

Department of History

Major Advisor: Dr. Matthew Lavine

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Among the humanities disciplines, history is unique in the emphasis it places on interpreting human experience over place and time. Historians study the evolution of human beings and societies, emphasizing the importance of people's choices, values, and actions. History provides indispensable background and the social and political context for other academic disciplines and branches of knowledge.

Specialization in history on the undergraduate level has direct professional application in the field of secondary education and provides excellent preparation for careers in law, the ministry, communication, journalism, government service, the military, and business. The department maintains a close working relationship with other departments on campus, making it possible for students who desire to do so to pursue double majors, joining history with geography, English, political science, business, computer science, or other fields.

To earn a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in history, a student must pass a minimum of 39 semester hours in history with a 2.50 average in those courses. All undergraduates majoring in history must complete two of the following basic sequences: HI 1063/HI 1073; HI 1163/HI 1173; HI 1213/HI 1223; HI 1313/HI 1323. Along with these basic sequences, students are required to take a minimum of two upper division courses from Category I, two upper division courses from Category II, two upper division courses from Category III, plus two upper division courses from any Category.

For information on which courses fit into particular categories, please contact an advisor. At the beginning of their junior year majors must enroll in and pass with a grade of "C" or better, a course in Historiography and Historical Method (HI 3903). Fifteen hours of the upper division work (3000 and 4000 level courses) must be taken at Mississippi State. For a minor in history, a student must take a minimum of 18 semester hours of history including one of the basic sequences listed above plus twelve additional credit hours in history courses numbered 3000 and above including at least one at the 4000 level. Students interested in a major or minor in history should consult one of the advisors listed.

The Department of History offers work leading to both the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees. The prerequisite for admission to a graduate program in history is a minimum of 18 hours of undergraduate history courses. Students desiring to pursue graduate studies should consult the Graduate Coordinator.

Mississippi State has a chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the international history honorary society. Those interested in the eligibility requirements should consult with Professor Matthew Lavine.

General Education and College Requirements

English Composition

EN 1103	English Composition I	3
EN 1113	English Composition II	3
or EN 1173	Accelerated Composition II	

Foreign Language

3 semesters - one Foreign Language - see advisor	9
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Humanities

Literature - see General Education courses	3
History - see major	3
Philosophy Elective - see A&S requirements	3
Humanities Elective - see A&S core ¹	9

Math

MA 1313	College Algebra	3
MA 1323	Trigonometry	3
or ST 2113	Introduction to Statistics	

Fine Arts

See A&S requirements	3
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Natural Sciences

Physical Science w/Lab ²	3-4
Biological Science w/Lab ³	3-4
Natural Science Elective ⁴	3-4

Social Sciences ⁵

See A&S requirements	6
Social Sciences Electives	12

Major Core

Must choose two of the following sequences:	12
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U.S. History

HI 1063	Early U.S. History	
HI 1073	Modern U.S. History	

World History

HI 1163	World History Before 1500	
HI 1173	World History Since 1500	

Western World

HI 1213	Early Western World	
HI 1223	Modern Western World	

East Asian Civ

HI 1313	East Asian Civilizations to 1300	
HI 1323	East Asian Civilizations since 1300	

Category I History U/D Electives	6
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Category II History U/D Electives	6
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Category III History U/D Electives	6
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U/D Electives	6
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Oral Communication Requirement

CO 1003	Fundamentals of Public Speaking	
or CO 1013	Introduction to Communication	3

Writing Requirement

HI 3903	Historiography and Historical Method	3
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Computer Literacy

BIS 1012	Introduction to Business Information Systems	
or TECH 1273	Computer Applications	2

General Electives ⁶

Consult advisor	12
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Total Hours	124
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(31 hours must be A&S 3000 or above)

¹ Must be from 2 different areas. Can be upper division hours; 6 hours may be HI courses; 3 hours must be from another area.

² CH, GG, or PH; see General Education courses.

³ BIO, EPP, or PO; see General Education courses.

⁴ Consult advisor.

⁵ Must be from 2 different areas and must cross 4 disciplines over the 18 hours. Only one Economics allowed. Can be upper division hours. See advisor.

⁶ 13 hours of general electives required if BIS 1012 is chosen for computer requirement.