History

History is the study of how societies and cultures across the world change over time. History concentrators learn to write and think critically, and to understand issues from a variety of perspectives. The department offers a wide variety of courses concerned with changes in human experience through time, ranging from classical Greek and Roman civilizations to the histories of Europe, the Americas, and Asia. While some courses explore special topics, others concentrate on the history of a particular country (e.g., Russia or France) or period of time (e.g. the Middle Ages or the Renaissance). By taking advantage of our diverse course offerings, students can engage in and develop broad perspectives on the past and the present.

Concentration Requirements (for students graduating after spring 2015)

1. Basic Requirement: A concentration in History consists of a minimum of ten semester-long courses; of these, at least eight must be offered by the Brown University History Department, including cross-listed courses. (Students who spend more than one semester at another institution, must take at least 7 HIST courses - see “Transferring Courses” below.)

2. Courses below 1000: Students may count no more than four courses numbered below 1000 toward the concentration requirements. Students considering a concentration in History are encouraged to take First Year and Sophomore seminars, as well as courses in the HIST 0150 and 0200 series, for an introduction to historical reasoning, discussion, and writing.

3. Field of Focus: Upon declaring a concentration in History, students must define the area that will be the primary focus of their program. The primary field of focus must include a minimum of four courses. Students who choose a geographical focus must provide a thematic or chronological rationale for the coherence of courses with a broad chronological span. Students who are interested in a thematic or transnational focus (such as Science, Technology, Environment and Medicine or the Ancient World) may include courses from different geographic areas. All students should consult a concentration advisor early in the process. All fields are subject to approval by the concentration advisor.

4. Geographical Distribution: Concentrators must take at least two courses in three different geographic areas. These are:
   - Africa
   - East Asia
   - Europe
   - Global
   - Latin America and the Caribbean
   - Middle East and South Asia
   - North America

   “Global” courses are defined as those that deal with at least three different regions of the world.

5. Chronological Distribution: All concentrators must complete at least two courses designated as “P” (for pre-modern).

6. Capstone Seminar: All concentrators must complete at least one capstone seminar (these will be HIST 1960s and HIST 1970s series courses in the new numbering system.) These seminars are designed to serve as an intellectual culmination of the concentration. They provide students with an opportunity to delve deeply into a historical problem and to write a major research and/or analytical paper which serves as a capstone experience. Ideally, they will be taken in the field of focus and during the student’s junior or senior year. Students considering writing a senior honors thesis are advised to take an advanced seminar in their junior year.

7. Transferring Courses: The History Department encourages students to take history courses at other institutions, either in the United States or abroad, as well as history-oriented courses in other departments and programs at Brown. Students may apply two courses taken in other departments/programs at Brown to the ten-course minimum for the History concentration. Students who spend one semester at another institution may apply to their concentration a maximum of two courses from other departments or institutions, and those who spend more than one semester at another institution may apply to their concentration a third course transferred from another institution.

Students wishing to apply such courses must present to their concentration advisor justification that those courses complement some aspect of their concentration. Courses from other Brown departments may not be applied toward the chronological distribution requirement; courses transferred from other institutions may be applied toward the chronological distribution requirement so long as they clearly are history courses. It is normally expected that students will have declared their intention to concentrate in History and have their concentration programs approved before undertaking study elsewhere. Students taking courses in Brown-run programs abroad automatically receive University transfer credit, but concentration credit is granted only with the approval of a concentration advisor. Students taking courses in other foreign-study programs or at other universities in the United States must apply to the Transfer Credit Advisor.

Final transfer and concentration credit will not be granted until the student successfully completes the course(s) and returns to Brown. Approval by the department advisor for transfer credit will be contingent on satisfactory course content and performance (to be demonstrated by documents such as a transcript showing the grade, syllabi, notes, papers, exams, etc.).

8. Regular Consultation: Students are strongly urged to consult regularly with their concentration advisor or a department advisor about their program. During the seventh semester, all students must meet with their concentration advisor for review and approval of their program.

In consultation with the concentration advisor, students may choose from the following courses:

- HIST 0150A History of Medicine I: Medical Traditions in the Old World Before 1700
- HIST 0150D Refugees: A Twentieth-Century History
- HIST 0150F Pirates
- HIST 0203 Modern Africa: From Empire to Nation-State
- HIST 0215 Modern Korea: Contending with Modernity
- HIST 0232 Clash of Empires in Latin America
- HIST 0234 Modern Latin America
- HIST 0244 Understanding the Middle East: 1800s to the Present
- HIST 0247 Civilization, Empire, Nation: Competing Histories of the Middle East
- HIST 0253 Religion, Politics, and Culture in America, 1865 - Present
- HIST 0257 Modern American History: New and Different Perspectives
- HIST 0276 A Global History of the Atomic Age
- HIST 0286A History of Medicine I: Medical Traditions in the Old World Before 1700
- HIST 0510A Shanghai in Myth and History
- HIST 0521A Christianity in Conflict in the Medieval Mediterranean
- HIST 0537A Popular Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean
- HIST 0537B Tropical Delights: Imagining Brazil in History and Culture
- HIST 0550A Object Histories: The Material Culture of Early America
- HIST 0551A Abraham Lincoln: Historical and Cultural Perspectives
- HIST 0555B Robber Barons
- HIST 0556A Sport in American History
- HIST 0559B Asian Americans and Third World Solidarity
- HIST 0577A The Chinese Diaspora: A History of Globalization
- HIST 0580M The Age of Revolutions, 1760-1824
- HIST 0582B Science and Society in Darwin’s England
HIST 0654A  Welfare States and a History of Modern Life
HIST 0654B  American Patriotism in Black and White
HIST 0658D  Walden + Woodstock: The American Lives of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Bob Dylan
HIST 0720  The Romans
HIST 0770  Evil: The History of an Idea
HIST 1030  South African History
HIST 1060  Africa, c.1850-1946: Colonial Contexts and Everyday Experiences
HIST 1101  Chinese Political Thought
HIST 1110  Imperial China/China: Culture and Legacy
HIST 1121  The Modern Chinese Nation: An Idea and Its Limits
HIST 1122  China Pop: The Social History of Chinese Popular Culture
HIST 1140  Samurai and Merchants, Prostitutes and Priests: Japanese Urban Culture in the Early Modern Period
HIST 1150  Modern Japan
HIST 1201B  Roman History II: The Empire
HIST 1202  The Shaping of the Classical World: Greeks, Jews, and Romans
HIST 1210A  The Viking Age
HIST 1211  Crusaders and Cathedrals, Deviants and Dominance: Europe in the High Middle Ages
HIST 1212  Charlemagne and the Making of Medieval Europe
HIST 1230A  Revolution and Romanticism in 19th century Europe
HIST 1230C  The Search for Renewal in 20th century Europe
HIST 1266C  English History, 1529-1660
HIST 1266D  British History, 1660-1800
HIST 1272D  The French Revolution
HIST 1312  Brazil: From Abolition to Emerging Global Power
HIST 1313  Brazilian Biographies
HIST 1320  Rebel Island: Cuba, 1492-Present
HIST 1333  The Mexican Revolution
HIST 1381  Latin American History and Film: Memory, Narrative and Nation
HIST 1440  The Ottomans: Faith, Law, Empire
HIST 1503  Antebellum America and the Road to Civil War
HIST 1507  American Politics and Culture Since 1945
HIST 1511  Sinners, Saints, and Heretics: Religion in Early America
HIST 1514  Capitalism, Slavery and the Economy of Early America
HIST 1550  American Urban History, 1600-1870
HIST 1553  Empires in America to 1890
HIST 1554  American Empire Since 1890
HIST 1735  Slavery in the Early Modern World
HIST 1741  Capitalism, Land and Water: A World History: 1848 to the present
HIST 1820G  Nature on Display
HIST 1825F  Nature, Knowledge, Power in Renaissance Europe
HIST 1825H  Science, Medicine and Technology in the 17th Century
HIST 1825L  The Roots of Modern Science
HIST 1825M  Science at the Crossroads
HIST 1830M  From Medieval Bedlam to Prozac Nation: Intimate Histories of Psychiatry and Self
HIST 1960Q  Medicine and Public Health in Africa
HIST 1961C  Knowledge and Power: China's Examination Hell
HIST 1961I  North Korea: Past, Present, Future

HIST 1962B  Life During Wartime: Theory and Sources from the Twentieth Century
HIST 1963G  Crisis and Social Justice at the End of Antiquity
HIST 1963Q  Sex, Power, and God: A Medieval Perspective
HIST 1964A  Age of Impostors: Fraud, Identification, and the Self in Early Modern Europe
HIST 1964B  The Enchanted World: Magic, Angels, and Demons in Early Modern Europe
HIST 1964E  The English Revolution
HIST 1964G  Spin, Terror and Revolution: England, Scotland and Ireland, 1660-1720
HIST 1965Q  Anti-Semitism, Anti-Judaism, Anti-Zionism: Historical Connections and Disconnections
HIST 1967F  The Maya in the Modern World
HIST 1967T  History of the Andes from the Incas to Evo Morales
HIST 1968  Approaches to The Middle East
HIST 1968V  America and the Middle East: Social and Cultural Histories in Tandem
HIST 1969A  Israel-Palestine: Lands and Peoples I
HIST 1969B  Israel-Palestine: Lands and Peoples II
HIST 1969C  Debates in Middle Eastern History
HIST 1969D  Palestine vs the Palestinians
HIST 1970D  Problem of Class in Early America
HIST 1972E  Theory and Practice of Local History
HIST 1974A  Silk Roads, Past and Present
HIST 1974B  War and Peace: A Global History
HIST 1974J  Decolonizing Minds: A People's History of the World
HIST 1976R  Histories of the Future
HIST 1979L  Urban History of Latin America

Honors (OPTIONAL):

History concentrators in the 5th or 6th semester may apply for honors. To be admitted, students must have achieved two-thirds "quality grades" in History department courses. A "quality grade" is defined as a grade of "A" or a grade of "S" accompanied by a course performance report indicating a performance at the "A" standard.

Students who wish to enroll in honors are recommended to take HIST 1992, "History Honors Workshop for Prospective Students." Students who complete honors may count HIST 1992 as one of the 10 courses required for graduation in history. HIST 1992 students who prepare a prospectus that receives a grade of A- or above will be admitted to the honors program. Students in their 7th semester who have not taken HIST 1992 (including but not limited to those who are away from Brown during that semester) may apply to the program by submitting a prospectus no later than the first day of that semester. All honors students must complete one semester of HIST 1993 "History Honors Workshop for Thesis Writers, Part I" and one semester of HIST 1994 "History Workshop for Thesis Writers, Part II." Students who contemplate enrolling in the honors program in History should consult the honors section of the department website. They are also encouraged to meet with the Director of Undergraduate Studies, who serves as the honors advisor.
Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Helvetica was used instead of Arial.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.