WELCOME!

This handbook will inform you about the field of history and requirements for completing the History major and minor at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.

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WHY STUDY HISTORY?

The study of history at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh introduces you to the background of many current cultures, issues, and practices. Studying history helps to develop an appreciation for how the actions of those in the past shape our lives today. Understanding the past also provides the tools to interpret current world events. It teaches you to take a great deal of information and bring it together and shape it into a compelling argument. It encourages you to present your ideas more effectively, both in your written work and in discussions with your professors and peers. It gives you a meaningful understanding of the history of both our own and other cultures, enabling you to better understand and participate in the increasingly inter-cultural world in which we live. It prepares you effectively for professional or graduate school as well as many jobs.

Understand
the past

Interpret
world events

Organize
information

Create your own
viewpoints

Communicate
effectively

Prepare for
careers

Appreciate the broad
context of our humanity

Obtain a clear
perspective on life

Become a better
human being
### WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A HISTORY MAJOR?

The short answer is “anything!”

History graduates have been trained to think carefully and critically, to process and analyze information, to look for the underlying causes and explanations of events, and to be aware of the importance of diverse cultural backgrounds. These skills are essential to success in many areas of life, and many employers – even those hiring for jobs that have nothing to do with history – find history majors to be attractive employees.

For some idea of the breadth of opportunity for History majors, consider the following, diverse areas of professional activity:

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*For more information, see the Department’s web page on careers: [https://uwosh.edu/history/career-opportunities/](https://uwosh.edu/history/career-opportunities/)*
TYPES OF COURSES

- Lower-division surveys
- USP Courses
- Upper-division specialized classes
- Senior Seminar

TYPES AND LEVELS OF COURSES

History classes are divided into lower-division (100- and 200-level) and upper-division (300- and 400-level). Students begin their progress through the major by completing their lower-division requirements first, which survey broad sweeps of American, Western or World history. The appropriate survey classes are prerequisites for all upper-division courses.

Generally, courses become more specialized in terms of area, chronology, or topic and more difficult as students move toward senior status. Most upper-division courses are writing intensive, with written exams and papers, to hone the critical communication skills of students.

The capstone course for the History major, the Senior Seminar, provides an in-depth analysis of a given topic in American, European, or Non-Western history. The topic and geographical focus will be announced each semester. Students will be exposed to a variety of different materials including primary and secondary sources with the goal of drawing conclusions from evidence and producing their own work of historical analysis.

LOWER-DIVISION COURSES

- Students should become familiar with the sweep of history in Early and Modern Civilization courses and surveys of United States History.
- Students should develop the basic skills of critical thinking through readings of primary and secondary sources and through written assignments designed to enhance their ability to analyze course material and to write clearly.

USP COURSES

The Department of History offers four types of classes for students fulfilling general education requirements through the University Studies Program:

- Quest I/First Year Experience
- Quest II
- Quest III
- Explore

UPPER-DIVISION COURSES

- Students will more deeply investigate specific historical areas and topics. They should learn the rudiments of writing research papers as a means of intensifying the learning process. In addition, students will interpret and evaluate the scholarship of published historians as they analyze events and trends of the past.
- All 300- and 400- level courses require that students take relevant lower-division courses, so that they have a basic historical background for them.
- All history majors must take the Senior Seminar. Each student in this course will be expected to write a seminar paper, which will include an oral presentation of their work.
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE HISTORY MAJOR

All History majors must complete 36 credits in History, including four core survey courses, three required upper-division area courses, one senior seminar, History 315 and three additional upper-division electives:

CORE SURVEY COURSES
- Early Civilization 57-101 (3 crs.)
- Modern Civilization: 57-102 or 57-103 (Honors) (3 crs.)
- U.S. History to 1877: 57-201 or 57-204 (Honors) (3 crs.)
- Modern U.S. History since 1877: 57-202 or 57-203 (Honors) (3 crs.)

Or by taking three courses from the list above and one course from the list below:
- Topics in the History of Early Civilizations (57-105) (3 crs.)
- Topics in the History of Modern Civilizations (57-110) (3 crs.)
- Topics in the Early History of the United States (57-205) (3 crs.)
- Topics in the Modern History of the United States (57-210) (3 crs.)
- Topics in History (57-215) (3 crs.)

300-LEVEL AREA COURSES
- One 300-level course in American History (3 crs.)
- One 300-level course in European History (3 crs.)
- One 300-level course in Non-Western History (3 crs.)

Earn the additional 9 credits with any three upper- (300+) level history classes

HISTORY 315: HISTORICAL METHODS AND WRITING

SENIOR SEMINARS
Select one from the following:
- 57-411 - American History Seminar (3 crs.) or
- 57-412 - European History Seminar (3 crs.) or
- 57-413 - Non-Western History Seminar (3 crs.)
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE HISTORY MINOR

All History minors must complete 24 credits in History, including four core survey courses, three required upper-division area courses, and one additional upper-division elective:

CORE SURVEY COURSES

- Early Civilization 57-101 (3 crs.)
- Modern Civilization: 57-102 or 57-103 (Honors) (3 crs.)
- U.S. History to 1877: 57-201 or 57-204 (Honors) (3 crs.)
- Modern U.S. History since 1877: 57-202 or 57-203 (Honors) (3 crs.)

Or by taking three courses from the list above and one course from the list below:

- Topics in the History of Early Civilizations (57-105) (3 crs.)
- Topics in the History of Modern Civilizations (57-110) (3 crs.)
- Topics in the Early History of the United States (57-205) (3 crs.)
- Topics in the Modern History of the United States (57-210) (3 crs.)
- Topics in History (57-215) (3 crs.)

300-LEVEL AREA COURSES

- One 300-level course in American History (3 crs.)
- One 300-level course in European History (3 crs.)
- One 300-level course in Non-Western History (3 crs.)

Earn the additional 3 credits with any upper- (300+) level history class

ADVISING

The History Department seeks to provide each student the best possible introduction to the study of history. To this end, upon declaring a History major and completing 12 credits in History, each student will be assigned an advisor in the History Department. Before registering each semester, the student will meet with the advisor who can provide information about individual courses, answer students’ questions and help the student find the surest way to complete the major successfully. To ensure that students schedule an appointment, the department places a “stop” on their records which is not removed until the student has met with the advisor.

The student will also create a portfolio of his/her work over the course of study that will reflect progress toward the major. Twice a year, students should bring a sample of their writing (written for History classes) to the advising appointment with the advisors.
HISTORY CLUB

The History Club is a student-run organization dedicated to the promotion of issues and events related to History on the UW Oshkosh campus. Open to all students, the club sponsors activities that encourage interaction between students and faculty. Over the past several years the History Club has sponsored a History Film Series, brought several speakers to campus, organized discussions and presentations by UW Oshkosh faculty, and taken trips to places of historical interest including local museums and Chicago.

PHI ALPHA THETA

Phi Alpha Theta is the International Honor Society in History, which was founded in 1921. Today, the organization has over 800 active chapters, and more than 200,000 members. The society is committed to advancing historical studies through support for research, good teaching, publication, and interactions between students and historians. The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh received a charter for its local chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, Kappa-Eta in 1965. Since its inception, the Kappa-Eta chapter has had more than 350 members – both students and faculty. A formal banquet is held each spring to induct new members into the chapter. In conjunction with the History Club, the Kappa-Eta has worked to promote history related events on campus.
STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES

The History Department encourages students to take advantage of the many international study opportunities available through the University. Such programs allow students to learn more about the history and culture of the places that they have studied in their UWO coursework, to hone their foreign languages skills, to take courses that they would not be able to take at UW Oshkosh, and to increase their cross-cultural understanding. In the past, History majors and minors have studied in England, Germany, Italy, Spain, Australia, Estonia, and Japan. Currently, the University offers international programs to a variety of places and for varying lengths of time, including Travel Seminars (2-6 weeks); Semester-long and Year-long Programs; Intensive Language Programs; Non-credit Programs; and UW System Programs. For more information, check the University’s Office of International Education website at www.uwosh.edu/oie/away

The Office of International Education at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh OIE is responsible for coordinating all study abroad programs offered through UW Oshkosh and student exchange programs and is temporarily located in Dempsey 202. They can be contacted at 920-424-0775.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM: INTERNSHIPS AND RESEARCH

In order to help prepare History majors for their future careers, the Department of History affords students a range of internship and research opportunities. In conjunction with the Outagamie County Historical Society, Oshkosh Public Museum, Oshkosh Public Library, the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Archives and other area museums and archives, the Department has arranged internship programs. These programs yield practical experience and provide up to six credits which can be applied to a student’s major.

Students interested in continuing their education in graduate school have also worked with Department of History faculty on independent research. In the summer of 2003, for example, two History majors received a Student/Faculty Collaborative Grant to support their research into the history of the polio epidemic in the United States. The following spring these students were invited by the national Council on Undergraduate Research to present results of their research to congressmen and congresswomen on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.
FACULTY

Jim Feldman, U.S. and Environment
James Frey, South Asia
Ana Maria Kapelusz-Poppi, 19th and 20th Century Latin America
Stephen Kercher, 20th Century U.S.
Michelle Kuhl, 19th Century U.S.
Karl Loewenstein, 20th Century Russia and Eastern Europe
Gabriel Loiacono, Colonial America and the U.S. Early Republic
Michelle Mouton, 20th Century Germany
Susan Rensing, U.S. and Women’s Studies
Kimberly Rivers, Medieval History
Michael Rutz, 19th and 20th Century Great Britain and Empire

ACADEMIC STAFF

Jeffrey Pickron, 20th Century U.S.
Thomas Rowland, U.S. and Civil War
Andrea Jakobs, European

FOR MORE INFORMATION
If you are interested in the History program and would like to learn more about it, please call or write to:

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Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901
(920) 424-2456
Or visit our website at https://uwosh.edu/history/