

History Department advising tips for HISTORY MAJORS

Starting off: *in the pre-major*

-Students begin their work in the History program by working through the PRE-MAJOR, a series of carefully selected, sequential courses in General Education & lower-division History survey classes. These courses will provide you with a diverse background of subjects, a solid base of historical knowledge, and competence in historical skills and historical thinking. When the pre-major requirements are completed, you may apply for admission to upper-division course work in the major (at the 3000- and 4000-levels).
-**When** will you likely move into the upper-division course work? For most students in the History Major track, you will begin 3000- and 4000-level course work at the end of your sophomore year or the start of your junior year.

Checklist of courses to complete for the History PRE-MAJOR:

(1) Complete **all** of the following:

ENGL 2010, Intermediate Writing: Research Writing in a Persuasive Mode
STAT 1040, Introduction to Statistics (or another QL General Education course)
pass the **Computer and Information Literacy (CIL) exam**

(2) Complete at least **TWO** of the following Gen Ed courses:

ANTH 1010 (BSS) Cultural Anthropology3 credits
ANTH 1020 (BLS) Biological Anthropology3
ANTH 1030 (BSS) World Archaeology3
ENGL 2200 (BHU) Understanding Literature3
ENVS 2340 (BSS) Natural Resources and Society.....3
GEOG 1300 (BSS) World Regional Geography.....3
GEOG 1400 (BSS) Human Geography3
HIST/ANTH/ENGL 2210 (BHU) Introduction to Folklore ...3
PHIL 1000 (BHU) Introduction to Philosophy.....3
PHIL 1200 (BHU) Practical Logic.....3
PHIL 2200 (QI) Deductive Logic3
POLS 1100 (BAI) United States Government and Politics..3
POLS 2300 Introduction to Political Theory.....3
RELS 1010 Introduction to Religious Studies.....3
SOC 1010 (BSS) Introductory Sociology3

(3) Complete the following History surveys with a grade of C+ or better:

▪ **in Premodern History, complete ONE of the following courses for 3 credits:**

HIST 1100 (BHU) Foundations of Western Civilization: Ancient and Medieval3 credits
HIST 1500 (BHU) Cultural and Economic Exchange in the Pre-Nineteenth Century World ..3

▪ **in Modern History, complete ONE of the following courses for 3 credits:**

HIST 1110 (BHU) Foundations of Western Civilization: Modern3
HIST 1510 (BHU) The Modern World3

▪ **in American History, complete BOTH of the following courses for 6 credits:**

HIST 2700 (BAI) United States to 18773
HIST 2710 (BAI) United States 1877-Present3

Stay in contact with academic advisors

-Your course requirements are complicated, so please do not try to advise yourself – or rely on “suggestions” from friends. Instead, work with academic advisors on campus.

-As you work through Utah State University, you need to monitor:

a) your progress in both General Education AND the pre-major.

For assistance, see Amanda Slade in the College of HASS Advising Center,
TSC 302 (amanda.slade@usu.edu)

b) your progress in upper-division History courses (your advisor in our department)

c) your progress in your MINOR (visit that department)

Key choices a History major will make:

Having decided to move along the HISTORY MAJOR track, you should also come to a decision (as soon as possible) about two other questions:

1. Which degree option will you follow (B.A. or B.S.)?

B.A.: this is History's preferred degree (because of our focus on written documents)

- Requires a competency in 2 yrs in one language: 1010, 1020, 2010, 2020
- if you can test out at a higher level than these, the requirement is waived

B.S.: specific requirements on the History Department's pages in USU's General Catalog

- we do NOT accept STAT 1040 for this degree
- none of the credits being used in your General Education science block can be used for the History Department's specific BS degree

2. Which minor will you select?

- Since the study of history requires an understanding of many fields of human endeavor, students majoring in history must select a minor. Historians are encouraged to take electives in fields that will broaden their knowledge of the world and are closely allied to history, such as **Religious Studies**, **Classics**, literature, economics, geography, anthropology, political science, sociology, philosophy, or foreign language.
- (You cannot do the "history minor" as your minor.)

When you complete the pre-major -- and enter the History major . . .

-You will complete a *range* of upper-division courses:

The program requires 7 upper-division (3000-/4000-level) classes (21 credits).

-In addition, you will complete a 3-credit "capstone" course in your senior year:

HIST 4990: Senior thesis. The course emphasizes historiographical literacy, research, and writing skills in relation to a specific historical topic. Students base their substantial thesis on an extensive analysis of primary and secondary source materials.

Other key reminders about the History program:

- Minimum GPA for Admission: 2.5, major; 2.5, Career
- Minimum GPA for Graduation: 2.75, major courses; 2.0, USU
- Minimum Grade Accepted: C+ in major courses
- Number of Required Credits: 36

Opportunities in the History Department:

(a) Scholarships:

- given to those who have done coursework in the department (rather than new students)
- form is online; application deadline is Feb. 1: www.usu.edu/history/index.htm

(b) Undergraduate teaching fellows:

- 30-35 students in this job; paid \$750 for a semester

(c) History honorary society: Phi Alpha Theta

<http://www.usu.edu/history/undergraduateprogram/phialphatheta/pat.htm>

INFORMATION ON THE WEB: see History's home page:

<http://www.usu.edu/history/index.htm>