



HISTORY

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

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OUR MISSION

THE MISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY IS TO HELP STUDENTS DEVELOP THE CAPACITY TO THINK HISTORICALLY.

This means understanding change and continuity over time, appreciating the importance of historical context, knowing how to interpret and critique primary and secondary sources, being able to construct arguments based on historical evidence, understanding the varieties of approaches employed by historians, and integrating into the study of history methods employed in related disciplines. Second, it means developing an appreciation for the histories of different regions, societies, and time periods, as well as for the differences and similarities among those histories. Finally, it involves developing an understanding of the past as past and of its importance in the present. All of these abilities are essential to well-educated persons seeking to deal effectively with the complex world in which they live.

History is an essential discipline to the liberal arts, and many of the department's courses fulfill area requirements for graduation. The major is designed to develop necessary knowledge and skill foundations for students who wish to pursue graduate studies in a variety of fields or who intend to move directly into careers in fields such as business, government, law, or public service.

HISTORY MAJOR

Minimum requirements are:

- Ten courses, grade C or better, of which no more than three may be 100-level courses and at least three must be 300-level (in addition to HIS-300)
- One course each in four of the following five regions:
 - Africa
 - Asia
 - Europe
 - Latin America
 - United States
- One course that focuses primarily on the period before 1800
- One course that focuses primarily on race, class, gender, or other ways in which social experiences are constructed
- One course that focuses primarily on global connections or connections between world regions
- HIS-200, normally during the sophomore year
- HIS-300, normally during the senior year

With permission of the department, students may substitute one additional global connections course for one of the regional courses.

Courses that fill the requirements of the major can be found at gustavus.edu/history/distribution.

Before registering for courses for the second semester of junior year, majors develop a concentration of at least three courses in consultation with their adviser. Courses in the concentration will be linked by theme, geography, or time period.

No more than three courses can be counted from non-departmental courses and courses taken at other institutions. AP/IB credit may not be used to meet any requirements except the total number of credits for the major. HIS-200 and HIS-300 may not be taken at other institutions.

HISTORY COURSES

All courses are 1.0 credits. Full course descriptions can be found at:
https://gustavus.edu/general_catalog/current/history#history_courses

100 LEVEL

- 103 World History to 1500
- 104 Environmental History
- 105 World History since 1500
- 110 Europe, 1000–1648
- 120 Modern Europe, 1648–Present
- 130 U.S. History to the Civil War
- 140 U.S. History since the Civil War
- 141 Women in the United States
- 150 Africa and the World
- 160 Introduction to Latin America
- 170 Introduction to Modern East Asia
- 175 History of Pre-Modern East Asia

200 LEVEL

- 200 History Seminar: Thinking Historically
- 201 Empire and Culture
- 202 Slavery and Freedom in the Atlantic World
- 211 Imperial Russia
- 212 The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union
- 218 Scandinavia to 1800
- 219 Scandinavia since 1800
- 221 The Reformation
- 226 European Women
- 230 American Lives
- 232 Black History Matters
- 238 Gender And Sexuality in the United States
- 240 U.S. and World War II
- 241 Recent United States History, 1945–1995
- 242 Hollywood, USA

- 243 History of the Present
- 251 Africa since 1945
- 261 Colonial Latin America
- 274 History of Modern China
- 278 History of Modern Japan

300 LEVEL

- 300 Senior Research Seminar
- 303 Propaganda and Persuasion in the Modern World
- 312 France Under Nazi Occupation
- 323 European Minorities
- 330 Immigration in U.S. History
- 332 America in the Age of the Civil War
- 334 The Civil Rights Movement at the Community Level
- 350 South Africa and Apartheid
- 361 Latin America and the United States
- 370 East Asian and U.S. Interactions in Historical Context
- 396 Honors Research Tutorial I
- 397 Honors Research Tutorial II

The following courses offered outside of the History Department are also accepted for major credit:

- CLA-201 Ancient Greek History and Culture
- CLA-202 Roman History and Culture
- CUR-100 Historical Perspectives I
- CUR-110 Historical Perspectives II

The frequency with which an individual course is offered is subject to change.

The History Department will also occasionally offer courses that are not in the course catalog. These are called “Special Topics” courses and numbered 144, 244, or 344. These also fulfill requirements for the major. Students may also pursue for major credit, subject to finding a qualified and willing faculty member, a topic of special interest in the form of an Independent Study course (291 or 391). Internships do not count toward the major.

HISTORY MAJOR LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Department of History believes that successful history majors will develop capacities for historical thinking, research, and communication, in addition to historical knowledge. We have identified the following Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for history majors. Student achievement of these objectives will be assessed across our curriculum, especially in HIS-200 and HIS-300.

- An ability to analyze historical evidence in multiple geographic regions and time periods.
- An ability to analyze historiographical debates.
- An ability to produce a thesis-driven historical argument through independent research.

HISTORY MINOR

The minor requires a minimum of five courses chosen in consultation with a departmental adviser. No more than two may be 100-level courses and at least one must be a 300-level course. Minors also must complete HIS-200. No more than one course can be counted towards the minor from non-departmental courses and courses taken at other institutions.

HONORS HISTORY MAJOR

This option is open to outstanding students who are seriously considering graduate study in history. Participation in the Honors program is by application due in the department chair's office by April 15 of the junior year. Candidates must have and maintain at least a 3.66 GPA in the major and a 3.25 GPA overall, and must complete the intermediate level of a foreign language, typically the first four courses. Advisers can provide details of the application process.

Honors majors complete all of the requirements of the regular major, except that during the senior year they enroll in HIS-396 in the fall and HIS-397 in the spring semester in place of HIS-300. Majors write an honors thesis, normally 50–75 pages in length, under the direction of a member of the department, and present and defend their thesis publicly at the end of the spring semester. Writing a successful Honors thesis demands a considerable amount of time, dedication, and perseverance. Before applying, students must carefully consider the extent of other demands during the senior year.



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY FACULTY

Kathleen Keller, Chairperson, Associate Professor

Marco Cabrera Geserick, Assistant Professor

Whitney Dirks, Visiting Assistant Professor

Misti Nicole Harper, Visiting Assistant Professor

Gregory Kaster, Professor

Glenn Eric Kranking, Associate Professor

Maddalena Marinari, Associate Professor

David Tôbaru Obermiller, Associate Professor



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History Department
800 West College Avenue
Saint Peter, MN 56082

507-933-7413
gustavus.edu/History

facebook.com/GustavusHistory