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 [here](https://www.brown.edu/academics/history/undergraduate/history-concentration) and visit the office hours of their prospective concentrator advisor [here](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](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 Courses in 3 different geographic regions
- Field of focus
- Capstone Seminar
- Any combination of courses that fulfill the four requirements above for a total number of 10 courses
- Honors (optional) 3 additional courses related to writing a thesis (one of which, HIST 1992, can count towards your 10 concentration requirements)

**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 [here](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1NT5i7zAqJXDCivZXCtdsdcSeMD5v28ke6550tnBmE/edit?#gid=213871521).

**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**

<table>
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**Gateway Lecture Courses**

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<td>African Experiences of Empire</td>
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<td>HIST 0203</td>
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<td>HIST 0212</td>
<td>Histories of East Asia: China</td>
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<td>HIST 0214</td>
<td>Histories of East Asia: Japan</td>
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<td>HIST 0215</td>
<td>Modern Korea: Contending with Modernity</td>
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<td>HIST 0218</td>
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<td>HIST 0228A</td>
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<td>HIST 0233</td>
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<td>HIST 0234</td>
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<td>HIST 0244</td>
<td>Understanding the Middle East: 1800s to the Present</td>
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<td>Civilization, Empire, Nation: Competing Histories of the Middle East</td>
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<td>HIST 0250</td>
<td>American Exceptionalism: The History of an Idea</td>
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<td>HIST 0252</td>
<td>The American Civil War in Global Perspective: History, Law, and Popular Culture</td>
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<td>Religion, Politics, and Culture in America, 1865 - Present</td>
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<td>HIST 0257</td>
<td>Modern American History: New and Different Perspectives</td>
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<td>HIST 0270A</td>
<td>From Fire Wielders to Empire Builders: Human Impact on the Global Environment before 1492</td>
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<td>HIST 0270B</td>
<td>From the Columbian Exchange to Climate Change: Modern Global Environmental History</td>
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<td>HIST 0276</td>
<td>A Global History of the Atomic Age</td>
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<td>HIST 0276B</td>
<td>Science and Capitalism</td>
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<td>HIST 0285A</td>
<td>Modern Genocide and Other Crimes against Humanity</td>
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<td>HIST 0286A</td>
<td>History of Medicine I: Medical Traditions in the Old World Before 1700</td>
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<td>HIST 0286B</td>
<td>History of Medicine II: The Development of Scientific Medicine in Europe and the World</td>
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**SEMINAR COURSES**

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<td>Shanghai in Myth and History</td>
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<td>HIST 0520A</td>
<td>Athens, Jerusalem, and Baghdad: Three Civilizations, One Tradition</td>
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<td>HIST 0521A</td>
<td>Christianity in Conflict in the Medieval Mediterranean</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 0521M</td>
<td>The Holy Grail and the Historian's Quest for the Truth</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 0522G</td>
<td>An Empire and Republic: The Dutch Golden Age</td>
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<td>HIST 0522N</td>
<td>Reason, Revolution and Reaction in Europe</td>
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<td>HIST 0522O</td>
<td>The Enlightenment</td>
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<td>HIST 0523A</td>
<td>The Holocaust in Historical Perspective</td>
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<td>HIST 0523B</td>
<td>State Surveillance in History</td>
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<td>HIST 0523P</td>
<td>The First World War</td>
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<td>HIST 0535A</td>
<td>Atlantic Pirates</td>
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<td>HIST 0537A</td>
<td>Popular Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
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<td>Tropical Delights: Imagining Brazil in History and Culture</td>
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<td>HIST 0550A</td>
<td>Object Histories: The Material Culture of Early America</td>
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<td>HIST 0551A</td>
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<td>HIST 0556A</td>
<td>Sport in American History</td>
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<td>HIST 0556B</td>
<td>Inequality and American Capitalism in the Twentieth Century</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 0557A</td>
<td>Slavery and Historical Memory in the United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 0557B</td>
<td>Slavery, Race, and Racism</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 0557C</td>
<td>Narratives of Slavery</td>
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<td>HIST 0559A</td>
<td>Culture and U.S. Empire</td>
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<td>HIST 0559B</td>
<td>Asian Americans and Third World Solidarity</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 0574A</td>
<td>The Silk Road, Past and Present</td>
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<td>HIST 0576A</td>
<td>The Arctic: Global History from the Dog Sled to the Oil Rig</td>
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<td>HIST 0577A</td>
<td>The Chinese Diaspora: A History of Globalization</td>
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<td>HIST 0580M</td>
<td>The Age of Revolutions, 1760-1824</td>
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<td>HIST 0580O</td>
<td>Making Change: Nonviolence in Action</td>
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<td>HIST 0582A</td>
<td>Animal Histories</td>
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<td>HIST 0582B</td>
<td>Science and Society in Darwin's England</td>
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**Sophomore Seminars**

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<td>The Search for King Arthur</td>
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<td>HIST 0637B</td>
<td>Fractious Friendships: The United States and Latin America in the Twentieth Century</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 0654A</td>
<td>Welfare States and a History of Modern Life</td>
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<td>HIST 0654B</td>
<td>American Patriotism in Black and White</td>
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<td>HIST 0655A</td>
<td>Culture Wars in American Schools</td>
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<td>HIST 0658D</td>
<td>Walden + Woodstock: The American Lives of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Bob Dylan</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 0675A</td>
<td>The Chinese Diaspora: A History of Globalization</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 0685A</td>
<td>The Social Lives of Dead Bodies in China and Beyond</td>
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**COURSES WITH NUMBERS 1000-1999**

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<td>Entangled South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 1060</td>
<td>Africa, c.1850-1946: Colonial Contexts and Everyday Experiences</td>
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<td>&quot;Modern&quot; Africa</td>
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<td>Humanitarianism and Conflict in Africa</td>
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<td>HIST 1101</td>
<td>Chinese Political Thought from Confucius to Xi Jinping</td>
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<td>Imperial China/China: Culture and Legacy</td>
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<td>HIST 1118</td>
<td>China’s Late Empires</td>
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<td>HIST 1121</td>
<td>The Modern Chinese Nation: An Idea and Its Limits</td>
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<td>HIST 1122</td>
<td>China Pop: The Social History of Chinese Popular Culture</td>
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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 Resisting Empire: Gandhi and the Making of Modern South Asia
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 1952A 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

SEMINAR COURSES
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 Pleases 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 Imperialism and Environmental Change
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.