

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 careers 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. These include the general education requirements, the following major requirements, all requirements for an approved minor and other sufficient credits for a minimum of 120 applicable semester hours.

	Hours
Major Courses	
HY 430 UG Research Seminar ¹	3
Majors must take 15 hours in the following introductory surveys; must consist of one sequence, and include at least 3 hours of American Civ and 3 hours of Western Civ: ²	15
HY 101 Western Civ To 1648	
HY 102 Western Civ Since 1648	
HY 103 History of American Civilization to 1865	
HY 104 America Civilization Since 1865	
HY 105 Honors West Civ To 1648	
HY 106 Honors West Civ Sc 1648	
HY 107 Honors American Civilization to 1865	
HY 108 Honors American Civilization Since 1865	
HY 110 Comparative World Civ	
HY 111 Colonial Latin America	
HY 112 Modern Latin America Since 1808	
HY 113 Asian Civilization to 1400	
HY 114 Modern Asia since 1400	
HY 115 History of Science to 1687	
HY 116 History of Science Since 1687	
Credit Hours Subtotal:	18
Field Requirement	
Select three hours from each field	9
Credit Hours Subtotal:	9
Electives	

Select nine hours of HY electives	9
Credit Hours Subtotal:	9
Total Hours	36

¹ A minimum grade of C (2.0) is required to receive credit for HY 430 UG Research Seminar. Students who complete a history honors thesis are exempt from this requirement.

² For students who elect to complete the Western Civilization sequence, HY 101 Western Civ To 1648 or HY 105 Honors West Civ To 1648 is the preferred course option. Note that HY 110 Comparative World Civ may be substituted for HY 101 Western Civ To 1648 or HY 105 Honors West Civ To 1648.

Fields

A minimum of 3 hours from each of the following fields must be completed for a total of 9 hours.

Depending on the content, HY 200 Special Studies in Hy, HY 300 Special Studies in History, HY 301 Independent Study, HY 395 History Colloquium, HY 399 History Honors Colloquium, HY 400 Special Studies in History, HY 430 UG Research Seminar, HY 498 Honors Thesis I, and HY 499 Honors Thesis II can also fulfill this requirement.

Field 1: United States History

	Hours
HY 225 Hy Alabama To 1865	3
HY 226 Hy Alabama From 1865	3
HY 295 Us Naval History	3
HY 312 American South Before 1865	3
HY 313 American South Since 1865	3
HY 314 Coming Of The Civil War	3
HY 315 The Civil War	3
HY 316 Life & Legend Abraham Lincoln	3
HY 318 U S Since 1945	3
HY 319 19th Century Black History	3
HY 320 20th Century Black History	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 326 Us-World Power sc 1898	3
HY 327 Women in Early America	3
HY 330 Civil Rights Movement	3
HY 341 Hy US - Vietnam War	3
HY 408 Colonial Us to 1763	3
HY 409 Amer Rev/New Nation	3
HY 411 Comp. Slavery & Emancipation	3
HY 413 Mexican War Thru Civil War	3
HY 416 Us Fr Recons To Wwar I	3
HY 417 US from WWI to WWII	3
HY 424 American Thought Before 1860	3
HY 425 American Thought since 1860	3
HY 428 Women In America	3
HY 429 Spanish Frontier in N. America	3

HY 432	Gender and Native Americans: Beyond Pocohontas	3
HY 480	Survey of Military History	3

Field 2: European History

		Hours
HY 235	Christ Church To 1500	3
HY 236	Christ Church Sc 1500	3
HY 247	England To 1688	3
HY 321	Religion in Modern Europe	3
HY 349	History of France 1760-present	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 365	European Consumer Society	3
HY 385	History Of Greece	3
HY 386	History Of Rome	3
HY 390	Survey of Irish History	3
HY 442	The Middle Ages	3
HY 443	Renaissance	3
HY 444	Reform & Counter-Reformation	3
HY 446	Age of Reason 1715-89	3
HY 448	Women in Europe since 1750	3
HY 451	Early Modern Germany	3
HY 481	War/Dipl. in Med & Mod. Europe	3
HY 482	War & Religion in the West	3
HY 490	England under Tudors	3
HY 491	England under Stuarts	3
HY 493	Britain in the 18th Century	3
HY 494	Britain in the Victorian Age	3

Field 3: African, Asian or Latin American History

		Hours
HY 377	Mexico since 1810	3
HY 384	Ancient Egypt Near East	3
HY 402	Modern Japan since 1550	3
HY 403	Chinese Civ. to 1600	3
HY 404	Modern China since 1600	3
HY 471	Age Exploration & Conquest	3
HY 474	Relation US Latin Amer	3
HY 475	Caribbean Basin 1492 - Present	3
HY 476	HY Religion in Latin America	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 Residency

A minimum of 15 semester hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the major must be earned on this campus.

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

History 200-, 300- and 400-level courses are open to all students of sophomore standing or higher.

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 nine hours of honors work, including HY 399 History Honors Colloquium, a six-hour thesis (HY 498 Honors Thesis I and HY 499 Honors Thesis II) to be completed under the direction of a tenured or tenure-track member of the department. HY 399 History Honors Colloquium is usually taken in the junior year; HY 498 Honors Thesis I and HY 499 Honors Thesis II are typically completed in the senior year. Students who complete a History Honors thesis (HY 498 Honors Thesis I/HY 499 Honors Thesis II) are exempt from HY 430 UG Research Seminar requirement. 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.

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