

# HISTORY MAJOR

**Director of Undergraduate Studies:** Mircea Raianu, Ph.D.

Historical study offers preparation for informed and empathetic citizenship in an increasingly complex and interdependent world. A major in History requires students to engage in analytical reading, critical thinking, and persuasive writing. The Department of History seeks to broaden the student's cultural background through the study of history and to provide preparation for those interested in publishing, teaching, museum work, law, journalism, civil service, military, archival and library work, diplomacy, business school, and graduate study.

The History major encourages students to specialize in different geographic or thematic concentrations, but does not require it. Undergraduate advisors assist all majors in planning a curriculum to meet their personal interests. Students are encouraged to take advantage of study abroad programs and to acquire and/or cultivate the language skills relevant to their specializations. We expect students to meet with a history undergraduate advisor once every semester.

Courses offered by the Department of History may be found under the course code HIST.

## Program Learning Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate ability to find primary and secondary sources and understand the range of possibilities of where to search for historical evidence.
2. Students will demonstrate ability to accurately and consistently cite primary and secondary sources using a common format.
3. Students will identify the bias of sources and critically evaluate their reliability and origins, including awareness of selective preservation or uneven emphasis in the historical record.
4. Students will understand what is verifiable and define criteria for verification, including awareness of how to test for invalid or fabricated information about the past.
5. Students will distinguish facts that can be determined from questions of interpretation and advance their own critical interpretations of historical evidence.
6. Students will formulate questions and develop arguments adequately supported by primary and secondary sources.
7. Students will situate arguments in relation to existing scholarship and articulate original contributions to knowledge.
8. Students will communicate arguments clearly and persuasively and organize supporting evidence in a coherent manner.
9. Students will explain change and continuity over time, including assessing the relative importance of different moments or events.
10. Students will analyze historical causes and consequences, considering factors such as contingency of outcomes and agency of particular groups or individuals.
11. Students will demonstrate awareness of the problem of anachronistic interpretation of past human actions.
12. Students will understand how categories of difference such as class, ethnicity, gender, language, race, or sexuality have historically operated.
13. Students will explain how and by whom inequalities of power based on categories of difference have been created and maintained.

14. Students will demonstrate awareness of how subordinated individuals or groups have challenged, shaped, and sometimes transformed unequal power relations.

## REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for the History major are 39 credits of history course work distributed as follows: 12 credits in 1xx or 2xx-level introductory courses and including HIST208; HIST408. All courses for the major must be completed with a minimum grade of "C-", and 21 credits of the 39 total credits must be at the junior-senior (3xx or 4xx) level. An overall GPA of 2.0 in the major is required for graduation.

Students must take courses in at least three of the following geographical regions: Africa and the African Diaspora; Latin America and the Caribbean; Middle East, Asia, Europe (which includes Britain, Europe and Russia), and transregional.

Students must take at least one course in the pre-1750 period and one course in the post-1750 period.

No more than 6 credits can be fulfilled by AP and IB credits.

History majors can petition to include up to two courses taught outside the Department toward the fulfillment of the major, with the approval of the Undergraduate Committee. Courses taught outside of the History Department may fulfill geographic and/or thematic requirements. They may not be used to fulfill the departmental capstone seminars.

Course	Title	Credits
College Requirements ( <a href="https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-humanities/#collegerequirementstext">https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-humanities/#collegerequirementstext</a> )		
<b>Introductory Courses</b>		
HIST208	Historical Research and Methods Seminar	3
Three courses at the 1xx or 2xx-level		9
<b>Electives</b>		<b>24</b>
<b>Capstone</b>		
HIST408	Senior Seminar <sup>1</sup>	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>39</b>

<sup>1</sup> Should be taken in the senior year. May be substituted by HIST396 (Honors Colloquium II). HIST208 is a prerequisite for HIST408.

## GRADUATION PLANS

Click here (<https://www.arhu.umd.edu/academics/advising/academic-plans/>) for roadmaps for graduation plans in the College of Arts and Humanities.

Additional information on developing a graduation plan can be found on the following pages:

- <http://4yearplans.umd.edu>
- the Student Academic Success-Degree Completion Policy (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/registration-academic-requirements-regulations/academic-advising/#success>) section of this catalog