

History



“The practice of History requires a search for evidence, careful judgment, elegant words, and an imagination which will allow you to empathize with past societies. Our dedicated and internationally recognized faculty will help you develop these crucial skills, skills which lead in many professional

directions where what matters is your intelligence, judgment, and ability to explain yourself by spoken or written word, in both analogue and digital worlds. These career paths include not only one to the professional world of academic historians, but also many others to teaching, law, government service, museums, archives, consulting, business, and non-profits of all kinds.”

Bruce O'Brien, Professor of History

First-year students who wish to take history courses are ordinarily advised to enroll in one of the 100-level course sequences, bearing in mind several considerations: (1) **HIST 121 & HIST 122**, Western Civilization, **HIST 131 & 132**, United States History, and **HIST 141 & 142**, Asian Civilization, may be used to satisfy requirements in General Education, Human Experience and Society; (2) the same courses also count toward the history major and are pre-requisites to HIST 297, which is required for the major; (3) course sequences do not need to be taken in order (e.g. HIST 122 can be taken before HIST 121); and (4) prospective history majors must complete a full sequence of two courses, rather than select from multiple sequences (e.g., take HIST 131 & 132, rather than HIST 131 and HIST 121).

The department also recommends that students who are contemplating a major in history consider taking **HIST 201** or **HIST 202**, First-Year Seminars in European or American History. HIST 201 & 202 count as electives in the history major and they also meet the First-Year Seminar requirement.

It should be noted that students who have earned either a 4 or 5 on the AP US History exam receive six hours of credit for HIST 131 and 132. In addition to considering HIST 201 or HIST 202, these students might consider any 300-level history course. Other students with AP credit in history (those with a score of 3 or those who have taken AP European History) and students who scored 5 or higher on IB American or European history courses should consult the appropriate guides on AP and IB equivalents at UMW. They may also consult the chair of the Department of History and American Studies, Bruce O'Brien, for placement questions.

More information about the department can be found on its [department website](#).

Department of History & American Studies

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Below please find some examples of first semester schedules for a history major. There are many variations of a first semester schedule; the examples are just meant to help you see that there are many ways to reach the same goals.

Example 1:

Course (credits)	Requirement(s) Met
1. COMM 209 - Argumentation (3)	ALPP, SI*
2. CHEM 105A - Chemistry & Society I with Lab (4)	NS
3. GERM 101** - Beginning German (3)	Language
4. HIST 201 – FY Seminar; European History: the Crusades (3)	FSEM, Major Elective
5. HIST 141 – Asian Civ I (3)	Major, HES or GI

Example 2:

Course (credits)	Requirement(s) Met
1. HIST 122** - Western Civilization I (3)	Major, HES or GI
2. FSEM 100G4 – Beyond the Selfie (3)	FSEM
3. COMM 205 - Public Speaking (3)	Elective, SI*
4. BIOL 121 - Biology Concepts I with Lab (4)	NS
5. PHYD 110 - Individual Exercise: Weight Training (1)	Elective

Example 3: Athletes for varsity sports must register for the 400-level course of the sport. Practice times for varsity sports can vary, but generally speaking, athletes should allow for enough time to get to and from practice on weekdays from 3 to 6 p.m. Please check with the individual coach for your sport to verify specific practice times each semester.

Course (credits)	Requirement(s) Met
1. FSEM 100C6 – Toys as History (3)	FSEM
2. HIST 131** - American History to 1865 (3)	Major, HES
3. ITAL 101** - Beginning Italian (3)	Language
4. MATH 110** - Finite Math with Applications (3)	QR
5. PHYD 404 - Intercollegiate Basketball - Women (1)	Elective

**Please note that not all sections of a course may have the Speaking Intensive (SI) or Writing Intensive (WI) attributes. These designations for a course are dependent on instructor and semester, and are listed in the Banner description for the semester in which you are registering.*

***This particular course is in a discipline that allows students with demonstrated competence upon admission to UMW (such as AP/IB credit, dual enrollment, etc.) to begin courses at a higher level. Talk to your Student Success Coordinator if you believe you should start at a higher level.*