

HISTORY, BA

Students who major in history explore the people, institutions, and cultures of those who came before us. The study of the past is deeply connected to the present, and it gives students powerful tools for understanding and engaging a wide range of modern issues, debates, and questions. Moreover, studying history teaches valuable practical skills—critical, argumentation, writing, and more—that lead to success in a variety of career fields.

Admission into the Major

Students are expected to formally declare a major no later than the fourth semester of full-time enrollment (or at 61 semester hours for transfer students). Students can declare a major by completing the Change of Major/Minor Application online under the Student tab of myBama.

Special Opportunities

The Department of History offers a range of opportunities for undergraduate research, including a capstone research seminar. We offer a seminar and internships in public history, a student leadership program (the Peer Mentors), a study-abroad program (JA at Oxford), and a range of scholarships. The department also sponsors a History Club that is open to all students, as well as a chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honorary society.

Students earning the bachelor of arts (BA) degree with a major in history must complete all University, College and departmental degree requirements. Students can take a selection of the following courses in order to fulfill the requirements for the history major. In addition, students must fulfill all general education requirements, as well as requirements for an approved minor and other sufficient credits for a minimum of 120 applicable semester hours.

Code and Title	Hours
Major Courses	
Majors must take 9 hours in the following introductory surveys; must consist of one sequence, and include at least 3 hours from HY 101-108 and 3 hours from HY 111-118:	9
HY 101 Western Civ To 1648	
HY 102 Western Civ Since 1648	
HY 103 American Civilization to 1865	
HY 104 Am Civ Since 1865	
HY 105 Honors West Civ To 1648	
HY 106 Honors West Civ Sc 1648	
HY 107 Honors Am Civ to 1865	
HY 108 Honors Am Civ Sc 1865	
HY 111 Colonial Latin America	
HY 112 Modern Latin Am Since 1808	
HY 113 Asian Civilization to 1400	
HY 114 Modern Asia since 1400	
HY 115 Science/Medicine to 1800	
HY 116 Science/Medicine Since 1800	
HY 117 World History to 1500	
HY 118 World History Since 1500	
Credit Hours Subtotal:	9
Field Requirement	
Select three hours from each field (see below)	12

	Credit Hours Subtotal:	12
Electives		
Students must take 9 hours of electives. Electives can come from any of the Field-specific courses (listed below) as well as courses that have no geographic specialization, like HY201 (Legal History Experiential Learning), HY301 (Independent Study), HY 302 (History Mentoring), and HY 440 (Public History Internship).		9
	Credit Hours Subtotal:	9
HY 497 Capstone Research Seminar ¹		3
This course is equivalent to the course formerly numbered HY430. Students who previously took HY430 will receive credit for completing the Capstone requirement and should not take HY497. Students cannot take HY430 and HY497 for separate credit. This courses is open to History Majors only.		

Total Hours 33

Footnotes

¹ A minimum grade of C is required to receive credit for HY497 (Capstone Research Seminar). Students who complete a history honors thesis (HY499) are exempt from this requirement.

Fields

A minimum of 3 hours from each of the following fields must be completed for a total of 12 hours.

Field 1: United States History

Code and Title	Hours
HY 201 Legal History Field Experience	1
HY 225 Hy Alabama To 1865	3
HY 226 Hy Alabama From 1865	3
HY 306 Topics in American History	3
HY 308 Colonial America	3
HY 309 Great Cases - US Legal History	3
HY 311 Antebellum America	3
HY 313 American South Since 1865	3
HY 315 The Civil War	3
HY 316 Life & Legend Abraham Lincoln	3
HY 317 US Strategic Defense Policy	3
HY 318 U S Since 1945	3
HY 322 US / Age of Franklin Roosevelt	3
HY 323 Us Constitut Hy to 1877	3
HY 324 Us Constitut Hy sc 1877	3
HY 325 Us-World Power to 1898	3
HY 328 United States of War	3
HY 329 American Religious HY to 1870	3
HY 330 Civil Rights Movement	3
HY 332 Native American History	3
HY 335 Handmade Nation: Knitting & HY	3
HY 336 U.S. Disability History	3
HY 337 Foodways in American History	3
HY 339 Race & Injustice in the South	3
HY 340 Early Material Culture	3

HY 341	Hy US - Vietnam War	3
HY 345	Race and Science	3
HY 351	The First Amendment	3
HY 352	The Right to Privacy	3
HY 353	Digital History	3
HY 354	Southern Queer History	3
HY 401	History of History	3
HY 406	Topics in American History	3
HY 409	Amer Rev/New Nation	3
HY 411	Comp. Slavery & Emancipation	3
HY 414	Morality-SocialChange-America	3
HY 415	Sinners & Saints in America	3
HY 418	Slavery, Freedom, & Authority	3
HY 419	Alabama Memory: Lynching in AL	3
HY 424	American Thought Before 1860	3
HY 432	Beyond Pocahontas	3
HY 439	Foundations in Public History	3
HY 441	Oral History	3
HY 460	The Warren Court	3
HY 461	History of Slavery in Law	3

Field 2: European History

Code and Title	Hours	
HY 305	Topics in European History	3
HY 346	Epidemics	3
HY 349	History of France 1760-present	3
HY 355	German History Sc 1740	3
HY 356	Holocaust: History, Memory	3
HY 357	World War I	3
HY 358	World War II	3
HY 361	Russia to 1894	3
HY 362	Russia-Soviet Union since 1894	3
HY 364	Christianity Discontents	3
HY 365	European Consumer Society	3
HY 366	Modern Britain, 1700-2015	3
HY 367	Honors Mod Britain, 1700-2015	3
HY 382	Early Modern Britain	3
HY 383	Honors Early Modern Britain	3
HY 385	History Of Greece	3
HY 386	History Of Rome	3
HY 388	The Crusades	3
HY 393	British Emp & Commonwealth	3
HY 401	History of History	3
HY 405	Topics in European History	3
HY 442	The Middle Ages	3
HY 444	Reform & Counter-Reformation	3
HY 446	Age of Reason 1715-89	3
HY 448	Women in Europe since 1750	3
HY 455	The Darwinian Revolution	3
HY 457	The Russian Revolution	3
HY 462	French Legal History	3
HY 481	War/Dipl. in Med & Mod. Europe	3
HY 482	War & Religion in the West	3

HY 483	Thirty Years' War	3
HY 490	England under Tudors	3
HY 491	England under Stuarts	3
HY 494	Britain in the Victorian Age	3
HY 495	Honors Britain Victorian Age	3

Field 3: African, Asian or Latin American History

Code and Title	Hours	
HY 307	Special World Topics	3
HY 338	Contemporary China 1921-2000	3
HY 348	The History of Games	3
HY 368	Caribbean History Since 1492	3
HY 370	Atlantic World 1400-1800	3
HY 373	Enviro History of Americas	3
HY 374	The History of Pirates	3
HY 377	Mexico since 1810	3
HY 378	Drugs, Booze & Mexican Society	3
HY 379	History of Modern Argentina	3
HY 384	Ancient Egypt Near East	3
HY 404	Modern China since 1600	3
HY 411	Comp. Slavery & Emancipation	3
HY 473	Indians, Nuns, & Rogues	3
HY 474	Relation US Latin Amer	3
HY 477	Imperial Spain's "Golden Age"	3
HY 478	Spanish Conquest of Americas	3

Field 4: Hidden Histories

Code and Title	Hours	
HY 311	Antebellum America	3
HY 330	Civil Rights Movement	3
HY 332	Native American History	3
HY 336	U.S. Disability History	3
HY 339	Race & Injustice in the South	3
HY 345	Race and Science	3
HY 356	Holocaust: History, Memory	3
HY 368	Caribbean History Since 1492	3
HY 411	Comp. Slavery & Emancipation	3
HY 414	Morality-SocialChange-America	3
HY 418	Slavery, Freedom, & Authority	3
HY 419	Alabama Memory: Lynching in AL	3
HY 448	Women in Europe since 1750	3
HY 461	History of Slavery in Law	3
HY 473	Indians, Nuns, & Rogues	3
HY 478	Spanish Conquest of Americas	3

Grade Point Average

A 2.0 grade point average in the major is required for completion of the degree. Please see the Grades and Grade Points section of this catalog for an explanation on grade point average calculations.

Upper-Level Requirement

Majors must take 15 hours of upper-level courses (300 or higher).

Residency Requirement

Majors must take a minimum of 12 credits of upper-level courses (300 or higher) in residence at UA.

Ancillary Courses

The history major does not require ancillary courses. However, it is recommended that students, especially those considering graduate work in history, study at least one foreign language.

Required Minor

This major requires the completion of a minor.

Additional Major Requirements

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have met all University, College, major and minor requirements. However, each student must meet with an adviser in the major department for academic planning and to be approved for registration each semester. College advisers are also available for additional assistance with minor, college and University requirements.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for any HY courses. The Capstone History course, HY497, is open to History Majors only.

Honors Program

The history honors program is open to history majors who have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0, a 3.3 GPA or above in History, and at least 12 hours of HY courses completed. The program requires six hours of honors work: HY 497 Capstone Research Seminar followed by HY 499 Honors Thesis II OR HY 498 Honors Thesis I followed by HY 499 Honors Thesis II. Both options must be completed under the direction of a tenured or tenure-track member of the department. Students who complete a History Honors thesis by taking the combination of HY 498 and HY 499 are exempt from having to take the HY 497 Capstone Research Seminar. Students wishing to complete an Honors thesis must secure approval from their faculty honors advisor before embarking on this process. In order to graduate with honors in history, students must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0, a 3.3 GPA or above in history, and satisfactory completion of a thesis judged to merit an honors designation.

Public History Concentration

Requirements:

1. Students must complete a total of 12 credit hours from an approved course list (included below).
2. Students must be History majors to pursue a concentration in public history.

Students do not have to take HY 439 or HY 440 prior to taking other courses in the concentration, but the courses are required to complete the concentration. All students must take 6 hours in electives for the Public History concentration. The list below represents the types of course electives offered in any given semester that would count toward the Public History concentration. A student's choice of electives must be approved by the concentration director; the student and concentration director will work to identify the course electives that best support student interest and career goals.

Code and Title	Hours
Required Courses	
HY 440 Public History Internship	3
HY 439 Foundations in Public History	3
Elective Courses	
At least 3 hours must come from a different field of study	
AC 456 Govt & Nonprofit Accounting	
AMS 341 African American Art	
AMS 407 Landscapes of the South	
ANT 107 Intro to Archaeology	
ANT 368 Southeastern Archaeology	
ANT 421 Ethnography	
ANT 445 Historical Archaeology	
ANT 460 Anthropology and Museums	
ART 130 2D Design	
GY 377 Cultural Geography	
GY 410 National Parks	
GY 430 Intro Geographic Info Systems	
HY 311 Antebellum America	
HY 441 Oral History	
NEW 230 Environmental Studies	
NEW 273 Social Issues & Ethics	
NEW 365 Environmental Policy	
NEW 436 Public Leadership	
Total Hours	12

Legal History Concentration

Requirements:

1. students must complete a minimum of 12 credit hours from the approved courses list (see below), 3 credit hours of which must come from the required foundational course HY 309 Great Cases - US Legal History
2. students must *also* complete a 1 credit hour experiential learning course HY 201 Legal History Field Experience designed to breed a culture of engagement between students and the many legal-themed organizations operating on campus and in the surrounding area
3. students must be History majors to receive credit for the concentration

Note: The concentration is designed to "fit inside" the existing major – completed courses will also count towards students' completion of the larger History major. With proper planning and advisement the concentration *will not* require students to take courses beyond the standard 120 credit model nor inhibit students from completing their degrees on time. All students will be required to meet with the concentration's director at least once for guidance on how best to navigate the concentration efficiently.

Required Foundational Course	Hours
Required Foundational Courses	
HY 309 Great Cases - US Legal History	3
HY 201 Legal History Field Experience	1
Elective Courses	
HY 323 Us Constitut Hy to 1877	
HY 324 Us Constitut Hy sc 1877	
HY 330 Civil Rights Movement	

HY 332	Native American History
HY 351	The First Amendment
HY 352	The Right to Privacy
HY 361	Russia to 1894
HY 419	Alabama Memory: Lynching in AL
HY 460	The Warren Court
HY 461	History of Slavery in Law
HY 462	French Legal History
HY 491	England under Stuarts

Total Hours **12**

Regarding Prerequisites: Students *do not* have to take HY 309 or HY 201 prior to taking other courses in the concentration, but the courses *are* required to complete the concentration. No other prerequisites are required.

Types of Jobs Accepted

Majoring in history prepares students for fulfilling careers in diverse fields. Though many of our graduates decide to pursue lives of scholarship and teaching, others go into law, public history and museum studies, public policy, journalism, publishing or business. A recent survey suggests that nearly 90% of our 2016 graduates are employed soon after graduation — a rate commensurate with that of the College of Arts and Sciences as a whole. Whatever your chosen field, the communication, writing, researching and critical thinking skills acquired as a history major will be in high demand in the modern workforce.

Jobs of Experienced Alumni

People holding degrees in history from the University of Alabama teach in schools and colleges around the country. They have served in government at all levels, from the Tuscaloosa city council to the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate and the Alabama Supreme Court. They are museum curators and directors, newspaper and television journalists, national real-estate brokers, attorneys and business men and women with MBAs, some of whom have become CEOs of major corporations. If you can think of a career, history can help get you there and make you a great success.

Learn more about opportunities in this field at the Career Center