

HISTORY, BACHELOR OF ARTS

History Major Requirements

(Also see Requirements for a Bachelor's Degree. (<http://e-catalog.jhu.edu/arts-sciences/full-time-residential-programs/undergraduate-policies/academic-policies/requirements-for-a-bachelors-degree/>))

The Krieger School classifies history as both a social scientific and humanistic discipline. This accords very well with the wide range of explanatory and interpretive approaches to the past that now prevail in the discipline of history. One of the history program's goals is to introduce students to these varied approaches. Although the department offers strong preparation for students who seek to specialize in a particular cultural or geographic region, history at Johns Hopkins is primarily issue and topic oriented. It also puts a premium on developing the capacity to reason comparatively and on deepening the student's understanding of global connections among cultures in the past and in contemporary life.

The department offers undergraduate courses that range from large introductory classes to small, focused seminars that encourage intensive interaction with individual professors and with other students. Beyond the introductory level, most of our courses are writing intensive and promote in all students critical reading skills and the ability to formulate effective written arguments. Through its core curriculum, the major also cultivates skills specific to the historian, especially research and writing based upon the systematic analysis of primary documents.

The program's overall aim is to deepen the critical habits of mind that arise from the study of time and change. These capacities are the hallmarks of liberal learning, but they are also the foundation for success in post-graduate studies and careers of many kinds, including business, law, and public affairs.

Major in History

- Students must earn a "C-" or higher grade in all courses used to satisfy major requirements, and may not count courses that are graded as satisfactory/unsatisfactory.
- For students who choose to focus on one geographical area (Europe, United States, Latin America, Africa, Asia), two courses must be taken outside the student's area of focus.
- At least 4 of the 8 history electives/upper level courses must be completed with courses taken directly from the JHU History department (AS.100.xxx).

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Introductory Courses		
Select one of the following:		6
Two introductory history courses (AS.100.1xx)		
One introductory history course (AS.100.1xx) + one "Freshman Seminar" (AS.100.130-AS.100.160)		
Method Requirement (All Majors)		
AS.100.293	Undergraduate Seminar in History	3
AS.100.294	Undergraduate Seminar in History	3
Elective Courses		
Two history courses at any level		6
Four 300-level or higher history courses		12

Additional Upper-Level Courses

Select one of the following:	6
Two 300-level or higher history courses	
AS.100.507 Senior Thesis & AS.100.508 and Senior Thesis ¹	

Foreign Language Requirement

Foreign language proficiency through the intermediate level ²	0-18
Total Credits	36-54

- ¹ Students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.25 and a cumulative GPA in history of 3.5 or higher by December of their junior year to be eligible for the senior thesis option to graduate with honors in history.
- ² Foreign language proficiency may be demonstrated by coursework or by special examination, but a language requirement waived by exam must be documented on the student's transcript.

Cognate Courses The History Department encourages interdisciplinary work in cognate fields of learning. History minors are therefore strongly advised to take additional courses in any department, including the History Department, that relate to the student's major discipline in a historical way.

Sample Program

A sample path toward degree completion might include the following sequence of courses. Many alternative paths will also work. Please consult with your department advisor regarding alternative paths.

First Year

First Semester	Credits	Second Semester	Credits
AS.100.1xx Introductory Course or Fr. Seminar in History ¹		AS.100.1xx Introductory Course ¹	3
Introductory Language Course	3	Introductory Language Course	3
	3		6

Second Year

First Semester	Credits	Second Semester	Credits
AS.100.293 ²	3	AS.100.294 ²	3
AS.100.xxx History Elective	3	AS.100.xxx History Elective	3
Intermediate Language Course	3	Intermediate Language Course	3
	9		9

Third Year

First Semester	Credits	Second Semester	Credits
AS.100.3xx - AS.100.4xx History Elective	3	AS.100.3xx - AS.100.4xx History Elective (perhaps, study abroad)	3
AS.100.3xx - AS.100.4xx History Elective	3		
	6		3

Fourth Year

First Semester	Credits	Second Semester	Credits
AS.100.3xx - AS.100.4xx History Elective	3	AS.100.3xx - AS.100.4xx History Elective	3

AS.100.3xx - AS.100.4xx History Elective	3	
	6	3

Total Credits 45

- ¹ Students can progress through the major easily even if they take only one history course during their freshman year.
- ² This required research and methods seminar may be taken in the students second year if they are not planning to study abroad.

Senior Honors Option

Fourth Year

First Semester	Credits	Second Semester	Credits
AS.100.507	3	AS.100.508	3
AS.100.494	1	AS.100.495	1
AS.100.3xx - AS.100.4xx: History Elective	3		
	7		4

Total Credits 11

Honors Program in History (BA)

The history department strongly encourages all eligible history majors to pursue the honors track in history. The track culminates in the senior thesis, a yearlong, "capstone" research project completed under the direct supervision of an individual faculty advisor. Like all capstone projects, the senior thesis is intellectually challenging and its completion almost always brings with it a tremendous sense of accomplishment. It also hones the talented young historian's capacity to sustain a cogent argument based on primary evidence in the long form essay. These skills and the completion of a sustained independent project are also important practical assets when seeking a job or a post-graduate education.

A general cumulative GPA of 3.25 and a cumulative GPA in history of 3.5 are prerequisites for undertaking the senior thesis, and to obtain honors students will normally be expected to complete the thesis with a grade of A- or better. All thesis writers must also enroll in both the AS.100.507 Senior Thesis (fall, 3 credits) and AS.100.508 Senior Thesis (spring, 3 credits) and AS.100.494 Senior Honors Seminar (fall, 1 credit) and AS.100.495 Senior Honors Seminar (spring, 1 credit) - enrollment is by instructor's permission and will be granted only to students who have obtained a commitment from a faculty thesis advisor. This commitment should normally be obtained no later than April 30th of the junior year.

For questions about the honors track in history or finding a thesis advisor, consult your departmental advisor or the current Director of Undergraduate Studies.