

# The Undergraduate Study of History at SFState

## The History B.A., The History B.A. with Honors Concentration, 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.

# What Do Our Alumni Say?

I learned that History as discipline is informed by our present and that drawing connections



and thinking critically about how History is created is as important as understanding general change over time.

Aliyah Salahuddin

SFSU History BA '10 MA'12

Department Chair of African-American Studies at

College of San Francisco

Upon entering the PhD program at Stanford I felt I was more prepared than many of my

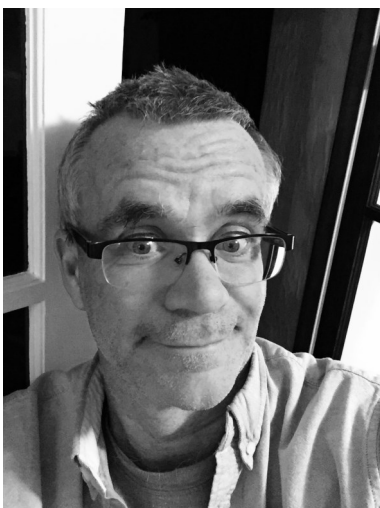


peers due to the training I had at SF state. I also learned the importance of networking and discussing your work with people from disparate fields. I had an amazingly supportive and talented cohort during my time there. Six years later, many of my former fellow grad students and I are still in touch. We regularly share information, discuss our work and support each other as we our pursue our various career goals.

Rachael Hill, SFSU MA '11

PhD candidate History Department at Stanford University

Even if one does not pursue an advanced degree, history is an extremely useful and



gratifying major. Perhaps more than any other major, it enriches our intellectual life and provides ample opportunity to practice and develop the essential arts of critical thinking, persuasive argumentation, and clear writing.

Thomas Clark

SFSU BA '85 MA '87

Currently Principal Counsel to the Assembly Judiciary Committee in the California State Legislature

# What Do Our Alumni Say?

What did I learn in the History Department at SFSU that serves me today?



- The ability to methodically and thoughtfully, yet quickly, digest and synthesize massive amounts of content and data.
- A true sense of collaboration and collegiality, two of the most sought after “soft skills” by HR departments.
- Impeccable writing skills, a cornerstone of effective communication in the digital realm.
- An abiding respect for the coexistence of theory and practice.

Rob Alper SFSU US History, BA '05

Currently a Subject Matter Expert at Cengage Learning and Technology

Working on exhibits and our various social media platforms puts my writing to the test. I



have to balance those patrons who know a great deal about bookbinding and its history with those who know nothing at all, and I have to try and make it interesting for both (and everyone in between). The exhibits and social media posts have to be engaging, approachable, and clear, and walk a line between academic analysis and an introductory

survey of the topic at hand.

To me, this is the best part of history. I work with the stuff of history, and I get to present it to people every day, sharing why it's important, interesting, and exciting.

Elsbeth Olsen

SFSU MA '11

# What Do Our Alumni Do?

Beyond the obvious career path towards teaching, the study of History imparts skills that are applicable to all employment endeavors, as it fosters the intellectual rigor and curiosity that results in strong civic engagement. Studying History makes us better citizens, stronger writers, better critical thinkers, and more attune to the lived experiences of those around us.

Whether you need to craft a strong cover letter, marketing copy, a legal brief, or make a coherent argument for why you deserve a raise, the critical thinking and communication skills you hone as a History major during your time at SFSU will serve you well.

## History Majors also find careers outside of the classroom as:

Managers

Lawyers

Marketing Professionals

Politicians and Community organizers

Librarians and Archivists

Project Managers

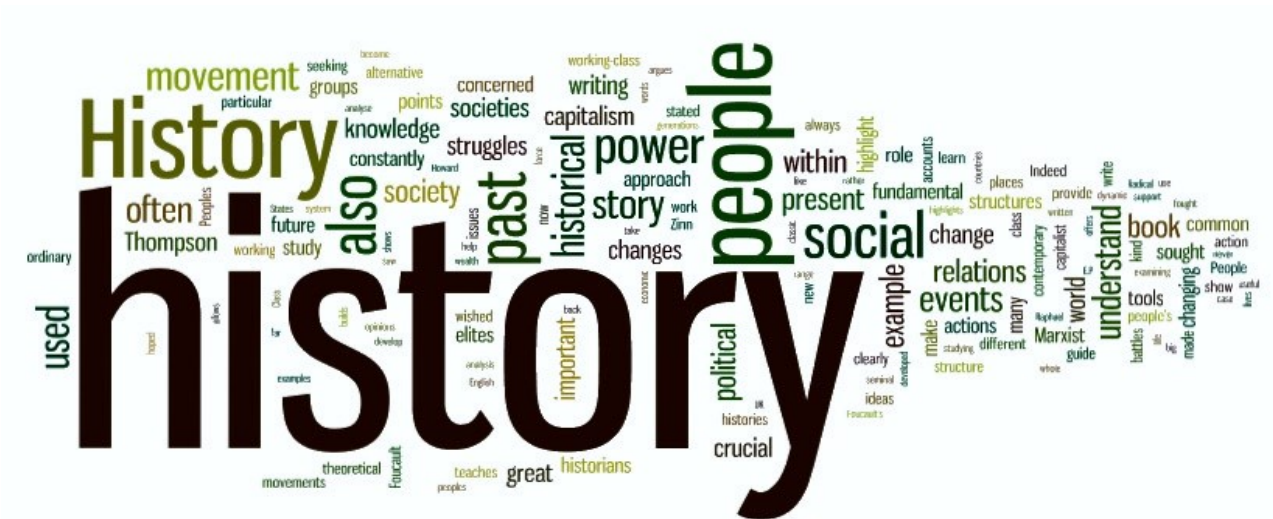
Futurists

Authors, Editors, and Copywriters

Administrators

President of the United States

And History majors spend their time talking about really cool things—zombies, the political and social revolutions spearheaded by women, persons of color, and the disabled, cannibalism, Roman legions, and pirates.



# History (B.A.) — 39 units

## Required Courses (15 units)

- HIST 110 History of Western Civilization I **or** HIST 114 World History to 1500
- HIST 111 History of Western Civilization II **or** HIST 115 World History Since 1500
- HIST 120 History of the U.S. through Reconstruction
- HIST 121 History of the U.S. since Reconstruction
- HIST 300 GW\_Seminar in Historical Analysis - GVAR (Must pass with a “C” or better, cannot be taken CR/NC)

## Fields of study (24 units)

**OPTION I** (geographic): Students should complete 12 upper division units in *one* field of study and 6 upper division units in *each* of *two* other fields of study. US History must be one of the three fields.

- US History
- Choose two fields from among the following: Africa, Asia (may include the Middle East), Europe (either Europe before 1500 or Europe since 1500), or Latin America.

**OPTION II** (thematic): Students may complete 6 upper division units in each of three fields of study, distributed geographically as above, and 6 elective upper division units, so long as a minimum of 12 upper division units fall under a theme approved on departmental advisement such as Empire and Imperialism; Gender, Sexuality and the Body; Religion and Society; or the Pre-modern World; (applicable courses are listed in this document).

**Note:** A minimum of 40 upper division units must be completed for the degree (including upper division units required for the major, general education, electives, etc.). A student can complete this major yet not attain the necessary number of upper division units required for graduation. In this case additional upper division courses will be needed to reach the required total. General Education advising is available through Undergraduate Advising in Administration 211 and, for history majors, through the Academic Resource Center in Humanities 112.

All history majors must include at least one proseminar (HIST 640, 642, or 644. These are variable topic courses that change every semester). Successful completion of History 300 GVAR is required before you can take a proseminar. Preferably, your proseminar will be in the primary field, although it may be in any field of emphasis. Please note, that the proseminar requirement ALSO counts as 3 units of upper division history in the field of emphasis it is taken. For example, History 642, Silicon Valley, not only completes your proseminar requirement, but may also count as three units of US, Europe after 1500, or World history. Each semester our majors are sent a list of courses being offered and which fields of emphasis each course fulfills, but we also encourage you to drop by Science 275 and get major advising so we can help you make sure you are on track to graduate.

Twenty seven of the 39 units required for the major must be upper division. History majors cannot choose CR/NC grading in more than two history courses for their major, nor elect CR/NC grading in HIST 300 GW or their proseminar. With the consent of their advisor, students may offer up to six units from other departments to count toward their history major.



# History B.A. Honors Concentration (45 units)

## Prerequisites (12 units)

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 (12 units):
  - HIST 110 History of Western Civilization I **or** HIST 114 World History to 1500
  - HIST 111 History of Western Civilization II **or** HIST 115 World History Since 1500
  - HIST 120 History of the U.S. through Reconstruction
  - HIST 121 History of the U.S. since Reconstruction

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 (9 units) :

- HIST 300 GW\_ (Must pass with a "C" or better, cannot be taken CR/NC
- Proseminar (HIST 640, 642, or 644 variable topic course)
- HIST 697, Honors Thesis.

## Fields of Study (24 units):

**OPTION I** (geographic): Students should complete 12 upper division units in *one* field of study and 6 upper division units in *each* of *two* other fields of study. US History must be one of the three fields.

- US History
- Choose two fields from among the following: Africa, Asia (may include the Middle East), Europe (either Europe before 1500 or Europe since 1500), or Latin America.

**OPTION II** (thematic): Students may complete 6 upper division units in each of three fields of study, distributed geographically as above, and 6 elective upper division units, so long as a minimum of 12 upper division units fall under a theme approved on departmental advisement such as Empire and Imperialism; Gender, Sexuality and the Body; Religion and Society; or the Pre-modern World; (applicable courses are listed in this document).

**Note:** A minimum of 40 upper division units must be completed for the degree (including upper division units required for the major, general education, electives, etc.). A student can complete this major yet not attain the necessary number of upper division units required for graduation. In this case additional upper division courses will be needed to reach the required total. General Education advising is available through Undergraduate Advising in Administration 211 and, for history majors, through the Academic Resource Center in Humanities 112.

Thirty Three of the 45 units required for the honors concentration must be upper division. History majors cannot choose CR/NC grading in more than two history courses for their major, nor elect CR/NC grading in HIST 300 GW or their proseminar. With the consent of their advisor, students may offer up to six units from other departments to count toward their history major.

(Honors requirements continued on next page)

# History B.A. Honors Concentration (45 units) Continued

## 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 Minor – 24 Units

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.

### Required Courses (15 units)

- HIST 110 History of Western Civilization I or HIST 114 World History to 1500
- HIST 111 History of Western Civilization II or HIST 115 World History Since 1500
- HIST 120 History of the U.S. through Reconstruction
- HIST 121 History of the U.S. since Reconstruction
- HIST 300 GW\_Seminar in Historical Analysis - GVAR (Must pass with a "C" or better, cannot be taken CR/NC)

### Elective Courses (9 units)

- Any 9 upper division History units.

Please note, if you are interested in taking a proseminar (Hist 640, 642, or 644 variable topic course) you must successfully complete History 300 GW with a "C" or better. The proseminar requirement ALSO counts as 3 units of upper division history

# Courses by Area of Emphasis

## AFRICA

313, Comparative History of Love and Sexuality  
315, History of Science from the Scientific Revolution  
405, Atlantic World  
604, Islamic World I  
605, Islamic World II  
609, Approaches to the African Past  
610, History of Africa  
611, Modern Africa  
620, Pirates and Piracy  
632, Jewish History I, to 1650

## ASIA

313, Comparative History of Love and Sexuality  
315, History of Science from the Scientific Revolution  
569, Ancient Chinese Civilizations  
570, Imperial China  
571, History of Modern China  
572, Taiwan: History, Memory, and Imagination  
575, Women in China and Japan  
578, History of Japan  
582, Tales from Ancient India: Hinduism and Buddhism  
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  
620, Pirates and Piracy  
632, Jewish History I, to 1650

## 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  
327, The Medieval Mediterranean  
328, Early Christian Church to 313  
329, Early Christian Church 313-787  
330, Early Middle Ages  
331, High Middle Ages  
334, The Renaissance  
600, Ancient Near East  
620, Pirates and Piracy  
632, Jewish History I, to 1650

## EUROPE SINCE 1500

313, Comparative History of Love and Sexuality  
315, History of Science from the Scientific Revolution  
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, Medieval Popular Beliefs  
350, Greece and the Balkans  
351, Venetians and Ottomans  
385, The Russian Revolution  
386, Soviet Union and Russia since WWII  
387, The Era of Globalization, 1968-2008  
389, European and International History, 1848-1918  
390, European and International History, 1918 to Present  
400, Modern European Imperialism  
405, Atlantic World  
620, Pirates and Piracy



## **LATIN AMERICA**

313, Comparative History of Love and Sexuality  
315, History of Science from the Scientific Revolution  
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  
405, Atlantic World  
500, Colonial Latin America  
501, Latin America: The National Period  
620, Pirates and Piracy

## **MIDDLE EAST**

313, Comparative History of Love and Sexuality  
315, History of Science from the Scientific Revolution  
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  
620, Pirates and Piracy  
632, Jewish History I, to 1650  
633, Jewish History II, 1650 to present

## **RECENT PROSEMINARS**

640, World War I, Social and Cultural Perspectives  
640, The Black Death  
640, The Era of Globalization  
642, North vs South  
642, Gender, Sexuality, and Law in U.S. History  
642, Silicon Valley  
642, Historical Perspective on Food, Culture and Identity  
644, Black Atlantic  
644, Travelers to the Dragon Kingdom

## **UNITED STATES**

313, Comparative History of Love and Sexuality  
315, History of Science from the Scientific Revolution  
405, Atlantic World  
418, Society and Politics in American History  
420, American Colonial History  
421, Food Fights: The Politics of American Jewish Consumption, 1654- Present  
422, Founding of the American Nation  
424, History of the U.S., 1827-1877  
426, History of the U.S., 1877-1916  
427, History of the U.S., 1916-1945  
428, History of the U.S. since 1945  
448, The American West  
449, American Jewish History  
450, History of California  
455, The Philippines and the United States  
460, American Foreign Relations to 1913  
461, American Foreign Relations, 1913 to Present  
462: Making Whites: Race in the U.S.  
463, History of Latinos in the U.S.  
464, American Ethnic and Race Relations I  
465, American Ethnic and Race Relations II  
466, History of U.S. People of Color  
467, Women in the U.S. to 1890  
467, Women in the U.S. to 1890  
468, Women in the U.S., 1890 to Present  
469, American Childhoods  
470, U.S. Constitution to 1877  
471, U.S. Constitution since 1877  
473, Unfree Labor in the U.S.  
474, History of Labor in the U.S.  
476, U.S. Environmental History  
480, Thought and Culture in America  
481, Thought and Culture in America; 1880 to the Present  
482, Religion in America  
484, Disability and Culture in America  
490, Variable Topics in American History (Recent Topics include History of Baseball and History of Sexuality in the US)

# Thematic Option Courses

## **Empire and Imperialism:**

Hist 323: Imperial Rome  
Hist 338: Europe and the Wider World, 1348 – 1768  
Hist 570: Imperial China  
Hist 338: Europe and the Wider World, 1348 – 1768  
Hist 386: Soviet Russia, the West, and the Cold War  
Hist 389: European International History: 1848 – 1918  
Hist 390: European International History: 1918 – 1945  
Hist 400: History of Modern European Imperialism  
Hist 405: Atlantic World History  
Hist 420: American Colonial History  
Hist 455: The Philippines and the United States  
Hist 460: U.S. Foreign Relations to 1913  
Hist 461: U.S. Foreign Relations, 1913 – Present  
Hist 500: Colonial Latin America  
Hist 584: India and the British Empire  
Hist 606: History of Iran and Afghanistan, 1500 - Present  
Hist 607: Imperialism and Nationalism in the Recent Near East  
Hist 611: Modern Africa

## **Gender, Sexuality, and the Body:**

Hist 313: Comparative History of Love and Sexuality  
Hist 468: Women in the US, 1890 – Present  
Hist 535: History of Women in Latin America  
Hist 575: History of Women in China and Japan  
Hist 640: Witchcraft proseminar  
Hist 642: Gender and Law proseminar

## **Religion and Society:**

Hist 331: The High Middle Ages  
Hist 334: The Renaissance  
Hist 583: Hindus and Muslims  
Hist 590: Civilizing Demons: Religious, Cultural, and Political Assimilations in Journey to the West  
Hist 604: Islamic World I: 500 – 1500  
Hist 336: The Reformation  
Hist 337: Knowing and Unknowing in Early Modern Europe  
Hist 349: Medieval Popular Beliefs  
Hist 482: Religion in America  
Hist 605: Islamic World II: 1500 – Present  
Hist 640: Witchcraft proseminar

## **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](mailto: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.