History explores the many facets of the human condition from the past to the present. History invites those who study it to develop an appreciation for the variety of human experiences. Demonstrating how the past shapes the present, the study of history also encourages an understanding of different world cultures, societies, and outlooks on their own terms. Students learn to analyze and to think critically about a broad range of issues and experiences. They also learn how to develop reasoned arguments and explanations from historical evidence.

Among St. Olaf departments, the History Department is distinctive in the variety of courses it offers for the college’s interdisciplinary programs. These courses are described here, and they are also listed in such program descriptions as Asian studies, environmental studies, and women’s and gender studies. In addition, history courses fulfill several different general education requirements, according to subject matter. The department is a major provider of HWC, MCG, MCD, and WRI courses. Some history courses count toward ALS-L, HBS, and ORC.

The habits of critical inquiry and the deep appreciation for the varieties of human experience across time and space that are developed in studying history provide the basis for a wide range of professional and personal vocations. History majors are prepared for graduate and professional programs in history, law, museum studies, public health, and various cultural or area studies, and for developing careers in such diverse fields as education, business, ministry, government, and journalism.

Overview of the Major

St. Olaf’s history offerings are structured to help students achieve different learning goals at different levels. In level I seminars, students approach history as a way of learning, through the critical reading of primary sources on specific historical topics. In level I foundational surveys, they explore the broad historical development of the world’s major societies and cultures. In level II surveys, students examine more specialized national, area, and topical developments. In level II major seminars, students develop their skills of analysis, interpretation, argumentation, and expression. Finally, level III seminars challenge students to recognize historical problems and to formulate their own questions about major historical issues, and engage ongoing debates among historians.

History courses at level I do not have prerequisites. Level I seminars are open only to first-year students; level I foundational surveys are open to all students. History courses at level II generally do not have prerequisites either, since many of them count for general education credit. The major seminars at level II are especially designed for history majors, although other students may enroll as space permits. Level III courses generally require significant prior preparation; students with little or no background in the relevant area or period should consult with the instructor before registration.

Intended Learning Outcomes for the Major

Distinction

See Academic Honors

Senior majors who have demonstrated high achievement in their coursework in History may apply for departmental distinction. Candidates must satisfy minimum grade point average requirements (3.50 overall, 3.70 in the major), and submit a portfolio of their work (normally consisting of two papers completed in History courses and an additional distinction essay) for faculty review. Students meeting grade point average requirements will be contacted by the department chair the first week of spring semester of their senior year, and will be invited to submit a portfolio. The formal review begins in April. Note: current seniors of the class of 2019 may opt to apply for distinction using the old method. Please see the History Department website for details, forms, and timeline.

Special Programs

The History Department supports several other programs:

1. The social studies education major (see Social Studies Education) is appropriate for those considering a career in teaching history. Students in this major are able to double-major in history with careful planning. Interested students should consult with a faculty advisor in the Education Department.

2. The Foreign Languages Across the Curriculum (FLAC) program offers students opportunities to integrate their foreign-language skills with the study of history. Students in specially designated history classes can use their Greek, Latin, Spanish, French, German, Russian, or Chinese so that nothing is lost to them in translation!

3. History courses taken on St. Olaf off-campus programs can often be counted toward the major. Students who wish to count off-campus courses toward the major should seek approval from the department chair before beginning their programs. Some restrictions apply.

4. Historical internships with academic content may also be accepted for major credit.

Recommendations for Graduate Study

Students planning on graduate study in history should take advantage of the flexibility of the history major to develop depth of knowledge in a particular field, topic, or approach in order to position themselves for more focused advanced study. Students might also consider developing a research project beyond the requirements of a level III seminar by completing HIST 394 Academic Internship, HIST 397 History Research Workshop or HIST 398 Independent Research, participating in the Undergraduate Research Program, or completing the Distinction process. Most graduate programs in history (including American and British history) require reading and/or speaking proficiency in one or two relevant languages beyond English. Participation in the optional FLAC sections attached to a number of history courses (see above) is an excellent way to demonstrate both language proficiency and the capacity to apply that proficiency to the analysis of historical evidence. Study abroad can also enhance preparation for graduate school. In recent years, history majors have been accepted for advanced historical study at Duke University, William and Mary, Yale University,
and the Universities of Chicago, Maryland, Minnesota, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Toronto, and Virginia.

**Requirements**

History majors are required to take **nine courses distributed as shown below**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One course (at any level) in each world geographical region:</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category 1: Africa, Asia, and Latin America</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category 2: The United States</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category 3: Europe and Russia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Level II major seminar</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Level III seminars</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two additional courses</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students may count one St. Olaf course taken outside of the department toward the major, by application or by successfully completing a course on the department’s pre-approved list. Please see the department website for courses and conversations programs that have been pre-approved.

Students may petition to apply toward the major history courses taken off-campus.

No more than three Level I courses may be counted toward the major (one of these may come from a qualifying AP History exam score).

**Public History Emphasis**

Public History investigates the ways history is presented to, and consumed by, the general public. Students acquire hands-on experience to prepare them for work in museums, cultural tourism, community history, historic preservation, cultural resource management, libraries, archives, new media, and many other professional fields. In this program, students acquire technical skills and explore how audiences understand the past while developing research and interpretive skills to enrich the public’s understanding of history.

Requirements: 6 courses (5 credits) total, in conjunction with history major requirements. All courses referenced below count toward both the major and the area of emphasis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIST 280</td>
<td>Intro to Public History</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 294</td>
<td>Academic Internship</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 296</td>
<td>History Internship Reflection (0.5) (HIST 294 as prerequisite or enrolled concurrently)</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three electives from among the following:</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 244</td>
<td>Collective Memory in Revolutionary Cuba (abroad)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 256</td>
<td>Slavery in West Africa: Ghana (abroad)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 278</td>
<td>Experiencing Southern History (off-campus)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level III Seminars that embed a strong public history component may count toward the area of emphasis</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Courses**

**Level I: History Seminars**

Courses numbered HIST 101-HIST 189 are seminars open only to first-year students. Each focuses on a different topic, but all explore the fundamentals of historical thinking by emphasizing analysis of primary sources and critical assessment of historical interpretations. Seminars are offered each semester and during the Interim.

**HIST 101: Ancient Warfare**

This seminar examines the social and political role of warfare in ancient Greek and Roman history. Students investigate the concepts of war and peace by considering the role of the soldier within society, details of tactics and logistics, and the impact of warfare on both combatants and non-combatants alike. The seminar uses primary sources to examine these themes. Offered periodically. Also counts toward ancient studies and classics majors.

**HIST 121: The Making of Modern Russia**

Focusing on social and cultural history, students use literature, film, and propaganda to examine total war and its impact on gender, state, and society. How did the 19th century prepare Europeans for war? How did different experiences in the trenches and on the home front contribute to gender anxieties? Was the war an agent of progress or midwife to the brutality of the 20th century? Offered periodically. Also counts toward women’s and gender studies major and concentration.

**HIST 122: Europe and the Great War**

Focusing on social and cultural history, students use literature, film, and propaganda to examine total war and its impact on gender, state, and society. How did the 19th century prepare Europeans for war? How did different experiences in the trenches and on the home front contribute to gender anxieties? Was the war an agent of progress or midwife to the brutality of the 20th century? Offered periodically. Also counts toward women’s and gender studies major and concentration.
HIST 126: Conquest and Colonization
This seminar examines one of history’s most dramatic episodes: the Spanish conquest and colonization of Mexico. Through the reading of manifestos, letters, and chronicles of the period, students examine such topics as European and indigenous perceptions of the conquest, the role of missionaries, native efforts to resist Spanish domination, the ecological/biological consequences of 1492, and subsequent debates over the morality and meaning of the conquest. Offered periodically. Also counts toward Latin American studies major and concentration.

HIST 140: Pirates of the Caribbean
This course explores the rise and fall of English piracy in the Caribbean, from its origins during the reign of Elizabeth I to the emergence of the so-called ‘Golden Age’ of piracy in the early 18th century. Students investigate the ways in which piracy advanced and then later threatened the imperial goals of the English state and examine the enduring appeal of pirates in the popular imagination. Offered periodically.

HIST 142: Hamilton: An American History Course
This course investigates the origins of the early U.S. republic through the life of its first Secretary of Treasury, Alexander Hamilton. In addition to key events in Hamilton’s life, it explores a wide range of topics including life in the British Caribbean, the American Revolution, and Hamilton’s role in forging partisan politics. Utilizing newspapers, pamphlets, and other writings from the time, students gain a first-hand look at the issues that defined the era. The course culminates with reflections of Lin-Manuel Miranda’s hit Broadway musical and its contemporary relevance. Offered periodically.

HIST 151: Slavery in African History
This course introduces students to the historical forces leading to and scholarly debates about slavery in African history. Students examine the nature and development of domestic slavery to the 19th century as well as the slave trade systems across the Saharan Desert and the Atlantic Ocean. Students ‘do history’ using primary sources to retrieve the African voices and agency in discussions of the slave trade and debate themes such as ethnicity, kinship, state formation, and colonialism. Offered annually. Also counts toward Africa and the African Diaspora concentration.

HIST 165: Slavery in the Americas
This seminar, using only eyewitness accounts, examines African slavery in the United States, the Caribbean, and Latin America. Typical readings include the narrative of Frederick Douglass, Harriet Jacobs’ autobiography, and the writings of slave-holders like Mary Chesnut. Topics include the slave trade, the origins of African-American culture, women and slavery, and the origins of the Civil War. The course concludes with an examination of the process of emancipation. Offered periodically. Also counts toward race and ethnic studies major and Africa and the African Diaspora and race and ethnic studies concentrations.

HIST 169: From Fjord to Frontier: Norwegian-American History in Literature
Norwegian folklore tells of a place east of the moon and west of the sun where dreams are realized. For hundreds of thousands of immigrants from Norway this fabled place was America. They called it, as does St. Olaf’s own college hymn, Fram, Fram, ‘a home in the west.’ This course explores the stories of Norwegian America through its literature and other forms of popular writing created from the 19th through the 21st centuries. It considers, among other forms, novels, short stories, drama, children’s literature, memoirs, letters, diaries, travel accounts, biographies, journalism, popular history, and film. Offered periodically. Also counts toward Nordic studies concentration.

HIST 181: Civil Rights Revolution
Students examine the overthrow of American segregation through several decades of agitation for civil rights. This seminar focuses primarily on the South, though students also discuss northern race relations. Primary accounts from the era constitute the assigned readings. Among the topics covered are the segregated South, Martin Luther King and his critics, the Black Power movement, and the rise of white backlash politics. Offered periodically. Also counts toward race and ethnic studies major and Africa and the African Diaspora and race and ethnic studies concentrations.

HIST 182: America Since 1945
This seminar examines American society since 1945. The main focus is social history. Topics include the impact of the Cold War, migration to the suburbs, post-industrial society, the culture of the 1950s, civil rights, the Vietnam War, the student movement, the sexual revolution, and Watergate. Sources include novels, essays, magazine stories, films, and documentaries. Offered annually. Also counts toward women’s and gender studies major and media studies and women’s and gender studies concentrations.

HIST 188: Topical Seminar
Selected topics in historical studies, depending on instructor. Offered periodically.

HIST 189: Topical Seminar
Selected topics in historical studies, depending on instructor. Offered periodically.

Foundational Surveys
HIST 190-HIST 191, HIST 194-HIST 195, HIST 198-HIST 199 are offered as foundational surveys in European, global, and American history. These courses are open to all students seeking broad historical introductions to Western and non-Western societies. Foundational surveys provide both extensive historical coverage and opportunities for integrative learning. They carry general education credit, as appropriate, in Historical Studies in Western Culture and in Multicultural Studies. They are particularly appropriate for majors seeking background in each world area.

HIST 190: Europe from the Ancients to the Renaissance
This course surveys Western history and culture from its origins in the Ancient Near East to the Italian Renaissance. Topics include the ancient world, the beginnings of Christianity, the emergence and disintegration of Rome as a unifying power, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance. Through original texts and historical studies, students will explore relationships among religions, states, and societies and views of natural environments, family life, and gender roles. Offered annually. Also counts toward ancient studies and medieval studies majors.
HIST 191: Europe from the Reformation to Modern Times
This course surveys European history and culture since the Reformation. Topics include the impact of Protestantism, the development of nation-states, the Enlightenment, revolutionary ideas and experiences, the Napoleonic era, imperialism, mass political movements, and global warfare. Through original texts, historical studies, and literature, students explore relations among religions, states and societies and understandings of liberty and reason, natural environments, family life, and gender roles. Offered annually. Also counts toward women's and gender studies major and concentration.

HIST 193: Modern Latin America
An overview of the evolution of Latin American societies since 1750, this course examines the consequences of independence, 19th-century economic imperialism, and 20th-century transitions to more urbanized, industrialized ways of life. Students examine major Latin American nations and compare their revolutionary and counter-revolutionary trajectories toward the establishment of authoritarian states. Foreign Languages Across the Curriculum (FLAC) course is often available in Spanish. Offered periodically. Also counts toward Latin American studies major and concentration.

HIST 195: Global: 1500-Present
This survey course challenges students to break out of their European protective shields and ‘imaginings’ and to think globally, while appreciating the contributions of other civilizations that have had such a telling impact on the modern world. Through a rigorous analysis of a list of primary sources and assigned reading, the course examines the significant political, religious, social and economic developments of humankind, and strives for the global perspective. Some historical processes, as one historian aptly stated, are best studied on a global, rather than a single perspective. Offered annually.

HIST 198: American History to 1865
This course examines the development of American culture and society from the Columbian encounter through the Civil War. Topics include the interaction of Europeans, Africans, and indigenous peoples in early America; the social development of the British colonies; the evolution of American slavery; the Revolution and the Constitution; industrialization, expansion, and reform in the 19th century; and the Civil War. Offered annually.

HIST 199: American History Since 1865
As they study the development of American institutions and society from the Civil War to the present, students examine economic, social, and political themes with a special emphasis on changing interpretations. Major topics are Reconstruction, urbanization, populism, progressivism, depression, New Deal, foreign relations, civil rights, social reform, equality for women, and other recent trends. Offered annually.

Level II: Period and National Histories of the Ancient World

HIST 201: Major Seminar: Ancient History
This course explores topics in ancient history, designed to emphasize active skills of critical reading, textual and contextual analysis, historiographical argument, and historical writing. Recent topics have included ‘Ancient Greece’ and ‘Ancient Near East.’ Primarily for history majors; others by permission of instructor. Offered periodically. Also counts toward ancient studies and classics majors.

HIST 202: Mediterranean Archaeology Field School (abroad)
This course introduces students to Mediterranean archaeological field techniques and methods such as survey, site identification, artifact processing and analysis, and site excavation. During a five-week summer session, students: visit museums in order to recognize artifacts and contextualize them in regional chronologies; practice and refine excavation and survey techniques; and critically examine how archaeological knowledge about the ancient Mediterranean is constructed and expressed. Also counts toward ancient studies and classics major.

HIST 203: Ancient: Greece
This course is a history of Western civilization’s primary cultures, Ancient Greece from the Bronze Age through the ’Golden Age’ of classical Greece and the empire of Alexander the Great. Offered periodically. Also counts toward ancient studies, classics, and Greek majors.

HIST 204: Ancient: Rome
This course is a survey of Mediterranean civilization from the early history of Italy through the Roman Republic and Empire. Foreign Language Across the Curriculum (FLAC) course periodically available in Latin. Offered annually. Also counts toward ancient studies, classics, and Latin majors.

HIST 205: Ancient: Near East
This course is a history of Western civilization’s earliest cultures, the civilizations of Egypt and Mesopotamia, the Hebraic Kingdoms, and the great Empires of Assyria, Babylon, and Persia. Offered periodically. Also counts toward ancient studies and classics majors.

Period, National and Thematic Histories of Europe

HIST 210: Major Seminar: European History
This course explores topics in European history, designed to emphasize active skills of critical reading, textual and contextual analysis, historiographical argument, and historical writing. Recent topics have included ‘Restoration Britain’ and ‘France in World War II.’ Primarily for history majors; others by permission of instructor. May be repeated if topic is different. Offered most years.

HIST 211: Viking and Medieval Scandinavia
A survey of Nordic history from the time of the Viking expansion to the period of the Kalmar Union. Topics include Viking expansion and conquest; Nordic cultural and religious life; the coming of Christianity; the sagas and other literary sources; later medieval developments. Offered annually. Also counts toward medieval studies major and Nordic studies concentration.

HIST 220: Modern Britain
How did Britain emerge as the world’s first ‘super-power’? Students examine British history from the Revolution of 1688 through the era of World War II. Topics include the aristocracy, the impact of the Industrial and French Revolutions, liberalism and capitalism, Victorian culture, the working class and political reform, the women’s movement, the imperial achievement, the issue of Ireland, and the challenge of the world wars. Offered periodically. Also counts toward management studies concentration.
HIST 221: Ireland and the 'Irish Question'
The course surveys the political and cultural history of Ireland from the Norman times to the present with a focus on Anglo-Irish relations. It examines major historical events and themes, with emphasis on the development of political and cultural nationalism, the emergence and tension between moral force and physical force traditions from the Reformation through the Protestant ascendancy, Act of Union, Home Rule, Easter Rising, the Treaty, the Irish Republic, the Troubles and Good Friday Agreement. Offered periodically.

HIST 222: Modern Scandinavia
This course offers a survey of modern Scandinavian history from the period of the Protestant Reformation to the present with special attention to recent developments. Offered annually. Also counts toward Norwegian major and management studies and Nordic studies concentrations.

HIST 226: Modern France
This course surveys the history of France since 1815 and considers, across the arc of five republics, two monarchies, two Napoleonic empires, and one authoritarian regime, what it means to be French. Organizing themes include the revolutionary tradition and the notion of republicanism, industrialization's impact on society, the transformation of France in response to two catastrophic world wars, and contemporary challenges such as austerity and immigration. Foreign Language Across the Curriculum (FLAC) course often available in French. Offered periodically. Also counts toward French major and management studies concentration.

HIST 227: French Revolution and Napoleon.
Students examine seminal events, institutions, and doctrines of the Revolutionary and Napoleonic eras, with special attention to the 18th-century background to the Revolution, its impact on Europe in the 19th century, and its legacies in the modern world. Using primary and secondary sources, students explore the drama of the period and consider the variety of historical approaches to, and interpretations of, the Revolution. Foreign Language Across the Curriculum (FLAC) course often available in French. Offered periodically. Also counts toward French major.

HIST 230: Imperial Russia
Russia's modern history from Peter the Great to the revolution of 1917 centers on the tsarist autocracy and popular movements to limit its power. Students assess Russia's economy, culture, and religion against the background of the country's westernization. Foreign Language Across the Curriculum (FLAC) course periodically available in Russian. Offered alternate years. Also counts toward Russian area studies major.

HIST 231: 20th-Century Russia
This course begins with the Communist revolution of 1917 and traces the growth of the Soviet Union under Lenin, Stalin, and their successors. Students analyze the 'crisis' of the Soviet system in order to explain why the last of the European empires collapsed in 1991. Foreign Language Across the Curriculum course available in Russian. Offered alternate years. Also counts toward Russian area studies and women's and gender studies majors; and management studies and women's and gender studies concentrations.

HIST 237: Gender in Medieval Europe
Students explore the experiences of women in both religious and secular life from the period of the late Roman Empire through the 15th century. Topics include women's roles in the early church, changes in the status of women from the late Roman Empire through the Carolingian period, women's monasticism, marriage and the family in the feudal system, courtly love, and late medieval spirituality. Offered periodically during Interim. Also counts toward medieval studies and women's and gender studies majors and women's and gender studies concentration.

Area Courses on Africa, Asia, and Latin America

HIST 240: Major Seminar: Histories of Africa, Asia, and Latin America
This course explores topics in the history of Africa, Asia, or Latin America, designed to emphasize active skills of critical reading, textual and contextual analysis, historiographical argument, and historical writing. Recent topics have included 'American Empire: A Cultural History of US-Latin America Relations' and 'Imperialism and Nationalism in Southeast Asia.' Primarily for history majors; others by permission of instructor. Offered periodically. Also counts toward management studies concentration.

HIST 243: Revolutionary Cuba
This course examines the history of modern Cuba, especially the 1959 revolution and its aftermath. Students study the transformation of Cuban political culture, the obstacles to economic and agrarian reform, education, the role of women, human rights, U.S. policies toward Cuba, and the future of Cuba after the breakup of the Soviet Union. The role of charismatic leadership in Latin America and the possibilities for revolutionary changes in the Americas are also examined. Offered periodically during Interim. Also counts toward Latin American studies major and concentration.

HIST 244: Collective Memory in Revolutionary Cuba (abroad)
How do Cubans view their past, and how does this shape their understanding of the present? This course focuses on the 1959 Revolution and historical memory. Students explore through visits to museums, memorials, and monuments how the government has sought to influence the ways Cubans remember the revolution and the later turn toward socialism. Students also study present-day Cuba through visits to health clinics, cooperatives, and schools, as well as lectures from local experts. Offered during Interim in alternate years. Apply through International and Off-Campus Studies. Also counts toward Latin American studies major and concentration.

HIST 245: Environmental History of Latin America
This course examines the environmental history of Latin America from ancient times to the present. Through readings and discussion, students explore topics such as pre-conquest indigenous agriculture, the environmental consequences of European colonization, Latin American understandings of nature, the Green Revolution, deforestation, questions of international environmental justice, and the growing links between the region's indigenous peoples and international environmental organizations. Offered annually. Also counts toward environmental studies (all emphases) and Latin American Studies majors and environmental studies and Latin American studies concentrations.
HIST 250: China: Past and Present
This course introduces the history of ancient and imperial China beginning with the earliest historical records through the 19th century. In this broad sweep of history, students engage with works of literature, philosophy, religion, medicine, the arts, and political statecraft in English translation. Rather than focusing solely on political history and dynastic change, this course also explores the cultural and social lives of ordinary people as a central theme. Offered annually. Also counts toward Asian studies and Chinese majors and Asian studies concentration.

HIST 251: Revolutionary China
This course explores China across the tumultuous 20th century. Beginning in 1911, students discuss the schools of thought that changed daily life in China: fascism, nationalism, anarchism, feminism, socialism, and communism. The course examines the China post-1949 through the reform period of the 1980s. Through close readings of primary sources in English translation, students investigate what constitutes revolution as a theory and practice in modern China, and how a revolution begins, continues, declines, and rekindles. Offered annually. Also counts toward Asian studies major and Asian studies and management studies concentrations.

HIST 252: Japanese Civilization
A study of Japan from the origins of the Yamato state culture to the emergence of modern Japan, this course provides an overview of traditional Japanese thought, values, and culture. This course examines social, economic, and political change; intellectual and religious history; and the development of Japanese arts and literature; as well as Japan’s relations with China, Korea, and the West. Offered periodically. Also counts toward Asian studies and Japanese majors and Asian studies concentration.

HIST 253: Modern Japan
This survey of modern Japan from 1800 to the present examines the political transformation of the Meiji Restoration, the industrial revolution and social and cultural change, the rise and fall of party government, militarism and Japanese expansionism in World War II, the American occupation, and postwar social, political, economic, and cultural developments. Offered alternate years. Also counts toward Asian studies and Japanese majors and Asian studies concentration.

HIST 256: Slavery in West Africa: Ghana (abroad)
Students explore the history and culture of Ghana and examine how people recall slavery and the implications of a constructed concept of slavery. Through primary sources and visits to historic sites, students examine how Africans view slavery; why descendants of slaves and the enslaved rarely discuss slavery; how to transform slave artifacts into storehouses of memory, silences, and fragmentations in history; and how descendants of slaves respond to the burden of such knowledge. Offered during Interim. Apply through International and Off-Campus Studies. Also counts toward Africa and the African Diaspora and race and ethnic studies concentrations.

HIST 291: Introduction to African History
The course explores how people view Africa and the contested discourse on the meaning of ‘Africa’ with special emphasis on sub-Saharan Africa. Through lectures, discussion, and analysis of primary sources, students examine Africa’s past in terms of material and social change; how the ordinary and the privileged made their world; economic and religious revolutions; responses to colonial encroachment and rule; and independence. No prior study of Africa necessary. Offered annually.

HIST 292: Muslim Societies in Sub-Saharan Africa
This seminar introduces students to the nature and development of Muslim societies in sub-Saharan Africa, from the earliest times to the present. Students also explore questions of authenticity and ‘historical truth’ as they examine current debates on themes such as patterns of Islamization, ‘African Islam,’ and Islam in Africa. Other themes include the invention of Muslim identities, expansion of Sufism, women in Islam, Islamic education, Islam and colonialism, as well as revivalism in Islam. Also counts toward Africa and the African Diaspora concentration. Offered annually.

Period and Topical Courses in American History

HIST 270: Major Seminar: American History
This course explores topics in American history, designed to emphasize active skills of critical reading, textual and contextual analysis, historiographical argument, and historical writing. Recent topics have included ‘Franklin's America,’ ‘Women and Slavery,’ ‘American Family in Historical Perspective,’ and ‘Work in America.’ Primarily for history majors; others by permission of instructor. May be repeated if topic is different. Offered most years.

HIST 272: Women in America
This course surveys women’s experience in American life from the colonial period to the present. Students examine the changing economic, social, and legal status of women, society’s attitudes toward women, and the growth of feminism. Offered periodically. Also counts toward women’s and gender studies major and family studies and women’s and gender studies concentrations.

HIST 275: Environmental History
By examining the interaction of people and environment on the North American continent from the 15th century to the present, this course shows how history ‘takes place’ in ecological contexts that change over time. Students compare Native American and Euro-American religious beliefs, social values, economic aspirations, and technological developments and examine their consequences for the flora, fauna, and peoples of the continent. Offered periodically. Also counts toward environmental studies major (all emphases) and concentration.

HIST 277: African-American History
In this study of African-Americans in U. S. society from African origins to the present, students explore the African heritage, the experience of slavery, segregation, and the rise of the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. The course pays particular attention to the issue of black nationalism as a force in American life. Offered periodically. Also counts toward race and ethnic studies major and Africa and the African Diaspora and race and ethnic studies concentrations.

HIST 278: Experiencing Southern History (off-campus)
This course examines the public memory of the contemporary South through the Civil War and the Civil Rights movement. The course examines statues of the Civil War, the modern presentation of lynching, and the contemporary museums dealing with related topics. Students examine how sites of public memory function in a polarized environment, and how they reflect public attitudes, tourism, and the needs of schools. The course culminates in a visit to Alabama to visit sites associated with civil rights confrontations. Particularly appropriate for public history students.
HIST 282: Topics in Native American History
Spanning at least twelve thousand years and involving more than five hundred indigenous nations the history of Native America is complex and diverse. This course focuses on significant themes, time periods, or geographical regions, with emphasis on the Native peoples within the modern-day continental United States. Examples include ‘The Trail of Tears,’ ‘The West Before Lewis and Clark,’ and ‘Pontiac’s America.’ May be repeated if topic is different. Offered periodically. Also counts toward race and ethnic studies major and concentration.

HIST 288: America in the Civil War and Reconstruction Era
In studying the impact of the Civil War era on American society and politics, students focus on slavery, emancipation, and race relations. They also address the impact of industrialization on northern society, encompassing immigration and nativism, the westward movement, and the dispossession of Native Americans. The course situates the dramatic political and military events of the era in the wider evolution of American life. Offered annually. Also counts toward race and ethnic studies major and Africa and the African Diaspora and race and ethnic studies concentrations.

HIST 290: Reel America: U.S. History in Film
Students examine the limitations and the enormous potential of film in depicting and interpreting past events in U.S. history. They analyze films using a variety of theoretical models and explore the ways feature films and documentaries have explored themes like race, conquest, war, and politics in American history. Writing assignments enable students to demonstrate their analytical skills. Offered periodically. Also counts toward media studies and film studies concentrations.

General

HIST 280: Intro to Public History
Students explore the theory and practice of Public History as they learn to identify and interpret history for the public. Using readings, workshops, site visits, and individual and collaborative projects, students explore how ownership and funding influence decisions regarding what is preserved; how the past informs the present; how the present may oppose the past; and how cultures engage in remembering their pasts in ways consistent with the common good. Offered annually. 
Prerequisite: history major.

HIST 294: Academic Internship

HIST 296: History Internship Reflection (0.5)
This seminar integrates the study of history with the experience of work and the search for a vocation or career in Public History. Students reflect upon the value of the liberal arts for their pursuit of a creative, productive, and meaningful professional life. Through reading, writing, and discussion, the course provides an opportunity to consider the challenges students face when embarking on their post-graduation careers. Offered annually. 
Prerequisites: HIST 280 and completion of or concurrent registration in HIST 294.

HIST 298: Independent Study

HIST 299: Topics in History
This course offers selected surveys in historical studies. Topics depend on instructor. Recent topics have included ‘Women in Early America,’ ‘U.S.-Latin American Relations,’ and ‘Doing Public History.’ May be repeated if topic is different. Offered periodically.

Level III: Seminars
Please note that Level III seminars presume significant prior knowledge of the subject. Previous experience with the material is required.

European History

HIST 302: Greek Civilization
Students study the emergence and development of Greek civilization from the early Bronze Age through the Hellenistic period, concentrating on such topics as the Homeric Age, Greek colonization of the Mediterranean basin, Athens’ evolution from democratic city-state to imperialist power, the Golden Age of Athens, social and intellectual trends and Alexander. May be repeated if topic is different. Offered periodically. Also counts toward ancient studies, classics, and Greek majors.
Prerequisite: HIST 203 or permission of instructor.

HIST 303: Roman Civilization
This seminar covers the emergence and development of Roman civilization from the founding of Rome to the end of the Western Empire. Students explore such topics as the Greek and Etruscan legacy, evolution from republic to autocracy, the Augustan Age, Pax Romana, social and intellectual trends, the triumph of Christianity and Rome’s final transformation. May be repeated if topic is different. Offered periodically. Also counts toward ancient studies, classics, and Latin majors.
Prerequisite: HIST 190 or HIST 204 or permission of instructor.

HIST 310: Seminar: Medieval Europe
This seminar covers various topics in the history of medieval Europe, depending upon the instructor. The most recently offered topic: ‘Medieval Italy, 1050-1350.’ May be repeated if topic is different. Offered periodically. Also counts toward medieval studies major.

HIST 315: Seminar: Early Modern Europe
This seminar covers various topics in early modern European history, depending upon the instructor. The most recently offered topic: ‘Reformation and Revolution in England.’ May be repeated if topic is different. Offered periodically.

HIST 320: Seminar: Modern Europe
This seminar covers various topics in modern European history, depending upon the instructor. Recent topics have included ‘Gender and the Enlightenment,’ ‘The Holocaust and History,’ ‘Race, Gender, and Medicine,’ and ‘Nation and Empire in Russian History.’ May be repeated if topic is different. Offered periodically. Prerequisites for certain offerings.

Latin American and Asian History

HIST 340: Latin America Seminar
This seminar covers varying topics in Latin American history, depending upon the instructor. May be repeated if topic is different. Offered periodically. Also counts toward Latin American studies major and concentration.

HIST 345: East Asia Seminar
This seminar covers varying topics in East Asian history. Recent topics have included ‘World War II in East Asia and the Pacific’ and ‘Nationalism and Communism in Southeast Asia.’ May be repeated if topic is different. Offered periodically. Also counts toward Asian studies, Chinese, and Japanese majors and Asian studies concentration.

American History
HIST 370: American Seminar
This seminar covers varying topics in American history, depending upon the instructor. Recent topics have included ‘Lincoln and his America,’ ‘The American Revolution,’ and ‘19th-Century American Political Culture.’ May be repeated if topic is different. Offered most years.

HIST 375: Problems of Contemporary America
This course examines American life, politics, and foreign policy from the Cold War to the present. Using a variety of readings, students explore some of the contradictions of modernity and the transformation of America into a post-industrial society. Offered periodically.
Prerequisite: HIST 199 recommended.

General

HIST 393: Digital History
New capabilities in digitization have radically changed the way people understand and interact with history. In this seminar, students survey new digital tools in data visualization, curation, and presentation available to the historian. They experiment with these tools to craft compelling scholarly arguments which can be showcased online for historians and non-historians alike. Students produce a major digital research project using historical documents from online archives and St. Olaf College Archives and Libraries Special Collections. Offered in alternate years.

HIST 394: Academic Internship

HIST 395: Oral History Seminar
The seminar focuses on the theory and practice of oral history. Students learn to conduct, transcribe and incorporate interviews in projects. Students interrogate conceptual issues - the interview as narrative, memory, identity, connections, motivations, and the silences inherent in oral history - and how these relate to gender, religion, and class in multiple global settings. Students learn such practical techniques as how to probe social masks, evaluate oral evidence, and the legalities of releasing interviews. Offered annually. Also counts toward Africa and the African Diaspora concentration.

HIST 396: Directed Undergraduate Research
This course provides a comprehensive research opportunity, including an introduction to relevant background material, technical instruction, identification of a meaningful project, and data collection. The topic is determined by the faculty member in charge of the course and may relate to his/her research interests. Offered based on department decision. May be offered as a 1.00 credit course or .50 credit course.
Prerequisite: determined by individual instructor.

HIST 397: History Research Workshop
Rather than focus on a region or period of time, we will look at how historians from many different fields explore and understand 'everyday life.' What do historians have to say about eating, work, rumors, fear, night, noise, bingo, and more? What sources do they use for this research? What significance do we find in these histories of everyday life? Much of this study is defined by changes in social and cultural history, with an emphasis on local and micro-histories. Students will produce a substantial research paper, based on primary sources and focused on a theme or problem related to histories of everyday life. Seniors are welcome. Juniors especially are encouraged to consider this course, especially those considering academic internships, participation in the summer undergraduate research program, or distinction. Offered periodically.

HIST 398: Independent Research

Faculty
Chair, 2019-2020
Steven C. Hahn
Professor of History
colonial America; Native American history; piracy

Jeane DeLaney (on leave spring)
Associate Professor of History
Latin American history; Argentina and Cuba; environmental history of Latin America

Christopher M. Elias
Visiting Assistant Professor of History
20th-century U.S. history

Michael W. Fitzgerald
Professor of History
African-American history; Civil War and Reconstruction; Southern America

Eric J. Fure-Slocum
Associate Professor of History
20th-century U.S. history; labor and urban history

Timothy R. Howe
Professor of History
ancient Greece and Rome; the Middle East; Alexander the Great; ancient archeology

Abdulai Iddrisu
Associate Professor of History
African history; Islam in Africa

David E. Jessup
Visiting Instructor in History
modern Nordic and Nordic-American history

Judy Kutulas
Professor of History
20th-century U.S. history; U.S. women's history; popular and material culture

Anna K. Kuxhausen (on leave Interim and spring)
Associate Professor of History
Russian history; women's history

Stephanie Montgomery
Assistant Professor of History and Asian Studies

Dolores Peters (on leave)
Associate Professor of History
modern France; modern Europe; history of medicine

Katherine A. Tuley
Adjunct Instructor in History

Larry Witherell
Adjunct Professor of History