History (BA)

The study of history aims to promote a broader, more critical understanding of the world and our place in it, to give students the ability to contextualize events in the present by distinguishing them from past times and places, and thus to provide the basis for making informed decisions in the public sphere. While the interpretive and communication skills students develop as History majors will be of value to them in their work lives, the History major aims at humanistic understanding rather than specific vocational ends. Because the term "history" refers to both the object of study (the human past) and to the discipline by which we claim to know that past, the History major at the University of Texas at Dallas aspires to both expansive knowledge of the past, achieved through breadth and distribution requirements, and critical assessment of the means by which historians reconstruct and interpret the past, emphasized in the required Historical Inquiry course, the disciplinary focus requirement, and the research project undertaken in the Senior year.

Students who complete the major in History may design distinctive degree programs by selecting among courses in a range of geographical areas, time periods, approaches to the study of history, and topical subject matters. Students are encouraged to focus their work in History on a particular time or place, significant theme, topic, or problem, and to balance breadth and range of historical study with depth in a particular subject. Students may also be certified to teach history and/or social studies.

Since the following catalog course descriptions are very general, students are urged to consult the detailed course descriptions available on the web site for the School of Arts and Humanities. At least one-half of the semester credit hours for a major must be taken at UT Dallas.

Most upper-division courses in History are open to all students in the University who have met lower-division core requirements.

Bachelor of Arts in History

Degree Requirements (120 semester credit hours)¹

View an Example of Degree Requirements by Semester

Faculty

I. Core Curriculum Requirements: 42 semester credit hours²

Communication: 6 semester credit hours

RHET 1302 Rhetoric

And choose one course from the following:

COMM 1311 Survey of Oral and Technology-based Communication
COMM 1315 Public Speaking

Mathematics: 3 semester credit hours
Select any 3 semester credit hours from Mathematics core courses

Life and Physical Sciences: 6 semester credit hours
Select any 6 semester credit hours from Life and Physical Sciences core courses

Language, Philosophy and Culture: 3 semester credit hours
PHIL 1301 Introduction to Philosophy or equivalent
HUMA 1301 Exploration of the Humanities
LIT 1301 Introduction to Literature
HIST 2340 Middle East Civilizations
HIST 2341 East Asian Civilizations
Or select any 3 semester credit hours from Language, Philosophy and Culture core courses

Creative Arts: 3 semester credit hours
Select any 3 semester credit hours from Creative Arts core courses

American History: 6 semester credit hours
Select any 6 semester credit hours from American History core courses

Government / Political Science: 6 semester credit hours
GOVT 2305 American National Government
GOVT 2306 State and Local Government

Social and Behavioral Sciences: 3 semester credit hours
Select any 3 semester credit hours from Social and Behavioral Sciences core courses

Component Area Option: 6 semester credit hours
LIT 1301 Introduction to Literature
Or Select any 6 semester credit hours from Component Area option courses

II. Major Requirements, Lower-Division: 0-6 semester credit hours beyond Core Curriculum
One of the following World Regional History Surveys (3 semester credit hours):
HIST 2340 Middle East Civilizations
HIST 2341 East Asian Civilizations
HIST 2350 Latin American Civilizations
And one of the following (3 semester credit hours):
   PHIL 1301 Introduction to Philosophy or equivalent
   HUMA 1301 Exploration of the Humanities
   LIT 1301 Introduction to Literature

III. Major Requirements, Upper-Division: 42 semester credit hours

Major Core Courses: 9 semester credit hours
   HIST 3301 Historical Inquiry
   ARHM 3342 Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies in the Arts and Humanities
   HIST 4390 History Capstone Project

Major Distribution and Elective Courses: 27 semester credit hours

The required 27 hours of upper-division courses must meet the following distribution requirement:
Select any 3 semester upper-division credit hours from 3 of the following 5 geographical areas (9 hours)
   • East Asian History
   • European History
   • Latin American History
   • Middle Eastern History
   • North American History

Select 3 semester upper-division credit hours from each of the following disciplinary focus areas (12 hours)
   • Gender and Women's History
   • Race and Ethnicity
   • Intellectual History
   • Pre-1500 History

The same course may be used to meet no more than two distribution requirements. No double counting of courses will reduce the requirement that students must take a total of 27 hours of upper-division HIST courses in addition to the major required courses.

In order to achieve depth students will be required, as part of the above distribution and elective courses, to take two courses in a particular area, linked by geographical are or disciplinary focus. All courses will be designated with the geographical and disciplinary focus areas they cover.
Major-Related Courses: 6 semester credit hours

Select 6 semester credit hours of major related upper-division electives from the following list of courses:

- Any 3000 or 4000 level course AHST Course
- DANC 3340 Dance in Historical Context
- FILM 3321 Film in Historical Context
- MUSI 3322 Music in Historical Context
- PHIL 3321 Philosophical Traditions I
- PHIL 3322 Ancient Philosophy
- PHIL 3323 Early Modern Philosophy
- PHIL 3324 19th and 20th Century Philosophy
- PHIL 3328 History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine
- THEA 3323 Performance in Historical Context

IV. Elective Requirements: 30-36 semester credit hours

Free Electives: 30-36 semester credit hours

Both upper-and lower-division courses may be used as electives, but students must complete at least 51 semester credit hours of upper-division courses to qualify for graduation.

Incoming freshmen must enroll and complete requirements of ARHM 1100.¹

1. Incoming freshmen must enroll and complete requirements of UNIV 1010 and the corresponding school-related freshman seminar course. Students, including transfer students, who complete their core curriculum at UT Dallas must take UNIV 2020.
2. Curriculum Requirements can be fulfilled by other approved courses from institutions of higher education. The courses listed are recommended as the most efficient way to satisfy both Core Curriculum and Major Requirements at UT Dallas.
3. A required Preparatory course that also fulfills a Core Curriculum requirement. Semester credit hours may be counted in Core Curriculum.
4. 0 semester credit hours beyond Core Curriculum, if the student has not previously completed other courses to satisfy these core curriculum requirements.