

HISTORY (HIST)

Degrees Offered: Ph.D., M.A.

This program is offered in Durham.

Welcome to the History Department Graduate Program at the University of New Hampshire. We offer comprehensive programs for graduate students and a faculty who have won numerous prizes for teaching and scholarship. Our courses cover a wide range of times, places, and subjects, with a particular strength in cultural history, women's history, the history of religion, Atlantic history, and African American history. In addition, M.A. students can focus on Museum Studies.

The Department of History offers the master of arts and doctor of philosophy degrees. The master of arts is offered in many subfields. A formal option in museum studies is also available. Doctoral dissertations may be written on the history of colonial America / the United States or on topics comparing the United States with other societies or areas.

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>

Programs

- [History \(Ph.D.\)](#)
- [History \(M.A.\)](#)
- [History: Museum Studies \(M.A.\)](#)

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

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 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 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 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

Seminar in one of the fields listed below: A) American History, B) Atlantic History, C) Canadian History, D) Latin American History, E) Medieval History, F) History, G) History of Islam, H) Ancient History, I) East Asian History, J) African History, K) Middle Eastern History, L) Historiography, M) Russian History, N) World History, O) British History, P) New Hampshire History, Q) Historical Methodology, R) Irish History, S) History of Science, T) Maritime History, U) Museum. May be repeated barring duplication of subject.

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. May be repeated up to 4 times.**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

[History Department Faculty](#)