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 Africa, the Middle East, the Americas, and Asia. While some courses explore special topics, others concentrate on the history of a particular country (e.g. China or Brazil) or period of time (e.g. Antiquity or the 20th century). By taking advantage of our diverse course offerings, students can engage in and develop broad perspectives on the past and the present.

Prospective concentrators should visit the History site (https://www.brown.edu/academics/history/undergraduate/history-concentration) and visit the office hours of their prospective concentration advisor (https://www.brown.edu/academics/history/undergraduate/history-concentration/concentration-advisors) (assigned according to student surname).

Concentration Requirements

Basic Requirement: A minimum of 10 courses, at least 8 of which must be courses taught by a Brown University History Department faculty member (https://www.brown.edu/academics/history/faculty) (including their cross-listed courses) and/or courses offered by the Brown History Department (such as those taught by Visiting or Adjunct Professors). Transfer students or study-abroad students who have spent a year or more at another institution must have at least 7 of 10 history courses taught by Brown History faculty or otherwise offered through the Brown History Department.

Summary

Courses in the "Premodern" era (P) 2
2 Courses in 3 different geographic regions 6
Field of focus 4
Capstone Seminar 1
Any combination of courses that fulfill the four requirements above for a total number of 10 courses 1
Honors (optional): 3 additional courses related to writing a thesis (one of which, HIST 1992, can count towards your 10 concentration requirements) 3

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.

Field of focus: In History, concentrators choose or create their own "track," rather than having to select an existing track. The field of focus must include a minimum of four courses, and it may be: geographical (such as Latin America); geographical and chronological (such as Modern North America); or transnational (such as ancient world); or thematic (such as urban history). Students who choose North America or Europe must also choose a chronological focus (i.e. Early Modern Europe). Fields in Latin America, Africa, East Asia, or Middle East/South Asia do not require a chronological definition. All students should consult a concentration advisor early in the process about their potential field of focus. All fields are subject to approval by the concentration advisor.

Thematic fields of focus include but are not restricted to:

- Comparative Colonialism
- Gender and Sexuality
- Law and Society
- Race and Ethnicity
- Science, Technology, Environment and Medicine (STEAM)
- Urban History

Examples of transnational foci include:

- The Ancient World
- The Early Modern Atlantic World
- Africa and the Diaspora
- The Mediterranean World from Antiquity to the Middle Ages
- The Pacific World

Geographic Distribution: Concentrators must take at least two courses in three of the following geographic areas:

- 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.

For details on which courses count toward which geographical distribution requirement click here (https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1NT5it IzAQjXDClvzX0cTdsdcSeMMD5v28ke6550tnBmE/edit?#gid=2138711521).

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

For a listing of which courses count as “P” courses click here

Capstone Seminar: All concentrators must complete at least one capstone seminar (HIST 1960s and HIST 1970s series and select HIST 1980s courses). 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.

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. History courses taught by trained historians from other institutions (e.g., from study abroad or a previous institution) may be applied toward the chronological distribution requirement so long as at least 2/3 of the course content examine the "premodern" or "early modern" periods.

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 and then get approval from a concentration advisor.

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.

COURSES BELOW 1000

LECTURE COURSES

| 150's: Thematic Courses that Cut Across Time and Place |
| HIST 0150A | History of Capitalism |
HIST 0150B  The Philosophers' Stone: Alchemy From Antiquity to Harry Potter
HIST 0150C  Locked Up: A Global History of Prison and Captivity
HIST 0150D  Refugees: A Twentieth-Century History
HIST 0150F  Pirates
HIST 0150G  History of Law: Great Trials
HIST 0150H  Foods and Drugs in History

Gateway Lecture Courses
HIST 0202  African Experiences of Empire
HIST 0203  Modern Africa: From Empire to Nation-State
HIST 0212  Histories of East Asia: China
HIST 0214  Histories of East Asia: Japan
HIST 0215  Modern Korea: Contending with Modernity
HIST 0218  The Making of Modern East Asia
HIST 0228A  War and Peace in Modern Europe
HIST 0232  Clash of Empires in Latin America
HIST 0233  Colonial 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 0250  American Exceptionalism: The History of an Idea
HIST 0252  The American Civil War in Global Perspective: History, Law, and Popular Culture
HIST 0253  Religion, Politics, and Culture in America, 1865 - Present
HIST 0257  Modern American History: New and Different Perspectives
HIST 0270A  From Fire Wielders to Empire Builders: Human Impact on the Global Environment before 1492
HIST 0270B  From the Columbian Exchange to Climate Change: Modern Global Environmental History
HIST 0276  A Global History of the Atomic Age
HIST 0276B  Science and Capitalism
HIST 0285A  Modern Genocide and Other Crimes against Humanity
HIST 0286A  History of Medicine I: Medical Traditions in the Old World Before 1700
HIST 0286B  History of Medicine II: The Development of Scientific Medicine in Europe and the World

SEMINAR COURSES
First-Year Seminars
HIST 0510A  Shanghai in Myth and History
HIST 0520A  Athens, Jerusalem, and Baghdad: Three Civilizations, One Tradition
HIST 0521A  Christianity in Conflict in the Medieval Mediterranean
HIST 0521M  The Holy Grail and the Historian's Quest for the Truth
HIST 0522G  An Empire and Republic: The Dutch Golden Age
HIST 0522N  Reason, Revolution and Reaction in Europe
HIST 0522O  The Enlightenment
HIST 0523A  The Holocaust in Historical Perspective
HIST 0523B  State Surveillance in History
HIST 0523P  The First World War
HIST 0535A  Atlantic Pirates
HIST 0535B  Conquests
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 0556B  Inequality and American Capitalism in the Twentieth Century
HIST 0557A  Slavery and Historical Memory in the United States
HIST 0557B  Slavery, Race, and Racism
HIST 0557C  Narratives of Slavery
HIST 0559A  Culture and U.S. Empire
HIST 0559B  Asian Americans and Third World Solidarity
HIST 0574A  The Silk Road, Past and Present
HIST 0576A  The Arctic: Global History from the Dog Sled to the Oil Rig
HIST 0577A  The Chinese Diaspora: A History of Globalization
HIST 0580M  The Age of Revolutions, 1760-1824
HIST 0580O  Making Change: Nonviolence in Action
HIST 0582A  Animal Histories
HIST 0582B  Science and Society in Darwin's England

Sophomore Seminars
HIST 0621B  The Search for King Arthur
HIST 0637B  Fractious Friendships: The United States and Latin America in the Twentieth Century
HIST 0654A  Welfare States and a History of Modern Life
HIST 0654B  American Patriotism in Black and White
HIST 0655A  Culture Wars in American Schools
HIST 0658D  Walden + Woodstock: The American Lives of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Bob Dylan
HIST 0675A  The Chinese Diaspora: A History of Globalization
HIST 0685A  The Social Lives of Dead Bodies in China and Beyond

COURSES WITH NUMBERS 1000-1999

LECTURE COURSES
HIST 1030  Entangled South Africa
HIST 1060  Africa, c.1850-1946: Colonial Contexts and Everyday Experiences
HIST 1070  "Modern" Africa
HIST 1080  Humanitarianism and Conflict in Africa
HIST 1101  Chinese Political Thought from Confucius to Xi Jinping
HIST 1110  Imperial China/China: Culture and Legacy
HIST 1118  China's Late Empires
HIST 1121  The Modern Chinese Nation: An Idea and Its Limits
HIST 1122  China Pop: The Social History of Chinese Popular Culture
HIST 1149  Imperial Japan  
HIST 1150  Modern Japan  
HIST 1155  Japan's Pacific War: 1937-1945  
HIST 1156  Postwar Japan  
HIST 1200B  The Fall of Empires and Rise of Kings: Greek History to 478 to 323 BCE  
HIST 1200C  History of Greece: From Alexander the Great to the Roman Conquest  
HIST 1201A  Roman History I  
HIST 1201B  Roman History II: The Empire  
HIST 1202  Formation of the Classical Heritage: Greeks, Romans, Jews, Christians, and Muslims  
HIST 1205  The Long Fall of the Roman Empire  
HIST 1210A  The Viking Age  
HIST 1211  Crusaders and Cathedrals, Deviants and Dominance: Europe in the High Middle Ages  
HIST 1216  The Paradox of Early Modern Europe  
HIST 1230A  Modern European Intellectual and Cultural History: Revolution and Romanticism, 1760-1860  
HIST 1230B  Modern European Intellectual and Cultural History: The Fin de Siecle, 1880-1914  
HIST 1230C  The Search for Renewal in 20th century Europe  
HIST 1240A  Politics of Violence in 20C Europe  
HIST 1260D  Living Together: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Medieval Iberia  
HIST 1262M  Truth on Trial: Justice in Italy, 1400-1800  
HIST 1264M  Cultural History of the Netherlands in a Golden Age and a Global Age  
HIST 1266C  English History, 1529-1660  
HIST 1266D  British History, 1660-1800  
HIST 1268A  The Rise of the Russian Empire  
HIST 1268B  Russia in the Era of Reforms, Revolutions, and World Wars  
HIST 1268C  The Collapse of Socialism and the Rise of New Russia  
HIST 1270C  German History, 1806-1945  
HIST 1272D  The French Revolution  
HIST 1280  Death from Medieval Relics to Forensic Science  
HIST 1310  History of Brazil  
HIST 1312  Brazil: From Abolition to Emerging Global Power  
HIST 1313  Brazilian Biographies  
HIST 1320  Rebel Island: Cuba, 1492-Present  
HIST 1331  The Rise and Fall of the Aztecs: Mexico, 1300-1600  
HIST 1332  Reform and Rebellion: Mexico, 1700-1867  
HIST 1333  The Mexican Revolution  
HIST 1370  The United States and Brazil: Tangled Relations  
HIST 1381  Latin American History and Film: Memory, Narrative and Nation  
HIST 1440  The Ottomans: Faith, Law, Empire  
HIST 1445  The Making of the Ottoman World, 15th - 20th Centuries  
HIST 1455  The Making of the Modern Middle East  
HIST 1460  Modern Turkey: Empire, Nation, Republic  
HIST 1470  Legal History in the Middle East  
HIST 1501  The American Revolution  
HIST 1503  Antebellum America and the Road to Civil War  
HIST 1505  Making America Modern  
HIST 1507  American Politics and Culture Since 1945  
HIST 1511  Sinners, Saints, and Heretics: Religion in Early America  
HIST 1512  First Nations: The People and Cultures of Native North America to 1800  
HIST 1513  U.S. Cultural History from Revolution to Reconstruction  
HIST 1514  Capitalism, Slavery and the Economy of Early America  
HIST 1530  The Intimate State: The Politics of Gender, Sex, and Family in the U.S., 1873-Present  
HIST 1531  Political Movements in Twentieth-Century America  
HIST 1532  Black Freedom Struggle Since 1945  
HIST 1550  American Urban History, 1600-1870  
HIST 1551  American Urban History, 1870-1965  
HIST 1553  Empires in America to 1890  
HIST 1554  American Empire Since 1890  
HIST 1570  American Legal and Constitutional History  
HIST 1571  The Intellectual History of Black Women  
HIST 1620  Gandhi's India: South Asian Before 1947  
HIST 1640  Inequality + Change: South Asia after 1947  
HIST 1730  "Cannibals", "Barbarians" and "Noble Savages": Travel and Ethnography in the Early Modern World  
HIST 1735  Slavery in the Early Modern World  
HIST 1736  A Global History of the Reformation  
HIST 1820A  Environmental History  
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 1825S  Science and Capitalism  
HIST 1830M  From Medieval Bedlam to Prozac Nation: Intimate Histories of Psychiatry and Self  
HIST 1835A  Unearthing the Body: History, Archaeology, and Biology at the End of Antiquity  

SEMINAR COURSES  
Non-Capstone Seminars  
HIST 1925A  World of Walden Pond: Transcendentalism as a Social and Intellectual Movement  
HIST 1956A  Thinking Historically: A History of History Writing  
HIST 1956B  Rites of Power in Modern China  

Capstone Seminars  
HIST 1960G  Southern African Frontiers, c. 1400-1860  
HIST 1960Q  Medicine and Public Health in Africa  
HIST 1960R  South Africa Since 1990  
HIST 1960S  North African History: 1800 to Present  
HIST 1961B  Cities and Urban Culture in China
HIST 1961C Knowledge and Power: China’s Examination Hell
HIST 1962B Life During Wartime: Theory and Sources from the Twentieth Century
HIST 1962C State, Religion and the Public Good in Modern China
HIST 1962D Japan in the World, from the Age of Empires to 3.11
HIST 1963L Barbarians, Byzantines, and Berbers: Early Medieval North Africa, AD 300-1050
HIST 1963M Charlemagne: Conquest, Empire, and the Making of the Middle Ages
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 1964D Women in Early Modern England
HIST 1964E The English Revolution
HIST 1964F Early Modern Ireland
HIST 1964G Spin, Terror and Revolution: England, Scotland and Ireland, 1660-1720
HIST 1964K Descartes’ World
HIST 1964L Slavery in the Early Modern World
HIST 1965B Fin-de-Siècle Paris and Vienna
HIST 1965C Stalinism
HIST 1965D The USSR and the Cold War
HIST 1965E Politics of the Intellectual in 20C Europe
HIST 1965L Appetite for Greatness: Cuisine, Power, and the French
HIST 1965R The Crisis of Liberalism in Modern History
HIST 1967C Making Revolutionary Cuba, 1959-Present
HIST 1967E In the Shadow of Revolution: Mexico Since 1940
HIST 1967F The Maya in the Modern World
HIST 1967R History of Rio de Janeiro
HIST 1967T History of the Andes from the Incas to Evo Morales
HIST 1968A 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 versus the Palestinians
HIST 1969F Nothing Please Me: Understanding Modern Middle Eastern History Through Literature
HIST 1970B Enslaved! Indians and Africans in an Unfree Atlantic World
HIST 1970D Problem of Class in Early America
HIST 1970F Early American Money
HIST 1971D From Emancipation to Obama
HIST 1972A American Legal History, 1760-1920
HIST 1972E Theory and Practice of Local History
HIST 1972F Consent: Race, Sex, and the Law
HIST 1972G Lesbian Memoir
HIST 1972H U.S. Human Rights in a Global Age
HIST 1974A The Silk Roads, Past and Present
HIST 1974B War and Peace: A Global History
HIST 1974G Nonviolence in History and Practice
HIST 1974J Decolonizing Minds: A People’s History of the World
HIST 1974K Maps and Empires
HIST 1974L A Global Idea: Civilization(s)
HIST 1974M Early Modern Globalization
HIST 1974S The Nuclear Age
HIST 1976A Native Histories in Latin America and North America
HIST 1976B The History of Extinction
HIST 1976D Powering the Past: The History of Energy
HIST 1976E The Anthropocene: Climate Change as Social History
HIST 1976G Animal Histories
HIST 1976H Environmental History of Latin America 1492-Present
HIST 1976I The World of Isaac Newton
HIST 1976N Topics in the History of Economic Thought
HIST 1976R Histories of the Future
HIST 1977B Feathery Things: An Avian Introduction to Animal Studies
HIST 1977I Gender, Race, and Medicine in the Americas
HIST 1990 Undergraduate Reading Courses
HIST 1992 History Honors Workshop for Prospective Thesis Writers
HIST 1993 History Honors Workshop for Thesis Writers, Part I
HIST 1994 History Honors Workshop for Thesis Writers, Part II

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.” HIST 1992 can count 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.” HIST 1993 and HIST 1994 do not count towards the 10 courses required for graduation in history; they are an additional two courses to the minimum of 10 required history courses. 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.