UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN OSHKOSH
Department of History
GUIDE FOR MAJORS & MINORS
Study the past... prepare for your future!
WELCOME!
This handbook will inform you about the field of history and the requirements for completing the History major and minor at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.

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The study of history at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh introduces you to the background of many current cultures, issues, and practices. The Study of 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 school or graduate school as well as many jobs.

- Understand the past
- Interpret world events
- Organize information
- Create your own viewpoints
- Communicate effectively
- Appreciate the broad context of our humanity
- Obtain a clear perspective on life
- Hone your critical thinking and analysis skills
- Develop a skill set that will prepare you for any career

Open a world of possibilities 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:

**HISTORIANS ARE...**

**EDUCATORS**
- K12: elementary & secondary education
- Higher education: colleges & universities
- Historic sites & museums
- Other teaching contexts

**INFORMATION MANAGERS**
- Archival management
- Information management
- Records management
- Librarian

**RESEARCHERS**
- Policy advisors
- Museums & historical organizations
- Cultural resources management & historic preservation

**ADVOCATES**
- Lawyers
- Public policy
- Legislative staff work
- Funding agencies & foundations

**WRITERS & EDITORS**
- Journalists
- Documentary editors

**BUSINESS PEOPLE**
- Corporate work
- Business/contract history
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 survey requirements first, which survey broad sweeps of American, Western, or World history. The appropriate survey classes are prerequisites for all upper-division courses.

**TYPES OF COURSES**

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

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**LOWER DIVISION COURSES**

100 - 200 LEVEL

Students become familiar with the grand sweep of history in Early and Modern Civilization courses and introductory surveys of U.S. history. They 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 information and to write clearly.

**USP COURSES**

100 - 200 LEVEL

Four types of History courses meet USP general education requirements:

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

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**UPPER DIVISION COURSES**

300 - 400 LEVEL

Students investigate more deeply specific historical areas and topics. They learn to interpret and evaluate historical scholarship, and they learn the basic skills of researching and writing papers. Students develop their own ability to analyze events and trends of the past. All History majors are required to take a methods course and complete a research project in the Senior Seminar.

**SENIOR SEMINAR** (Majors will select from one of the following)

411 - American History Seminar / 412 - European History Seminar / 413 - Non-Western History
# REQUIREMENTS FOR THE HISTORY MAJOR & MINOR

## MAJOR

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<thead>
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<th>36 credits (12 classes)</th>
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<tr>
<td>12 crs. Core Survey</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 crs. History 315</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 crs. History Senior Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 crs. 300-level American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 crs. 300-level European</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 crs. 300-level Non-Western</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ 9 crs. additional 300-level</td>
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## MINOR

<table>
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<th>24 credits (8 classes)</th>
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<tr>
<td>12 crs. Core Survey</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 crs. 300-level American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 crs. 300-level European</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 crs. 300-level Non-Western</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ 3 crs. additional 300-level class</td>
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## ALL HISTORY MAJORS and MINORS

### Take the four core survey courses
- Early Civilizations - HIST 101 (3 cr.)
- Modern Civilizations - HIST 102 or HIST 103 (Honors) (3 cr.)
- U.S. History to 1877 - HIST 201 or HIST 204 (Honors) (3 cr.)
- Modern U.S. History since 1877 - HIST 202 or HIST 203 (Honors) (3 cr.)

### ~ OR ~

### Take three courses from the list above and one USP “Topics in History” Course from the list below
- HIST 105
- HIST 110
- HIST 205
- HIST 210
- HIST 215

## ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK

### FOR MAJORS

+ 24 credits
- 3 crs. HIST 315 (Methods Course)
- 3 crs. 300-level U.S. History
- 3 crs. 300-level European History
- 3 crs. 300-level Non-Western History
- +9 crs. 300-level Elective Courses
- 3 crs. Senior Seminar

### FOR MINORS

+ 12 credits
- 3 crs. 300-level U.S. History
- 3 crs. 300-level European History
- 3 crs. 300-level Non-Western History
- 3 crs. 300-level Elective Course
THE GOAL

The goal of advising is to provide our majors with the best possible introduction to the study of history, help them navigate the shortest path to graduation, and prepare for life after college.

Faculty advisors are available to...

- help select courses in History and other disciplines
- explore internship and research opportunities
- discuss post-college pathways
- plan how to market your skills to potential employers

THE PROCESS

After enrolling in 12 credits of History, declared History majors, including History-BSE majors, will be assigned an advisor within the department and transition from UARC to History Department semesterly advising. Your new advisor information will be communicated to you via an email from the History Department and once assigned, can also be found on Navigate and Titan Web.

Prior to registration each semester, all History majors will have an “academic advising hold” placed on their student account. Following consultation with your History advisor, holds are lifted, allowing you to register for classes.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY STAFF

FACULTY
Jim Feldman - U.S. Environmental
James Frey - South Asia
Paisley Harris - U.S. (FDL Campus)
Stephen Kercher - 20 c U.S.
Michelle Kuhl - 19 c U.S.
Karl Loewenstein - Russia/E. Europe
Gabriel Loiacono - Colonial America
Michelle Mouton - 20 c Germany
Kimberly Rivers - Medieval Europe
Steve Sheehan - U.S. (Fox Campus)
Mick Rutz (Chair) - UK/Europe/Africa

ACADEMIC STAFF
Andrea Jakobs - Europe
Jeff Pickron - 20 c U.S.
The History Department encourages students to take advantage of the many international study away 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.

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.

In the past, History majors and minors have studied in England, Germany, Italy, Spain, Australia, Estonia, and Japan. For more information, check the University’s Office of International Education website: www.uwosh.edu/oie/away

**SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**

**C. Kevin Hasson History Scholarship**
Awarded each year to a history major of junior or senior standing with a grade point average above 3.75.

**Barbara Donner Monteith Memorial Scholarship**
Presented annually to a member of the Junior Class who is majoring in history or to the outstanding graduate student majoring in history, whichever is determined by the selection committee.

**Braatz/Starr Award**
Awarded each year to honor academic achievement by a senior majoring in history.

**INTERNSHIPS & RESEARCH**

**Internships**
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.

**Research**
Students interested in continuing their education in graduate school often choose to participate in independent research with a Department faculty member. 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.
BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

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 and faculty, 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, quality 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.

CONTACT US

If you have questions about the History major or minor, or if you would like to learn more about the History program, please reach out to:

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