

History (B.A.)

Program Description

Webster University's College of Arts & Sciences—the intellectual foundation of the University—fosters free and rigorous intellectual inquiry among students and faculty in an atmosphere that respects differences in background, belief, and aspiration. It promotes the values that ground an open, culturally diverse, and democratic society, and prepares students to be active contributors to such a society.

As part of an international university, the College encourages students to expand their horizons by learning the languages and worldviews of other cultures. It inspires students to seek the common ground upon which humans create sustainable relationships with each other and with their wider environment.

The College also includes several professional programs, which are guided by contemporary practices, appropriate accreditation standards, and the best recent scholarly activity.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of the program, students should:

- Be familiar with the outlines of the history of the modern world, i.e., since 1500.
- Be familiar in some depth with the history of one geographic area or historical epoch.
- Be able to make historical arguments using concrete illustrations and examples

Locations

To learn where the B.A. in history is offered, please visit our Web site at www.webster.edu/ugcatalog/hist.html

Degree Requirements

42 required credit hours
27 general education credit hours
59 elective credit hours

Students are required to complete at least 42 credit hours within the department, 30 of which must be in history, including INTL 1500, HIST 2600, a research requirement (completed by placing on file with the department a substantial research paper from an upper-level course or a senior thesis), and senior overview. History students must take a minimum of 6 credit hours of political science and/or international relations. History majors must take at least 12 credit hours of upper-level coursework in the department (3000 or above), of which a minimum of 6 credit hours must be HIST. At least 18 of the 42 credit hours must be taken at Webster University.

History majors must complete at least 30 credit hours in history, including:

INTL 1500 The World System since 1500	3 hours
American history	3 hours
European history	3 hours
Non-Western history (e.g., Asia, African, Latin American)	3 hours
HIST 2600 Methods of Research	3 hours
HIST 4000 Research Requirement (to be taken in conjunction with a designated 3000-level or 4000-level)	0 hours
Senior overview	0 hours
Political science/international relations	6 hours
Departmental electives (can include courses in HIST, POLT, INTL)	6 hours

Course Descriptions

INTL 1500 The World System since 1500 (3)

Examines the origin and evolution of the current world system. The course explores the political, cultural, technological, social, and economic forces that have shaped world history from 1500 until the present.

HIST 1010 Topics in History (3)

Introductory courses of a survey nature covering various topics. Recent topics have included the American West, American history through folk song and story, historians and the American experience, and religion in America. May be repeated for credit if content differs.

HIST 1100 World Civilizations before 1500 (3)

Examines the evolution of ancient and premodern cultures throughout the world with a focus on the development of the ideas, values, and social, cultural, and political institutions that have shaped the civilizations and the subsequent history of the world. May be repeated for credit if content differs.

HIST 1150 History of Popular Culture (3)

Survey of social, psychological, political, and economic themes that are recurrent in the literature and entertainment of the common person. Particular emphasis is given to twentieth-century media influences.

HIST 1300 Revolutionary America (3)

Explores the creation of American cultures and identities in the nation's formative years covering the colonial, revolutionary, and early national periods of American history.

HIST 1310 Nineteenth-Century America (3)

Survey of U.S. history from early national period to World War I. Examines nationalism and sectionalism in the nineteenth century and analyzes the formation of American identity and values.

HIST 1320 Twentieth-Century United States (3)

Survey of U.S. history from World War I to the present.

HIST 1500 American Studies (3)

Series of topical courses covering specialized aspects of the American historical experience: e.g., the Western story, utopian societies, folklore and legend, and theories of the American character. May be repeated for credit if content differs.

HIST 1800 History of American Education (3)

Surveys the major developments in the history of American education, from colonial times to the present.

HIST 2000 Social History (3)

Course concentrates on the way ordinary people lived in different times and places and their values, customs, beliefs, and social institutions. Content varies (e.g., the social history of war, crime, labor, popular ideas). May be repeated for credit if content differs.

HIST 2060 Gender and Family (3)

Devoted to the history of gender roles and the ideas and values associated with the creation of those roles in different times and places. Possible topics include the history of women, the family, men and masculinity, etc. May be repeated for credit if content differs.

HIST 2080 History of Disease and Medicine (3)

Examines the impact of epidemic diseases on human history and the ideas and strategies humans have adopted to understand and combat their diseases.

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HIST 2130 Refugee and Migration Movements (3)

Studies the historical evolution of migration and refugee flows; examines their psychosocial impacts on peoples, states, and regions. Sometimes focuses on a particular region or people. May be repeated if content differs.

HIST 2200 History of Medieval Society (3)

Overview of European history from the breakup of the Roman world to the fifteenth century. The course focuses on the political, religious, and economic institutions that defined medieval civilization, as well as the distinctive philosophical, literary, and artistic contributions of the age.

HIST 2210 Renaissance and Reformation (3)

Survey of European history in the early modern era, ca. 1300-1650. The course focuses on the artistic, literary, philosophical, and scientific contributions associated with the cultural "rebirth" of the Renaissance and the religious ferment that led to the Protestant Reformation.

HIST 2220 Modern Europe (3)

Overview of the political, social, and cultural history of Europe from the Reformation to the present. Chronological periods or themes vary from semester to semester. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission of the instructor. May be repeated for credit if content differs.

HIST 2250 History of Russia (3)

Overview of Russian history with varied chronological emphasis. Includes Norse, Byzantine, and Tartar influences, the rise of Moscow, absolutism of the czars, and development of the Soviet Union and post-Soviet regimes. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission of the instructor. May be repeated for credit if content differs.

HIST 2280 History of England (3)

Overview of the political, social, and cultural history of England from the medieval period to the present. Specific period covered varies from semester to semester (e.g., the medieval period, the Tudor-Stuart era, modern England). Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission of the instructor. May be repeated for credit if content differs.

HIST 2310 Encounters with History (3)

A topics course devoted to an in-depth examination of chronological subperiods or distinctive themes in history. May be repeated for credit if content differs.

HIST 2320 African-American History (3)

Survey of the African-American experience from colonial times to the present.

HIST 2340 History of American Business and Management (3)

Traces the rise of business as a major American cultural institution, with consideration given to its impact on government, law, education, and social customs. Special emphasis is given to the changes in managerial thought and practice in the twentieth century, and the rise of big management and bureaucracy. Cross-listed with MNGT 2340.

HIST 2400 Modern Asia (3)

Studies the cultures and the political-social development of major Asian nations, with an emphasis on the period since the impact of Western civilizations on ancient cultures. Content varies: e.g., Japan, China, Far East, Pacific World. May be repeated for credit if content differs.

HIST 2420 History of Africa (3)

Introduces students to the history of politics, culture, and society in Africa. Chronological periods of themes may vary. Topics include traditional heritage, slavery and its consequences, colonial experience, nationalism, and independence. May be repeated for credit if content differs.

HIST 2440 History of Latin America (3)

Introduces students to the history of culture, politics, and society in Latin America. Chronological periods and themes will vary. Topics could include Meso American civilizations, the colonial era, modern Mexico, and overviews of South and/or Central American history. May be repeated for credit if content differs.

HIST 2450 Third World (3)

Series of courses that focuses on the history of developing areas of the world: e.g. Southeast Asia, India. May be repeated for credit if content differs.

HIST 2550 History of the Consumer Society (3)

Examines the development of and debates concerning modern institutions associated with consumption, such as department stores, shopping malls, and advertising.

HIST 2600 Methods of Research (3)

Introduces students to the methods of research and to the nature of scholarly enterprise. Historical methods are emphasized as the basis of research in numerous disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

HIST 2610 Reading Course: Introductory (1-6)

Content and methodology are at an introductory level. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and filing of official form. May be repeated for credit if content differs.

HIST 3000 Ideas in History (3)

Examines the history of ideas and the role played by ideas in the social, cultural, and political evolution of nations and peoples. Prerequisite: 3 credit hours of history or permission of the instructor. May be repeated for credit if content differs.

HIST 3050 Economic History (3)

Studies the genesis and development of economic institutions within societies, with attention to economic theories, productivity factors, and wealth distribution. Prerequisite: 3 credit hours of history or permission of the instructor. May be repeated for credit if content differs.

HIST 3060 History Roundtable (3)

A course allowing for in-depth examination of distinctive themes and topics in history in a seminar setting. There will be a special emphasis on the various ways in which events have been interpreted and reinterpreted by historians and by society. Prerequisite: 6 credit hours of history or permission of the instructor. May be repeated for credit if content differs.

HIST 3100 Diplomatic History (3)

Studies the foreign affairs of the major developed areas of the world: e.g., Europe, the United States, Japan. Prerequisite: 6 credit hours of pertinent history or permission of the instructor. May be repeated for credit if content differs.

HIST 3150 International Affairs (3)

Employs regional or topical approach to selected international periods and issues, with attention given to knowledge of historical events preceding and influencing the topic under analysis. Content varies. Prerequisite: 6 credit

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hours of pertinent social studies or permission of the instructor. May be repeated for credit if content differs.

HIST 3650 History Practicum (3-15)

Students will work with a community, private, or public organization in an area related to history. Focus is the application of historical methodology, research, writing, and/or historical knowledge. A total of 6 credit hours of practicum may be used to satisfy departmental degree requirements, with a maximum of 3 credit hours counting as upperlevel coursework. Prerequisites: junior standing and permission of the department chair; specific prerequisites will vary according to topic.

HIST 3800 Introduction to Methods of Teaching Social Studies (2)

Introductory course in methods and techniques of teaching social studies, with the emphasis on organization of teaching units and classroom procedures. Prerequisite: acceptance to the Teacher Certification Program or permission of the director of teacher certification and field experiences.

HIST 3810 Methods of Teaching Social Studies (2-4)

A continuation of HIST 3800. Prerequisites: student teaching simultaneously with this course and acceptance to the Teacher Certification Program or permission of the director of teacher certification and field experiences.

HIST 4000 Research Requirement (0)

Required of all history majors in conjunction with a designated 3000-level or 4000-level course. Recognizes successful completion of the departmental research requirement.

HIST 4100 Advanced Studies in International Affairs (3)

Allows students to pursue advanced studies in a wide variety of subfields in international affairs. Subject matter varies from semester to semester. Prerequisite: 9 credit hours of history or permission of the instructor. May be repeated for credit if content differs.

HIST 4200 Advanced Studies in European History (3)

Allows students to pursue advanced studies in a wide variety of subfields of European history. Subject matter varies from semester to semester. Prerequisite: 6 credit hours of European history or permission of the instructor. May be repeated for credit if content differs.

HIST 4300 Advanced Studies in U.S. History (3)

Allows students to study topics and eras in the United States in some depth. Subject matter varies from semester to semester. Prerequisite: 6 credit hours of American history or permission of the instructor. May be repeated for credit if content differs.

HIST 4400 Advanced Studies in Non-Western History (3)

Investigates in-depth topics in the history of the non-Western world: e.g., Africa, Latin America, Asia. Specific topics vary from semester to semester. Prerequisite: 9 credit hours of history or permission of the instructor. May be repeated for credit if content differs.

HIST 4600 History Seminar (3)

Examines carefully specific topics or chronological periods, with an emphasis on historiography and research. Prerequisite: usually senior standing or permission of instructor. May be repeated for credit if content differs.

HIST 4610 Reading Course: Advanced (1-6)

Content and methodology at advanced level. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and filing of official form. May be repeated for credit if content differs.

HIST 4620 Overview (0-1)

Designed to improve students' skills in analysis and oral communication within the disciplines of history and political science. Consists of a series of informal discussions with department faculty, culminating in a formal oral examination. Subject matter varies yearly. Prerequisites: senior standing and major in history, political science, or international relations.

HIST 4700 Senior Thesis (4)

Allows senior students to pursue significant independent research/writing projects in history. Prerequisites: senior standing and approval of the department chair.