



DEPARTMENT OF  
**HISTORY**

**Comprehensive Departmental Brochure**

Last Revised: 7/28/22

# What is History?

- People who study history are called Historians.
- Historians study the causes and effects of historical events. A cause is the reason why an event happened. An effect is what happened because of the event. Historians try to figure out why events happened, and the meanings people made, and make, out of the experiences of the past. Historians also use their understanding to think about how those things make a difference today. Learning about the past helps us understand the present. It also helps us decide what to do in the future. Knowing what went wrong in the past may help us make better decisions today and, in the future, when we face similar choices or circumstances.
- If you enjoy solving mysteries, delving into times gone by, and aim to rectify past wrongs then the Department of History may be where you will find your niche.

# History Courses

## **HIST 100 - World History** (3 cr.)

Applies a cross-cultural, comparative approach to understanding social, political, economic, and cultural developments. This course surveys significant themes in Historical development from ancient to modern times.

Gen. Ed.: CG

## **HIST 101 - Europe From 1500 – 1815** (3 cr.)

Major developments and issues in European history from 1500 to 1815.

Gen. Ed.: TH

## **HIST 102 - Europe Since 1815** (3 cr.)

Major developments and issue in European history from 1815 to present.

Gen. Ed.: TH

## **HIST 110 - Europe Since 1500** (3 cr.)

This hybrid course is a comprehensive, thematically organized overview of European history from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the present. It is designed to meet the needs of students in the General Education Program.

Gen. Ed.: TH

## **HIST 120 - Europe Since 1500** (3 cr.)

This hybrid course is a comprehensive, thematically organized overview of European history from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the present. It is designed to meet the needs of students in the General Education Program.

Gen. Ed.: TH

## **HIST 201 - United State to 1877** (3 cr.)

Major developments and issues in American History to 1877.

Gen. Ed.: TH

## **HIST 202 - The United State Since 1877** (3 cr.)

Major developments in American history since 1877.

Gen. Ed.: TH

## **HIST 210 - American Identities in Song** (3 cr.)

This course explores the impact of music on the development of American history since the end of the Civil War, focusing on ways that music helped to define the national identity, as well as the separate identities and struggles of the nation's myriad population groups as they fought for power and civil rights

Gen. Ed.: TH

## **HIST 225 - East Asian History** (3 cr.)

Introduction to the history of East Asia from the emergence of ancient cultures to the present. Its main focus will be on the political, cultural, and social developments of China and Japan, with some attention to Korea and Taiwan

Gen. Ed.: TH

## **HIST 230 - Introduction to Africa** (3 cr.)

Introduces students to Africa by exploring the continent's diverse history, geography, politics, and cultures through lectures, novels, and film.

Gen. Ed.: CG

## **HIST 240 - Immigrant America** (3 cr.)

Takes a cross-cultural approach to American history with a focus on the movement of people, goods, and ideas across national boundaries. Special attention to America's evolving relationships with Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

## **HIST 250 - Sick History of Early America** (3 cr.)

Charts political, social, and cultural change through the lenses of disease, health, sickness, and healing. Covers up to Reconstruction.

Gen. Ed.: TH

**HIST 252 - Eat: A Global History of Food** (3 cr.)

Surveys the global history of food since 1450, with particular attention to areas outside Europe and the US. Examines the history of various aspects of what has become a global agri-food system, including the economics, politics, technologies, and cultures of food. Surveys the major events from the Columbian exchange to GMOs.

Gen. Ed.: CG

**HIST 302 - Fighting Words: History & Story** (3 cr.)

Introduces majors to the theories and methods that historians employ as they seek to construct plausible and compelling interpretations of the past. Nine credits of history required. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

Gen. Ed.: TF

**HIST 304 - History of American Women** (3 cr.)

Women in America from colonial times to 1890: legal positions, social roles, employment, education, reform movements, suffrage, and women's organizations. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 305 - Modern American Women** (3 cr.)

Women in America from 1890 to present: legal positions, social roles, employment and unionization, education, reform movements, suffrage, and women's organizations. Covers changing ideals of American womanhood, women's lib, and future of American women. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

Gen. Ed.: TH

**HIST 309 - Colonialism in the Caribbean** (3 cr.)

Explores the impact of race, class, and colonialism on the development of Caribbean society. Examines the political geography of the pre-Hispanic Caribbean, the political and technical developments in the Iberian Peninsula that made colonialism possible, patterns of settlement, the rise of the plantation system, the connections between slavery and capitalism, the birth of African-American culture, the social structure of plantation society, slave resistance, and the process of emancipation. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 310 - Cultures of Mexico & Central America** (3 cr.)

Cultures of Mexico and Central America from conquest to present day. Emphasis on effects of conquest and colonial governmental systems on indigenous cultures. Cross-listed with ANTH 360. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 311 - Indians and Iberians** (3 cr.)

A history of Latin America focused on the exchange and transformation of native American and Spanish cultures to form the Hispanic American world. Areas of emphasis will include pre-conquest Spain, pre-Columbian Indian Civilizations, the Spanish conquest, the establishment of a new, cross-cultural society, and the break between Spanish American and Spain up through the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 312 - Latin America in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century** (3 cr.)

Major developments in Latin American history during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 311 - Indians and Iberians** (3 cr.)

A history of Latin America focused on the exchange and transformation of native American and Spanish cultures to form the Hispanic American world. Areas of emphasis will include pre-conquest Spain, pre-Columbian Indian Civilizations, the Spanish conquest, the establishment of a new, cross-cultural society, and the break between Spanish American and Spain up through the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 312 - Latin America in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century** (3 cr.)

Major developments in Latin American history during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 314 - Vietnam War** (3 cr.)

Origins of the war in Vietnam from the tradition of resistance by the Vietnamese people against foreign intruders to the development of the Cold War in Asia: the war perceived as both a Vietnamese and American experience. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 315 - Modern Japanese Women's History** (3 cr.)

Examines the development of gender roles in Modern Japan, particularly in relation to the economic and political developments of the Tokugawa, Meiji, Taisho, and Showa periods, and the various responses those changes evoked among women. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 318 - Premodern Japan** (3 cr.)

Covers Japanese history from the prehistoric period to the Tokugawa period, paying particular attention to the development of political institutions, cultural and intellectual trends, and the long-term transformation of the economy and society. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 319 - Modern Japan** (3 cr.)

Traces Japan's historical development from the Meiji Restoration (1868) to the present, exploring the process of modernization, the growth of the imperial state, the Second World War, defeat and occupation, and post-war recovery. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 321 - Ancient Greece & Rome** (3 cr.)

This course examines the Mediterranean world from 1550 BC to AD 500. It is divided into a unit on Greece and a unit on Rome. In addition to considering the ancient Mediterranean's political history, the course will focus on the region's cultural legacy. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 322 - Ancient Middle East** (3 cr.)

Examines the Middle East from 3100 to 332 BC. It is divided into three parts: 1. Mesopotamia; 2. Egypt; and 3. the Holy Land. It presents the region's political and cultural traditions through primary and secondary sources. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 323 - Middle East: Alexander to Islam** (3 cr.)

Examines the Middle East from 332 BC to AD 570. It is divided into three parts: 1. the Hellenistic Age; 2. the advent of the Romans, and 3. the Orient in Late Antiquity. It looks at the influence of Alexander the Great, the spread of Greek culture, Christianity in the East, and the conflict between Rome and Persia. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 326 - Egypt in Late Antiquity** (3 cr.)

Covers Egyptian history from the collapse of the New Kingdom to the Arab Conquest. Major topics include the Saite Renaissance, cooperation and confrontation with Persian, Greek, and Roman occupiers, and Coptic Christianity. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 330 - Black Diaspora: 1500 to Present** (3 cr.)

A social, economic, political, and cultural survey of the migrations (forced and otherwise) of black Africans to, and between, the Americas and Europe over the past 500 years. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 331 - Africa to 1870** (3 cr.)

Explores African history from the emergence of the earliest human societies through the mid-nineteenth century, with particular focus on the period after 1400. Considers the developments of lineage societies and centralized states, the trans-Saharan trade, the Atlantic slave trade, the spread and influence of religions such as Islam and Christianity, and Africa's encounters with other parts of the world. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 332 - Africa Since 1870** (3 cr.)

Explores modern African history, paying particular attention to imperialism and its impact on African societies and cultures, the rise of nationalist and independence movements, independence and the creation of nation-states, and recent and contemporary politics, society, and culture. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 341 - Colonial American History** (3 cr.)

Explores the history and culture of early America as described by both participants and historians. Considers the development of early American society and culture from 1598 to 1763. Religion, gender, class, social status, economics, war, and Native-European relations will be examined. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 342 - Revolutionary America** (3 cr.)

Explores the colonies in the English Atlantic world and the individual and collective decisions to break away from Great Britain. Considers how independence, revolution, and war allowed the former colonies to create a new and fragile Republic. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 350 - Practicing Public Policy** (3 cr.)

This introduction to public history has two main goals. The first is to help students become thoughtful consumers of history in public life such as museums, monuments, and parks. The second is for students to become active participants in the application of history to real-world settings and experiences.

**HIST 351 - Medieval & Renaissance England** (3 cr.)

Examines the History of England from the Medieval period through the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, paying special attention to the manorial system, feudalism, the growth of Parliament, the emergence and structure of the Tudor state, the Protestant Reformation, the rise of Puritanism, and the flowering of Elizabethan culture. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 352 - Revolutionary England** (3 cr.)

Examines the history of England from the beginning of the Stuart dynasty to the beginning of Industrialization, paying particular attention to the origins and progress of the Civil War, and Interregnum, the Restoration, the Glorious Revolution, the financial and consumer revolutions, and the movement for reform. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 353 - Renaissance & Reformation** (3 cr.)

Examines the intellectual, cultural, religious, social, economic, and political dimensions of two profound transformations in European history: the Renaissance and the Reformation, roughly spanning the years 1350 to 1650. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 354 - The Enlightenment** (3 cr.)

Examines in detail the process by which Enlightenment culture took shape, spread, and evolved during the 18th century. Between the publication of Newton's Principia Mathematica in 1685 and the outbreak of the French Revolution a century later, the political, social, and economic assumptions of European thought were radically revised. This intellectual revolution in turn ushered in new forms of sociability and ultimately new political orders. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 370 - African American History** (3 cr.)

Explores African American History from the end of the Civil War to the 1990s, paying particular attention to the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 371 - The First World War** (3 cr.)

The causes, course, and consequences of the First World War; Origins of the war in imperialism and Balkan nationalism; the July Crisis and war of illusions; total war; revolution in Russia, and the consequences to Europe, the Middle East, and the global balance of power. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 372 - Civil War America** (3 cr.)

The Civil War era in history and memory. Emphasis on politics, society, and culture as well as military affairs. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 373 - World War II** (3 cr.)

Causes, events, and result of the traumatic watershed in world history. May be European, American, or Asian in focus as announced each time it is offered. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 376 - The U.S. in the 1920s & 1930s** (3 cr.)

Domestic issues in the United States from 1919 to 1939. Emphasis on prosperity of the twenties, the Depression, and the New Deal. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 377 - The United States Since 1945** (3 cr.)

Explores the history of the U.S. since the end of World War II. Examines the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War, the turbulent 1960s, the political and economic crisis of the 1970s, the Reagan Era, and the politics of personal destruction in the 1990s. It highlights the increasingly close connection between domestic politics and foreign policies, as well as the growing racial and ethnic diversity of the American population. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 378 - Adirondack Environmental History** (3 cr.)

Student research projects explore interrelationships of natural and cultural history in the Adirondack Park, with particular attention to the social, economic, and cultural factors that shape, and reshape, land use over time. The Park as a place to constitutionally protect “forever wild” will be considered in the contexts of larger theoretical discussion about wilderness and protection of other American wild places. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 379 - History of New York State** (3 cr.)

Political, economic, and social developments from colonial times to present. Relationship of state history to major issues and events in American life. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 387 - History of the U.S.S.R.** (3 cr.)

Development of Soviet Union: economic and social developments, political structure, role of Communist Party, and expansion of Russian control and influence through the breakup of the Soviet Union. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 388 - Potsdam in Europe** (3 cr.)

Examines the development of the Potsdam/Berlin region as a major European center, paying attention to cultural, political, and military affairs. We will analyze themes such as religious tolerance and the Enlightenment, as well as the Nazi and Cold War years. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 389 - Modern Germany: Bismarck to Hitler** (3 cr.)

Modern German history from unification and industrialization to defeat in the First and Second World Wars; the collapse of the Weimar Republic, the rise of the Third Reich, and the division of Germany. A minimum of Sophomore standing required.

**HIST 400 - Honors Thesis** (3 cr.)

Senior project which demonstrates mastery of skills of historical inquiry, and critical and analytical expertise. The project begins in the first semester and completed in the second (Honors Thesis II). Instructor permission required.

**HIST 401 - Honors Thesis II** (3 cr.)

Completion of project begun in Honors Thesis I. Instructor permission required.

**HIST 402 - Early American Indian History** (3 cr.)

Explores the history of the people who lived, flourished, “adapted, constructed, retreated, and resisted” in the North American continent from pre-history through the removal policies of the 1830s. A minimum of Junior standing required.

**HIST 419 - U.S. Foreign Relations 1763-1901** (3 cr.)

Examines the history of U.S. foreign relations, between the conclusion of the Seven Years War in 1763 and the decision of American policy makers to pursue overseas expansion at the end of the 19th century. Explores U.S. territorial expansion, Native American and Mexican resistance, the diplomacy of the Monroe Doctrine, and the American drive for overseas economic expansion after the Civil War. A minimum of Junior standing required.



**HIST 420 - U.S. Foreign Relations 1890-2000** (3 cr.)

Explores the history of U.S. foreign relations from the beginning of the nation's overseas economic expansion during the 1890s to the present. Investigates the causes and consequences of the major wars fought by the U.S. during the late 19th and 20th centuries, the origins and effects of the Cold War on U.S. foreign relations, and the impact of economic globalization on the conduct of U.S. foreign policy and on the nation's domestic politics, society, and economy. A minimum of Junior standing required.

**HIST 421 - Race & American Film History** (3 cr.)

Explores the issue of race, broadly defined, in the history of the US cinema. Consideration of relevant contemporary social and cultural issues will supplement close viewing of a number of American films spanning the years from 1915 to the present. A minimum of Junior standing required.

**HIST 461 - Imagining Life Beyond Earth** (3 cr.)

Examines ideas and beliefs about life beyond Earth as expressed in western culture from the ancient Greeks to the present. A minimum of Junior standing required.

**HIST 462 - Hero in Classical Antiquity** (3 cr.)

Considers the evolving concept of the hero in classical antiquity, paying particular attention to the transformation of the heroic ideal during the Hellenistic Age and within Christian communities. A minimum of Junior standing required.

**HIST 463 - Ancient Magic** (3 cr.)

Examines the Egyptian, Greek, and Roman concepts of magic, comparing them with medieval and modern Western ones. A minimum of Junior standing required.

**HIST 464 - Technology in History** (3 cr.)

Examines the relationship between technologies and societies in history by looking at the place of technology in western civilization, and to a lesser extent, globally since the medieval period. A minimum of Junior standing required.

**HIST 465 - Holocaust and History** (3 cr.)

Places the complex developments and events referred to as the Holocaust in the broad context of modern European history. Examines cultural, political, and cultural developments in firsthand accounts in classic and contemporary scholarship, and in novels. A minimum of Junior standing required.

**HIST 466 - Espionage and the Cold War** (3 cr.)

Examines the dynamics of espionage activity in Europe from the Nazi era to the end of the Cold War. The focus is on why and how Nazi, Soviet, and Western intelligence agencies gathered information about each other as well as on ideological, political, economic, and logistical dimensions of reconnaissance work during the period. A minimum of Junior standing required.

**HIST 467 - Imagining Asia** (3 cr.)

Explores the ways in which Trans-Pacific migration and trade, war, and diplomacy have shaped American society and culture and how race has been seen in deeply gendered ways. A minimum of Junior standing required.

**HIST 468 - Japanese History Thru Manga** (3 cr.)

Uses Manga and Anime along with Classical Japanese Literature to explore Japanese history. A minimum of Junior standing required.

**HIST 470 - African Environmental History** (3 cr.)

Historical examination of Africa's diverse human and natural environments. Considers interactions between human and natural worlds with issues such as urbanization, agricultural strategies, deforestation, and the role of the supernatural in African environmental knowledge. A minimum of Junior standing required.

**HIST 471 - History of Money** (3 cr.)

This course examines the History of money over the past three millennia. It explores repeated inventions of money as well as its political, social, economic, intellectual, cultural, and artistic contexts. A minimum of Junior standing required.

**HIST 480 - Senior Seminar in History** (3 cr.)

Capstone course for the History major. Students design and conduct significant research project and draft significant research paper. History majors only. An upper division course in area of seminar focus. Instructor permission required.

Prerequisite(s): [HIST 302](#).

Area of study dependent upon instructor.

Gen. Ed.: CM, CT

Note: The topic of the Senior Seminar in History varies dependent upon what Professor is offering the course.

**HIST 540 - Readings in American History** (3 cr.)

Programs of individual study, designed with the advice of the instructor, on selected topics in American history. (May be taken more than once.) Prerequisite(s): Graduate standing or undergraduate seniors.

# Major Requirements

## **HISTORY MAJOR**

Required Courses: (30 - 33 cr.)

HIST 101, 102, or 110

**AND** HIST 201, 202, 210, 240, or 250

**AND** HIST 100, 225, 230 or 252

**AND** HIST 302

**AND** Any 300 or 400 level North American History course

**AND** Any 300 or 400 level European History course

**AND** Any 300 or 400 level African, Asian, or Latin American History course

**AND** Any two additional 300 or 400 level History courses

**AND** HIST 480 Senior Seminar in History

Notes:

- Student must earn a minimum grade of 2.0 in courses counted toward the major.
- HIST 302 and seminar are only open to History majors.
- Students must take HIST 302 and a prerequisite upper-division course for the seminar.



# Minor Requirements

## **HISTORY MINOR**

Required courses: (18 - 20 cr.)

*All courses are 3 cr.*

Any two 100 or 200 level History courses., and,

Any four 300 or 400 level History courses.

Note:

- Students must earn a minimum grade of 2.0 in courses counted toward the minor.

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# HISTORY FACULTY



# HISTORY FACULTY

continued

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# Past Internships

Undergraduates at SUNY Potsdam are encouraged to gain supplementary experience in their chosen field by doing on-campus and off-campus internships. Contact [Experiential Education](#) at (315) 267-2507 or speak to one of our faculty members.

Below are several locations that SUNY Potsdam students have interned:

- Akwesasne Museum, Akwesasne, NY
- Almonzo and Laura Ingalls Wilder Farm, Malone, NY
- Erie Canal Museum, Syracuse, NY
- Essex County Historical Society, Elizabethtown, NY
- Fort Drum Historical Collect, Fort Drum, NY
- Frederick Remington Museum, Ogdensburg, NY
- National Archives, Washington, DC
- Montpelier Foundation, Orange, VA
- Oneida County Historical Society, Oneida, NY
- Potsdam Public Library, Potsdam, NY
- Potsdam Public Museum, Potsdam, NY
- Ste. Marie Among the Iroquois, Liverpool, NY
- The Adirondack Museum, Blue Mountain Lake, NY
- Town of Dekalb Historian's Office, Dekalb, NY

## What can you do with an undergraduate degree in history?

As liberal arts students, history majors may consider a multitude of careers. Jobs include the following: advertising executive, analyst, archivist, broadcaster, campaign worker, consultant, congressional aide, editor, foreign service officer, foundation staffer, information specialist, intelligence agent, journalist, legal assistant, lobbyist, personnel manager, public relations staffer, researcher, and a teacher...the list is almost endless. More specifically, with your degree in history you can be an educator, researcher, communicator or editor, information manager, advocate, or even a businessperson.

**Here is a brief list of the career opportunities available to the undergraduate history majors.**

<u>Historians as Educators</u> Elementary Schools Secondary Schools Postsecondary Education Historic Sites and Museums	<u>Historians as Researchers</u> Museums and Historical Organizations Cultural Resources Management and Historic Preservation Think Tanks	<u>Historians in Businesses and Associations</u> Historians in Corporations Contract Historians Historians and Nonprofit Associations
<u>Historians as Communicators</u> Writers and Editors Journalists Documentary Editors Producers of Multimedia Material	<u>Historians as Communicators</u> Writers and Editors Journalists Documentary Editors Producers of Multimedia Material	<u>Historians as Advocates</u> Lawyers and Paralegals Litigation Support Legislative Staff Work Foundations
<i>*Data obtained at <a href="https://www.historians.org/jobs-and-professional-development/career-resources/careers-for-history-majors">https://www.historians.org/jobs-and-professional-development/career-resources/careers-for-history-majors</a>.</i>		