Admission Requirements

The department usually requires evidence of substantial preparation in history at the undergraduate level, together with some preparation in other areas of humanities and social sciences.

Applicants for admission to any graduate program in history should have a minimum of a B average in history, allied humanities, and social sciences. In addition, applicants must submit current scores (within five years) from the general test of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). The department assesses the student's entire application, including letters of recommendation and writing sample, in making its decision on admission. Deficiencies in an undergraduate program may be rectified by coursework as a special student, but such coursework cannot be used to satisfy requirements for an advanced degree. The department also recommends that a beginning graduate student have some training in a foreign language. Students in seminar or reading courses in other than American history may be required to have a reading knowledge of at least one foreign language appropriate to the particular course. Applicants should include with their applications a personal statement indicating their reason for undertaking graduate study at the University of New Hampshire. Normally, an entering student intending to be a candidate for the doctorate will complete an M.A. program as a prerequisite. However, students with the M.A. from another institution, or with exceptionally strong preparation at the undergraduate level, can begin the doctoral program immediately. In addition, a student in residence can, with the consent of the department, omit the M.A. and proceed directly toward the Ph.D.

https://cola.unh.edu/history

Courses

History (HIST)

HIST 800 - Advanced Explorations
Credits: 1-4
Advanced explorations in one of the fields listed below: A) American History, B) European History, C) World History, D) Ancient History. Barring duplication of subject, may be repeated.
Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 803 - European Conquest of North America
Credits: 4
European Conquest of America explores many of the major issues relating to the creation and development of colonial North America. We will focus particularly on the extraordinary heterogeneous mixture of peoples who lived in North America and the Caribbean, and on the complexity and consequences of their interactions. Throughout the semester we will continually evaluate arguments among historians about whether or not it makes sense to understand the colonial period in terms of a conquest, or whether Native Americans retained enough power and resistance throughout the colonial period to make such an interpretation inaccurate.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 805 - American Revolution, 1750-1800
Credits: 4
Examines the transformation of thirteen British colonies into the United States through the election of Thomas Jefferson as president in 1801. Topics include the revolution’s origins, the social and political impact of war, the changing structure of the family, the role of religion, the drafting and ratification of the Constitution, and the revolution’s consequences for Indians and African Americans.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 806 - History of the Early Republic
Credits: 4
Explorations in the histories of people and institutions that transformed the new United States from a coastal republic of largely independent freeholders to a transcontinental democracy increasingly driven by class. Topics include slavery, the family, reform movements, and the formulations of national identity.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 809 - United States Legal History Special Topics
Credits: 4
In-depth thematic exploration of the role of law in American life. Topics include Race and Equality in American Law; Community, Pluralism, and American Law; Property, Liberty, and Law; Gender and Law. May be repeated for credit with instructor’s permission. Consult department listing for topics.
Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 8 credits.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 811 - Civil War Era
Credits: 4
A survey of the period from the presidency of Andrew Jackson to the end of the Reconstruction, focusing on the causes, course, and consequences of the Civil War. Topics include slavery in the Old South, antebellum reform movements, creation and breakdown of the Second Party System, social and economic (as well as military) events during the war, and major developments during Reconstruction after the war.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

Programs

- History (Ph.D.)
- History (M.A.)
- History Museum Studies (M.A.)
HIST 812 - Emergence of Industrial America  
Credits: 4  
Investigates the economic transformation of 19th-century America from a rural, agricultural to an urban, industrial society. Explores the sweeping economic changes, focusing on such topics as changes in work and leisure, westward expansion and its effects on Native Americans, shifts in gender roles, growth of a consumer culture, rise of labor unions and populism, immigration, movements for reform and regulation, growth of American imperialism, and intellectual developments.  
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 813 - American Ways of War  
Credits: 4  
"Is there an American way of war?" This commonly asked question will be the focal point of the course. To answer that we will study the interactions of both war and society in the United States from the Civil War onwards, addressing such issues as the causes, courses, diplomacy, homefront, legacy, and the art of the great and small wars.  
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 815 - The Rise of Modern United States, 1900-1945  
Credits: 4  
By 1900, the United States had emerged as the world's leading industrial power and leading destination for millions of immigrants and had begun to become a major player in world affairs. Americans enjoyed unprecedented prosperity and became eager consumers of new inventions and popular culture: cars, radios, jazz records, and the "motion pictures." But they also experienced the worst depression the country had ever known and struggled to make sense of a world that went to war twice within a generation. Women, African Americans, immigrants - all struggled to carve out their place in the new political order. By World War II, the United States assumed many of its "modern" characteristics. Using novels, movies, photographs, sporting events, political speeches and political debates, we will explore both the domestic and the international aspects of the development of modern U.S.  
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 816 - United States Since World War II  
Credits: 4  
This course presents a framework for understanding American history from 1945 to the present. We explore major events and themes, beginning with the Cold War and the domestic anti-communism crusade, and continuing with the civil rights movement, the Vietnam War, and the women's movement. In our study of national politics, we chart the rise of liberalism – focusing on the presidencies of John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson – as well as the conservative response, punctuated by the "Reagan Revolution." We conclude with a brief study of the 21st century.  
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 818 - American Environmental History  
Credits: 4  
This course examines how nature has been a factor in American history and how Americans have wrestled with the concepts of nature and culture. Topics include industrialization, evolution, conservationism, environmentalism, and environmental diplomacy.  
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 819 - Foreign Relations of the United States  
Credits: 4  
The history of American diplomacy from the colonial era to the present, with the dividing point at 1900. The focus will be on both the foreign and domestic influences that shaped American diplomacy.  
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 820 - Foreign Relations of the United States  
Credits: 4  
The history of American diplomacy from the colonial era to the present, with the dividing point at 1900. The focus will be on both the foreign and domestic influences that shaped American diplomacy.  
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 821 - History of American Thought  
Credits: 4  
This course introduces the subfields of American intellectual and cultural history by assessing the ideas of some of the brightest minds that thought about life on the land we know of as the United States of America before the middle of the nineteenth century. This course surveys more than two centuries of thinkers and their connection to America's plural and evolving popular culture. Ultimately, this course seeks to answer the question: What is the history of American thought?.  
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 824 - Topics in Modern US History  
Credits: 4  
Advanced study of topics in U.S. history. Barring duplication of subject, may be repeated. Course meets the History major requirement for Group I.  
Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 8 credits.  
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 832 - Topics in Latin American History  
Credits: 4  
Topics vary (see department listing for current semester). Seminar involves reading, discussion, and research on literature and documents related to the selected topic. It provides students with the opportunity to do research under close direction.  
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 833 - Medieval England 800-1300  
Credits: 4  
The purpose of this course is to provide students with an opportunity to gain an in-depth understanding of the history of medieval England from the beginning of the period of consolidation under the Wessex dynasty in the ninth-century through the end of the thirteenth century. In addition to obtaining a large corpus of information through the reading of significant monographs dealing with England during this period, students will be challenged to develop the critical analytical skills necessary for the thorough understanding and practice of historical methodologies, with a particular focus on the practice of historical method in writing medieval history. Finally, students will be given the opportunity to improve their communication skills through extensive class discussions dealing with the scholarly works read for this course, and in writing assignments.  
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 834 - Medieval Empires  
Credits: 4  
This course explores the political, economic, administrative, military, religious, and intellectual foundations of imperial rule in the Middle Ages with a particular focus on the Carolingian, German, and Byzantine Empires of the early and high Middle Ages.  
Grade Mode: Letter Grading
HIST #840 - Holy War in the Holy Land: The Medieval Crusades
Credits: 4
Survey of medieval military expeditions organized by Christians to secure
the Holy Land during the 12th and 13th centuries. Topics considered
include the formulation of a "just war" theory, political, intellectual,
religious, and military interactions between Christians, Jews, and
Muslims; the Crusader State of Jerusalem; and the histories of individual
crusades.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 841 - Europe After the Black Death
Credits: 4
Explores the dramatic changes that characterized Western Europe as
it rebounded in the fifteenth through the seventeenth centuries from
the ravages of the Black Death of 1348. Examines the social, political,
and artistic developments in late medieval and Renaissance Italy before
"crossing the Alps" to trace the expansion of Renaissance culture in
Northern Europe. Topics covered in the course include the humanist
movement, new patterns of social organization, the revival of classical
antiquity in the arts, architecture, religion and political theory; the effects
on European society of the encounter with the "New World," shifting roles
for men and women in early modern European societies, and religious war
and conflict.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 842 - Saints, Sinners, and Heretics: Europe in the Age of Religious
Reform
Credits: 4
Examines the history of Western Christendom from roughly 1400 to
1600, a period of tumultuous religious change throughout Europe. We
begin in the Middle Ages where the seeds of religious division were
sown. We then tackle Martin Luther’s challenge to the Catholic church,
trace the diffusion of his message throughout Europe, and address
the Catholic response to the evangelizing movements that he inspired.
Finally we investigate some of the regional varieties of Protestantism
that developed in the latter half of the sixteenth century with a particular
focus on Switzerland, Germany, England, Scotland, France, and the
Netherlands.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 854 - Topics in History of Science
Credits: 4
Study of a selected topic in the history of European science since the
Renaissance.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 856 - Twentieth Century Europe
Credits: 4
The Twentieth Century began with European nations at the apex of their
global power. It ended with their world dominance in ruins. Two World
Wars, the rise of Nazism, and communist revolutions had left Europe
in the shadow of the United States. Examining European history from
the birth of the automobile to the fall of the Berlin Wall, we explore the
political, social and cultural forces that made the twentieth century the
bloodiest epoch in world history.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 862 - England in the Tudor and Stuart Periods
Credits: 4
Advanced study of England during the Tudor and Stuart periods. Political,
religious, socioeconomic, and intellectual forces for change at work in
England from the accession of Henry VII to the revolution of 1688-89.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 864 - Russia: Modernization through Soviet Empire
Credits: 4
The challenges of modernization; experience and legacy of Leninist
and Stalinist revolutions; Soviet consolidation and decline through the
Gorbachev era.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 865 - Themes in Women's History
Credits: 4
In-depth examination of a selected topic in women’s history, such as
women and health, women in modern European political theory,
comparative history of women and revolution. See "Time and Room
Schedule" or department for specific topic. May be repeated for credit
with permission of instructor.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 871 - Museum Studies
Credits: 4
Introduction to theory, methods, and practice of museum studies.
Examination of various museum functions, as well as historical
controversies. May be repeated with departmental approval.
Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 8 credits.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 872 - Studies in Regional Material Culture
Credits: 4
An introduction to the theory and methodology of material culture, that
is, the study of history through the analysis of buildings, human-created
landscapes, and artifacts made and used in the United States, particularly
in New England. May be repeated for credit with the permission of the
graduate director.
Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 8 credits.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 873 - Early History of Ancient Greece
Credits: 4
Greek history from the Minoan and Mycenaean eras through the Persian
Wars of the early fifth century. Emphasis on original sources including
the Homeric epics, Plutarch, Sappho, and Herodotus. Examination of
the distinctive developments of political systems in Sparta, Athens, as
well as issues of colonization, diplomacy, religion, and culture. Through
discussion of types of available evidence and their integration into
historical understanding.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 874 - Historiography
Credits: 4
Analysis of ancient and modern historians. (Not offered every year.)
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 875 - Historical Methods
Credits: 4
Introduction to contemporary historical methods. Required of all entering
Ph.D. candidates; open to undergraduates with permission.
Equivalent(s): HIST 870
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 876 - Topics in Ancient Greek History
Credits: 4
Advanced historical study of a particular period or theme in ancient Greek
history. May be repeated barring duplication of subject.
Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 8 credits.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading
HIST 877 - History of Ancient Rome  
Credits: 4  
Covers pre-Roman Italy, the Etruscans, and the foundation of the Republic. Rome's expansion through the Punic Wars, and relations with the Hellenistic kingdoms. Disintegration and final collapse of the Republic. Includes discussion of Roman art, engineering, and political theory. Emphasis on Latin sources in philosophy, history, and literature.  
Grade Mode: Letter Grading  
HIST 878 - Roman Empire  
Credits: 4  
Collapse of the Roman Republic and creation of the Augustan principate through the division of the empire, with discussion of the fall of Rome in the west, and the eastern empire through Justinian. Discussion of Roman art, literature, philosophy, religious developments such as the proliferation of mystery religions and the rise of Christianity.  
Grade Mode: Letter Grading  
HIST 880 - Special Topics in Museum Studies/Material Culture  
Credits: 4  
Study of a selected topic related to museum studies or material culture. May be repeated for course credit with permission of the graduate director.  
Repeat Rule: May be repeated up to 3 times.  
Grade Mode: Letter Grading  
HIST 890 - Seminar: Historical Expl  
Credits: 4  
Repeat Rule: May be repeated up to unlimited times.  
Equivalent(s): HIST 801  
Grade Mode: Letter Grading  
HIST 895 - Tutorial Reading and Research  
Credits: 1-6  
A) Early American History; B) American National History; C) Canada; D) Latin America; E) Medieval History; F) Early Modern Europe; G) Ancient History; I) East Asia; J) Near East and Africa; K) European Historiography; L) American Historiography; M) Russia; N) World History; O) English History; P) New Hampshire History; Q) Historical Methodology; R) Irish History; S) History of Science; T) Maritime; U) Museum Studies.  
Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits.  
Grade Mode: Letter Grading  
HIST 897 - Colloquium  
Credits: 4  
Selected topics in American, European, and non-Western history. Required of history majors. Students must elect section in the department office at the time of registration.  
Grade Mode: Letter Grading  
HIST 898 - Internship in Museum Studies  
Credits: 4  
Supervised position with a museum, historical society, archive, or other history related site.  
Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 16 credits.  
Grade Mode: Letter Grading  
HIST 899 - Master's Thesis  
Credits: 1-6  
Master's Thesis.  
Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits.  
Grade Mode: Graduate Credit/Fail grading  
HIST 939 - Readings in Early American History  
Credits: 3  
Introduces the chief themes and issues in the secondary literature of early American history from European settlement through the Early Republic. Students write a series of short analytical papers. Expected of all graduate students preparing a field in Early America. Permission required for those not enrolled in History Graduate Program.  
Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits.  
Grade Mode: Letter Grading  
HIST 940 - Readings in Modern American History  
Credits: 3  
An introduction to major historians and historiographical issues in the history of the U.S. since 1820. Intended to serve as a foundation for research in the field and as preparation for graduate examinations. Permission required for those not enrolled in History Graduate Program.  
Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits.  
Grade Mode: Letter Grading  
HIST 952 - Colloquium in Comparative History  
Credits: 3  
Intensive reading in comparative studies of U.S. history. Compares the experience of the United States and that of some other area or nation. For example, comparing legal history of Britain and the U.S.; the impact of colonization on native peoples in North and South America; the nature of slavery in the U.S., the Caribbean, and Brazil; or the experience of women in Europe and America. Topics vary and may be repeated with permission.  
Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits.  
Grade Mode: Letter Grading  
HIST 970 - Graduate Seminar in Teaching History  
Credits: 1  
Introduction of fundamental issues in the teaching of history at the college level. Topics include basic pedagogical issues, such as leading effective discussions, evaluating students' work, and lesson planning, and also concerns related to history teaching, e.g., developing students' historical consciousness, use of media, and so forth. Required of all entering Ph.D. students and applicable to the Cognate in College Teaching. Course to be taken in the Fall and then repeated in Spring for a total of two credits.  
Equivalent(s): GRAD 981  
Grade Mode: Graduate Credit/Fail grading  
HIST 971 - Professionalization for Historians  
Credits: 2  
This proseminar will introduce History graduate students (PhD and MA) to professional opportunities and expectations central to professional success. Topics and assignments explore making the most out of graduate school, demonstrating progress, presenting research to others, submitting research for publication, preparing for the job search, professional networking, and life after finding a job.  
Grade Mode: Graduate Credit/Fail grading
HIST 981 - Doctoral Research Seminar in American History
Credits: 3
Students will write a lengthy research paper in any aspect of US History. The course will also include professional preparation assignments. May be repeated with a different topic.
Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. May be repeated up to 4 times.
Equivalent(s): HIST 989, HIST 990
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 989 - Research Seminar in Early American History
Credits: 3
Students will write a lengthy research paper in any aspect of early US history, to 1877. The course will also include professional preparation assignments. May be repeated with a different topic.
Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits.
Equivalent(s): HIST 981
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 990 - Research Seminar in Modern American History
Credits: 3
Students write a lengthy research paper in any aspect of modern US history, roughly 1865 to the present. The course also includes professional preparation assignments. May be repeated with a different topic. Permission required for those not enrolled in History Graduate Program.
Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits.
Equivalent(s): HIST 981
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 995 - Tutorial Reading and Research
Credits: 1-6
A) Early American History; B) American National History; C) Canada; D) Latin America; E) Medieval History; F) Early Modern Europe; G) Modern European History; H) Ancient History; I) East Asia; J) Near East and Africa; K) European Historiography; L) American Historiography; M) Russia; N) World History; O) English History; P) New Hampshire History; Q) Historical Methodology; R) Irish History; S) History of Science; T) Maritime; U) Museum Studies.
Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HIST 997 - Directed Readings in Early American History
Credits: 1-6
Directed readings in Early American History. Supervised readings for students preparing for the Ph.D. examinations in Early American History.
Grade Mode: Graduate Credit/Fail grading

HIST 998 - Directed Readings in Modern United States History
Credits: 1-6
Supervised readings for students preparing for Ph.D. examinations in Modern U.S. History.
Grade Mode: Graduate Credit/Fail grading

HIST 999 - Doctoral Research
Credits: 0
Doctoral Research.
Grade Mode: Graduate Credit/Fail grading
Special Fee: Yes

Faculty

See https://cola.unh.edu/history/faculty-staff-directory for faculty.