

History BA – Program Learning Goals

Defining Framework

The discipline of history seeks to create an interpretive account of the human past from surviving evidence.

Historians:

- 1) value history as a means of understanding our contemporary world, while at the same time distinguishing the past from the present.
- 2) stress the importance of context, contingency, and complex causation for historical interpretation.
- 3) develop empathy toward people by recognizing how humans in the past and present shape their own unique historical moments and are shaped by those moments.
- 4) build interpretations using a wide array of evidence including written documents, physical artefacts, scientific data, and cultural expression.
- 5) create and disseminate public understanding of the diversity of human experience through engagement with big and enduring questions.

Program Learning Goals

Students successfully completing the History major will be able to:

- 1) analyze primary and secondary sources by
 - a) identifying the differences between types of sources.
 - b) reading sources critically, attending to their relevance, context, credibility, and perspective, identifying their arguments, assessing their evidence, and evaluating their validity.
 - c) understanding that historiography is essentially the “history of history” and that secondary sources are produced in unique and specific historical contexts.
- 2) conduct research by
 - a) generating substantive, open-ended questions about the past and developing research strategies to answer them.
 - b) gathering, sifting, organizing, and evaluating sources.
 - c) synthesizing sources, considering contradictory perspectives, into a coherent interpretation.
 - d) practicing ethical historical inquiry that makes use of and acknowledges sources from the past as well as the scholars who have interpreted that past.
- 3) write effectively by
 - a) crafting well-supported and persuasive historical narratives and arguments based on primary and secondary sources.
 - b) describing past events from multiple and diverse perspectives.
 - c) identifying, summarizing, and engaging other scholars’ historical arguments.
 - d) using Chicago Style, the discipline standard in the United States, for writing and citation.

History BA Curriculum Map

Students successfully completing the History major will be able to:

Learning Goal	17 A & B 50 & 51	100	133	100R	192	197
1) analyze primary and secondary sources by						
a) identifying the differences between types of sources.	I	D	D	D	R	M
b) reading sources critically, attending to their relevance, context, credibility, and perspective, identifying their arguments, assessing their evidence, and evaluating their validity.	I	D	D	D	R	M
c) understanding that historiography is essentially the “history of history” and that secondary sources are produced in unique and specific historical contexts.		I	D	D	R	M
2) conduct research by						
a) generating substantive, open-ended questions about the past and developing creative research strategies to answer them.		I	I	D	R	M
b) gathering, sifting, organizing, and evaluating sources.	I	D	D	D	R	M
c) synthesizing sources, considering contradictory perspectives, into a coherent interpretation.	I	D	D	D	R	M
d) practicing ethical historical inquiry that makes use of and acknowledges sources from the past as well as the scholars who have interpreted that past.	I	D	D	D	R	M
3) write effectively by						
a) crafting well-supported and persuasive historical narratives and arguments based on primary and secondary sources.	I	I	D	D	R	M
b) describing past events from multiple and diverse perspectives.	I	D	D	D	R	M
c) identifying, summarizing, and engaging other scholars’ historical arguments.		I	D	D	R	M
d) using Chicago Style, the discipline standard in the United States, for writing and citation.		I	D	D	R	M