

HISTORY

DEPARTMENT OFFICE

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Kathleen Noonan / Britain and Ireland, Early Modern Europe, Colonial America

*William Clay Poe / Ancient Near East, Archaeology and Egyptology, Religious Ideas

**Faculty Early Retirement Program*

Programs Offered

Bachelor of Arts in History

Master of Arts in History

Minor in History

Teaching Credential Preparation

The study of history involves the study of all human thought and action, ranging from the economic and the political to the psychological and the artistic. Combining the perspectives and methods of the social sciences and the humanities, it seeks to comprehend the problems and challenges faced by individuals and societies in the distant and recent past, nearby and far away. This understanding of the human experience provides the necessary historical perspective to explain the present. In the process of making sense of our collective and individual past, the student of history develops research, analytical, and communication skills which can be drawn upon in a variety of careers. History majors from Sonoma State have developed careers in journalism, teaching, law, business, public consulting and research, museum and records management, genealogy, library science, and government service.

The history major is designed both to provide the basis for a solid liberal arts education and to meet the needs of individual students. Within the specific requirements of the major, students receive basic instruction in the history of the United States as well as that of other countries. They are also introduced to the methods of historical inquiry, techniques of historical writing, differing philosophies of history and historiography, past and present. Beyond these basic requirements, students may arrange course work to fit their needs and interests. Upper division classes are generally small and offer ample individual attention, guidance, and interaction between students and faculty.

Careers in History

A history major's skills in historical analysis, writing, and research are highly useful in a variety of careers and professions. In addition to preparation for teaching and graduate work within the discipline of history, the history major provides an excellent background for many post-baccalaureate programs, including law, business, library sciences, and cultural resources management. Public history is a growing field, with careers in government, museums, and historic parks.

Students who plan to pursue graduate work or a teaching career should seek advising early regarding their plan of study. Those who plan extensive graduate study are strongly encouraged to take foreign language courses and to consider the history honors program. Prospective K-12 teachers should prepare for the credential program by taking the relevant prerequisites in education, working with young people of the appropriate grade level, and preparing early for the state teacher and content exams. Through the history department internship program, students may earn credit for history-related internships in a wide variety of areas, such as local museums, historical societies, businesses, and schools.

History Department Learning Objectives

The History Department at Sonoma State prepares its students to analyze primary and secondary sources and understand the subjectivities inherent in such texts. During their final year, students must take Senior Seminar (HIST 498), where they write and orally present twenty- to forty-page research papers, which are based on primary and secondary sources, and which identify key historiography.

Objectives:

1 – Analyze and use primary and secondary sources.

Students learn to differentiate between primary and secondary sources and to evaluate the reliability of such sources.

2 – Understand historical debate and controversies.

Students learn to understand diverse interpretations and to examine different sides of historical debates.

3 – Gain an understanding of historiography in given region and time period.

Students learn to understand the ways historians in given regions and time periods have approached history and how the field has changed as new evidence is uncovered and re-examined.

4 – Understand how to use evidence in writing research papers.

Students learn to use leading historical journals, texts, and primary sources to examine the ways historians build arguments from evidence. Students in the history program also learn to use proper citations.

5 – Productive skills: writing and oral expression.

Students hone their writing and speaking skills and learn to articulate an argument regarding key historical events.

Bachelor of Arts in History

The B.A. in history is a 40-unit program that students plan in consultation with a departmental advisor. Courses graded Cr/NC are not applicable to the history major, except in the cases of HIST 497 Internships and HIST 496 History Journal, where 3 units of Cr/NC are accepted.

Degree Requirements	Units
General education	51
Major requirements	40
General electives	29
Total units needed for graduation	120

Major Core Requirements

HIST 201 Foundations of World Civilization	3-4*
HIST 202 Development of the Modern World	3-4*
<i>*History majors may replace HIST 201 with HIST 303, 335, 339, 400, 401 OR replace HIST 202 with HIST 337, 342,383,411, or 412. Either HIST 201 OR HIST 202 MUST be taken. Completion of either HIST 201 or HIST 202 satisfies GE requirement, Area D2.</i>	
HIST 251 The United States to 1877	3-4**
HIST 252 The United States Since 1865	3-4**
<i>**History majors may replace HIST 251 with HIST 351 OR replace HIST 252 with HIST 252, 445, 446, 468, 470, or 477. Either HIST 251 OR HIST 252 MUST be taken. Completion of either HIST 251 OR HIST 252 satisfies GE requirement, Area D3.</i>	
HIST 498 Senior Seminar	4
Total units in the major core	16-18

Major Electives

To finish the major, students must complete additional units in history to total 40 units. These units must include one upper-division course in European history and one course on an area of the world other than the United States or Europe (upper-division substitute for HIST 201/202 may not count for this). Three (3) units of electives can be lower-division; the remaining 20-21 units must be upper-division.

Total units in major electives	22-24
Total units in the major	40

History Honors Program

Eligible* students must have completed the major core requirements, except for the Senior Seminar, to earn the honors degree:	12
HIST 498 (or designated Senior Seminar)	4
HIST 499 Honors Seminar (to complete an Honors Thesis)	4
Total units needed for history honors degree	44

*Eligibility for the history honors degree:

1. A 3.50 GPA at Sonoma State University or overall; and
2. Demonstrated proficiency in a foreign language.

Minor in History

Students contemplating a minor in history should consult the History Department for advising early in their academic careers. Courses graded Cr/NC are not applicable to the history major.

Minor Core Requirements

<i>One Lower-Division Course in World History</i>	3
EITHER HIST 201 Foundations of World Civilization	
OR HIST 202 Development of the Modern World	
<i>(Completion of either HIST 201 or HIST 252 also satisfies GE area D2.)</i>	
<i>One Lower-Division Course in United States History</i>	3
EITHER HIST 251 History of the United States to 1877	
OR HIST 252 History of the United States since 1865	
<i>(Completion of either HIST 251 or HIST 252 also satisfies GE area D3.)</i>	
Total units in the minor core	6

Minor Electives

To finish the history minor, students must complete 16 units of upper-division work in history, usually 4 courses. Students may not count additional lower-division units toward the minor.

Total units in minor electives	16
Total units in minor	22

Sample Four-Year Program for Bachelor of Arts in History

FRESHMAN YEAR:: 30 Units

Fall Semester (15 Units)

GE PHIL 101 (A3) (3)
 GE ENGL 101 (A2) (3)*
 GE Electives (B1, C1, C2) (9)

Spring Semester (15 Units)

GE HIST 201 (3)*
 GE HIST 251 (D3) (3)*
 GE Electives (A1, B2, B4) (9)

SOPHOMORE YEAR:: 31 Units

Fall Semester (15 Units)

GE HIST 202 (3)*
 GE HIST 252 (3)*
 GE Electives (C2, B3, D5) (9)

Spring Semester (16 Units)

GE Electives (6)
 Electives (including HIST) (10)

JUNIOR YEAR:: 30 Units

Fall Semester (16 Units)

History Elective (4)
 History Elective (4)
 UD GE (D4) (3)
 Electives (5)

Spring Semester (14 Units)

History Electives (8)
 UD GE (C4) (3)
 UD GE (C5) (3)

SENIOR YEAR:: 29 Units

Fall Semester (14 Units)

History Electives (8)
 Electives (6)

Spring Semester (15 Units)

HIST 498 (4)
 Electives (11)

TOTAL UNITS:: 120

* ENGL 101 (or its equivalent) is a prerequisite for HIST 201, 202, 241, 242, 251 and 252.

Teaching Credential Preparation

History majors—or majors in other programs—interested in seeking a general elementary credential or secondary school credential for social sciences may demonstrate subject matter competency by passing the CSET Multiple Subjects Exams or the CSET Single Subject Exam in Social Science. For further information and guidance, contact Steve Estes, Department of History, (707) 664-2424.

Master of Arts in History

Requirements for Admission

1. B.A. degree from an accredited institution. Students with undergraduate majors in fields other than history will be required to complete prerequisites before entering the program;
2. Grade point average of 3.00 or better in the undergraduate history major (and in previous graduate courses attempted) as evidenced by the transcripts furnished. Grade point average of 3.20 or better in history for non-majors;

3. Completion of the general test Graduate Record Examination with scores acceptable to the departmental Graduate Studies Committee;
4. Three letters of recommendation, completion of program application and personal statement, and a writing sample;
5. Completion and acceptance of separate application for admission to the University (Office of Admissions and Records). GRE test scores required; and
6. Favorable recommendation for admission by the departmental Graduate Studies Committee after review of the complete file. This confers advancement to classified standing as a graduate student.

For more information, please refer to Graduate Degrees in the Degree Requirements section of this catalog.

Requirements for the M.A.

1. Advancement to candidacy form (M.A. in history) signed and submitted to Graduate Office;
2. Grade point average of 3.00 or better for all work attempted in graduate status and in all work approved as a part of the specific pattern of study. With the approval of the student's committee chair and the graduate advisor, a maximum of 9 units of post-graduate transfer or extension credit (or any combination of the two) may be included as part of the student's specific pattern of study. All courses are to be taken for letter grade;
3. All requirements for the M.A. degree in history, including language and conditional requirements stipulated at the time of admission to candidacy, must be satisfactorily completed within seven years from the time the first course is completed. Completion of Requirements form must be signed and submitted to the graduate office; and
4. With the approval of the student's committee chair and the departmental graduate advisor, the satisfactory completion of one of the following two options:

Master's Thesis Option

(Chosen in consultation with committee chair):

Courses at the 300 or 400 level	15
Graduate courses at the 500 level (including two seminars)	9
HIST 599 Master's Degree Thesis Research	6

Total units required for the M.A. 30

Comprehensive Examination Option

(Chosen in consultation with committee chair):

Courses at the 300 or 400 level	15
Graduate courses at the 500 level (including HIST 500 and 510)	9
HIST 598 Comprehensive Examination Reading and Research	6

Total units required for the M.A. 30