Why Should I Study History?

A how-to guide from the Department of History, Texas Tech University.
Why Take History Courses?

• Understand **WHY** things happened in the past.
• Think about and analyze big social, political, and economic problems in different places and time periods.
• Better understand human societies and why they work the way they do.
• Knowledge of history, and understanding the complexities of why things happened the way they did, helps our society function.
What can I do with a degree in History?

• **Learn transferable skills** required of many professions: research, reasoning, writing, and critical thinking.

• History isn’t just for teachers anymore!

• Law, medicine, business, finance, technology, politics, public policy, education: the sky’s the limit.
Something to consider:

Having the experience of writing papers based on original research can help you **stand out** when applying for jobs and professional schools.
Becoming a **History Major** (36 hours)

- 6 hours US history (2300, 2301, and/or 2310)
- 3 hours 1300 or 2322
- 3 hours 1301 or 2323
- 24 hours upper-division (various combos of 3000 and 4000 levels, including 4398, Senior Seminar)
Becoming a **History Minor** (18 hours)

- 6 hours US history (2300, 2301, and/or 2310)
- 6 hours of 3000 or 4000 electives
- 3 hours of 4000
- 3 hours any level elective
- **18 hours total!**
- Another option: Military History Minor (18 hours)
History Department Courses, Fall 2020

- **1300, 1301, 2300, 2301, 2310, 2322 and 2323** (Multiple sections offered each semester!)

- **3300 The Historian’s Craft**: Introduces students to the theory, philosophy, and skills of the professional historian. Strongly recommended for students prior to taking HIST 4398. (Adams, T/Th, 2:00)

- **3301 Ancient Civilization I**: Introduction to the study of the ancient Near East and classical Greece. (Forsythe, MWF, 3:00) Advanced EUR History Category

- **3305 Creating the American Nation, 1785 - 1840**: Examines the political and cultural processes by which the U.S. was formed in the decades following the American Revolution. (Crider, MWF, 9:00) Advanced US History Category

- **3307 African American History from 1877 to Present**: Surveys the history of African Americans from the Post-Reconstruction period through Civil Rights years and new forms of activism in the 1900s to the present. Fulfills multicultural requirements. (Kretz, MWF, 9:00) Advanced US History Category

- **3309 United States Foreign Relations Since 1913**: A survey of U.S. foreign relations from 1913 to the present with an emphasis on the U.S. as a world leader. (Hart, MWF, 11:00) Advanced US History Category

- **3328 History of Religion in America**: Traces the development of religious groups in America from colonial times to the present. Emphasizes beliefs and interaction with society. (Stoll, MWF, 1:00) Advanced US History Category
History Department Courses, Fall 2020

- **3345 The Birth of Europe**: Examines the confrontation between the Later Roman Empire and its barbarian invaders, which ultimately produced new economic, political, social, and cultural structures of a new civilization. (Howe, MWF, 10:00) Advanced EUR History Category

- **3347 Colonial North America**: Surveys political, social, and cultural changes in colonial North America from the arrival of Europeans to the eve of the American Revolution. (Nelson, MWF, 11:00) Advanced US History Category

- **3360 Popes, Bastards, and Kings: Medieval and Early Modern Britain**: Examines the social, cultural, and political history of British Isles to 1688, focusing on institutions, religious beliefs, literature, art, and everyday life. (Swingen, MWF, 11:00) Advanced EUR History Category

- **3366 The First World War**: Surveys the social, political, and cultural effects of the First World War, which brought down the last major empires and created the modern world. (McCahey, MWF, 11:00) Advanced EUR History Category

- **3395 Africa: Empires and Civilizations**: A survey of the development of Africa’s civilizations and cultures from ancient Egypt to the West African trading states of the 18th century. Fulfills multicultural requirement. (Bjerk, T/Th, 11:00) Advanced AAL History Category
History Department Courses, Fall 2020

- **3395 Africa: Empires and Civilizations**: A survey of the development of Africa’s civilizations and cultures from ancient Egypt to the West African trading states of the 18th century. **Fulfills multicultural requirement.** (Bjerk, T/Th, 11:00) Advanced AAL History Category

- **3398 The Modern Middle East, 1800 to the Present**: The history of the Middle East from ca. 1800 to the rise of Arab and other nation-states and the coups and revolutions of recent decades. **Fulfills multicultural requirement.** (Two sections: Carminati, T/Th, 9:30; and Mussi, MWF, 10:00) Advanced AAL History Category

- **4307 The United States, 1945 to the Present**: The study of American society from the Second World War through the 1970s, including political developments, wars, and cultural conflicts. (Pehl, MWF, 11:00) Advanced US History Category

- **4325 Hysterical Women and Other Comics**: In-depth study of how women and other traditional targets of humor use comedy to alter the U.S. cultural and political landscape. (Willett, W, 3:00-5:50) Advanced US History Category

- **4349 The Protestant Reformation**: Europe from 1517 to 1648. Religious revolt and the establishment of Protestantism; the age of religious wars; attempts at religious peace. (D’Amico, T/Th, 2:00) Advanced EUR History Category
4354 From Vampires to Death Tourism: The Dead in Europe since 1700: Examines the different ways that Europeans have handled, represented, and thought about the dead in the early modern period. (Legacey, MWF, 10:00) Advanced EUR History Category

4376 History of Italian Mafia: Discusses the origins and development of the Mafia in the context of Italian politics, economy, and society in the 19th and 20th centuries. (D’Amico, T/Th, 12:30) Advanced EUR History Category

4379 Revolutionary Russia: *THIS IS AN HONORS SECTION* Examines Russia/USSR during its revolutionary period, ca. 1900-1950. Topics studied include the 1917 revolutions, civil war, NEP, Stalinism, terror, the Gulag and WWII. (Barenberg, T/Th, 9:30) Advanced EUR History Category

4382 Walking the Line: The History of U.S.–Mexico Border Relations since 1836: research course that covers the social, political, and economic histories of specific borderland region between the United States and Mexico since 1836. Fulfills multicultural requirement. (Instructor TBD, MWF, 11:00) Advanced US History Category

4385 Global Islam: Past and Present: Examines Islam not only as a religion but also as a global phenomenon that helps shape the lives of people globally. Fulfills multicultural requirement. (Carminati, T/Th, 12:30) Advanced AAL History Category

4394 Modern Japan: Social, cultural, political, and economic history of Japan (17th to 20th century). Focus on merchant culture, Tokugawa times, civic training of Meiji period, militarism, postwar period. (Pelley, T/Th, 2:00) Advanced AAL History Category
History Department Courses, Fall 2020

- **4395 Modern Vietnam**: Covers the social, political, and cultural history of Vietnam, beginning with the emergence of frontier society in the 16th century and concluding with the Vietnamese diaspora. (Pelley, T/Th, 3:30) Advanced AAL History Category

- **4398 - Senior Seminar in History**: Required of history majors. An intensive study in historical methodology, document analysis, retrieval and collection of data, and synthesis into well-written history. 3 sections: Bjerk, T/Th, 12:30 “Diplomacy from the State House to the School House” Lutjens, MWF, 1:00 “Freedom, Security, and the Modern State” Franklin, MWF, 2:00 “American Radicalism”
Questions? Contact:

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• To learn about events and news from the Department, like us on Facebook (@TexasTechDepartmentOfHistory) and follow us on Twitter! (@TTUHistory)