intellectual History*

Anthony D'Agostino. Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles, 1971.  *Soviet Union, Modern Russia, European Intellectual. European International*

Philip Dreyfus. PhD., City University of New York, 1993.  *Western U.S., California, and Environmental History*


Pi-ching Hsu  Ph.D., University of Minnesota, 1994.  *China, Japan*

Sherry Keith.  Ph.D., Stanford University, 1974.  *Social Sciences*

Catherine Kudlick. PhD History, University of California, Berkeley, 1988.  *Bodies, Disability Culture, Gender*

Laura Lisy-Wagner. Ph.D., Havard University, 2005.  *Early Modern Europe*


Abdiel Oñate.  Ph.D., El Colegio de Mexico, 1984.  *Latin America, Mexico*


Megan Williams, Ph.D., Princeton University, 2002,  *Late Antiquity, History of Christianity*

Emeriti History Faculty


Mary Lowenthal Felstiner. Ph.D., Stanford University, 1971. Women, the Holocaust.


Julyana G. Peard. Ph.D., Columbia University, 1990. Latin America, Brazil, Argentina


Christopher Waldrep. Ph.D., Ohio State University, 1990. U.S., Constitutional & Legal History