

History

History

History Degrees

History Major (BA)

Associate Professor: Edward Tenace

Assistant Professors: Alexis Baldacci and Kieran O'Keefe

The study of history is a crucial aspect of a liberal education. History provides a sense of perspective on the processes of social, political, and economic change that have literally shaped the world. The study of history deepens and broadens one's understanding of the ways institutions and attitudes bring about change over time.

Lyon history students experience the varied work of the modern historian, especially the historian as a detective and as an interpreter. Working with both evidence and ideas in the classroom and in the field, history majors have the opportunity to refine their skills in critical reading, reasoning, research, and writing.

NOTE: To graduate with a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree from Lyon College, students must successfully complete a minimum of 120 semester credit hours comprised of our required Core curriculum (44-48 hours), the requirements of at least one major (credit hours vary per major), and a selection of our Liberal Arts electives. They must also earn at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point average for all work taken at Lyon College and a 2.00 cumulative grade point average in their major, minor, and concentration.

Summary of Requirements for a Major in History

Item #	Title	Credits
HIS 101	The United States I	3
HIS 102	The United States II	3
HIS 110	World Civilization I	3
HIS 112	World Civilization II	3
HIS 280	Historiography and the Historical Method	3
	Additional 200- level History Courses (2 courses):	6
	Upper level (300+) History Courses (6 courses):	18
HIS 475	Seminar in History	3
HIS 480	Senior Seminar	3

CORE CURRICULUM

Item #	Title	Credits
	Core Curriculum Requirements (In addition to Major hours)	44-48
	Total Credits	89-93

Additional 200- level History Courses (2 courses):

* Any 200-level History Course except for HIS 280.

* Courses must be taken with Lyon College History Faculty.

Upper level (300+) History Courses (6 courses):

2- 300-level courses in European History*

2 - 300-level courses in World History*

2 - 300-level courses in American History*

*Courses must be taken with Lyon College History Faculty

History Minor

This course of study is designed as a second field for students interested in history and in developing their skills in reasoning, research, and writing.

NOTE

* HIS 110 and HIS 112 are the required common core before the senior year.

Summary of Requirements for a Minor in History

Item #	Title	Credits
HIS 101	The United States I	3
HIS 102	The United States II	3
HIS 110	World Civilization I	3
HIS 112	World Civilization II	3
	History Courses 200/300 level - (2 courses):	6
	Total Credits	18

History Courses 200/300 level - (2 courses):

Choose two History courses at the 200 or 300 level focused on different geographic areas (the United States, Europe, or World History).

History (HIS) Courses

HIS 101: The United States I

The history of the United States from the colonial period to Reconstruction.

Credits 3

HIS 102: The United States II

The history of the United States from Reconstruction to the present.

Credits 3

HIS 110: World Civilization I

This course offers a general history of civilization, emphasizing the economic, intellectual, political and cultural aspects that have contributed to the development of our world. It covers the period up to 1715.

Credits 3

HIS 112: World Civilization II

General history of civilization emphasizing the economic, intellectual, political, and cultural aspects that have contributed to the development of our world. Covers the period since 1715.

Credits 3

HIS 210: Latin American History

This class surveys Latin American history from the eve of first encounters between Americans and Europeans in 1492 to the present: over 500 years of history for a vast region spanning Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, and South America. Students will explore historical processes like encounters between Europeans, Americans, and Africans; Spanish and Portuguese colonialism in the New World; struggles for independence and construction of new Latin American states; class struggle, revolution, and counterrevolution in the twentieth century; and globalization, neoliberalism, and inequality in the twenty-first century.

Credits 3

HIS 220: Comparative Revolutions

This course offers a comparative history of a historical phenomenon: revolution. Throughout the semester, this class will consider multiple modern revolutions across the globe. It will begin with an exploration of the political theory of the Enlightenment, before considering specific revolutions, including but not limited to the American, French, Haitian, Mexican, and Russian. Besides comparing and contrasting various revolutions, this course will ask a number of questions related to revolutionary change, including what causes revolutions? Who makes a revolution? What leads to success or failure in a revolutionary situation? How should we define conceptions such as democracy, freedom, and liberty?

Credits 3

HIS 250: War, Institutions, and Society to 1815

The History of Warfare from Ancient Times to the end of the Napoleonic era. In addition to examining the developments of warfare in terms of tactics, strategy, and technology, the course will set warfare in a social and institutional context as a major driver of change. Emphasis will be given mainly to Western military developments but we will also examine the way non-Western societies interacted, responded, and adapted to the Western way of war.

Credits 3

HIS 251: War, Institutions, and Society since 1815

The History of Warfare from the mid-19th century to the present. In addition to examining the main developments in modern warfare, the course will set the study of warfare in a social and institutional context as a major driver of change. We will examine the development of such concepts as total war, conventional war, guerrilla warfare, and the rise of terrorism. Emphasis will be on such well known conflicts as the American Civil War, the Wars of European Unification, the World Wars, and the various anti-colonial wars.

Credits 3

HIS 280: Historiography and the Historical Method

This course explores the process of doing history and allows students to practice those processes and discuss the merits of different approaches to studying the past. Students will be exposed to the concept of historiography, its role within the discipline, and its importance regarding historical research. This course prepares students for upper-level courses, including HIS 480. Required for history majors.

Credits 3

HIS 282: Special Topics in History

Study of selected topics in history.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

Prerequisites may vary.

HIS 300: The Cuban Revolution

An exploration of the complex history of the Cuban Revolution. We will embrace a methodology that examines Cuban history from within, while also devoting attention to the significant role that Cuba and Cubans have played in the international arena, especially since 1959. While much of the scholarship on Cuba has taken a top-down approach focused on political leaders and their policies, we will use creative examination of primary sources to build our own, bottom-up analysis of the social and cultural impacts of the revolution. We will seek to develop answers to difficult questions about the nature of popular democracy and totalitarian rule, the success of the Cuban Revolution in fulfilling its stated goals, and the ways that the revolutionary project has impacted the real lives of real people.

Credits 3

HIS 301: British History I

The principle events surrounding the formation of England from the Norman Conquest to the end of the Stuart monarchy in 1714 with additional examination of England's relation to its Celtic neighbors, the beginnings of the British Empire, and the creation of Great Britain.

Credits 3

HIS 302: British History II

The main political, social, economic, and cultural developments in Britain since 1714. Students will also examine British colonialism, Britain's role in international affairs, and relations among the various territories that make up the United Kingdom itself.

Credits 3

HIS 303: History of Ireland

Survey of the history of Ireland from the arrival of the Celts to the present-day conflict in Northern Ireland with major emphasis on explaining how Ireland's history shaped and continues to shape its present.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

HIS 201 or permission of instructor.

HIS 305: Britain and the British Empire

A wide-ranging introduction to the history of Britain and the British Empire from the 16th century to the present with emphasis on the changing political system, the development of the British state, and the maintenance of an overseas Empire.

Credits 3

HIS 310: Colonial America

A study of the colonial era of American history from the Columbian Encounter of 1492 through the French and Indian War. Students will explore the diverse peoples, cultures, and colonies across the Americas with a special focus on cultural exchange and conflict between European, Indigenous, and African peoples. Other topics include motivations for colonization, imperial wars, the growth of slavery, and the economic, political, and cultural development of European colonies.

Credits 3

HIS 314: The American Revolution

A study of the era of the American Revolution, beginning with the French and Indian War and continuing to the War of 1812. Students will learn about the place of the thirteen colonies in the British Empire, the causes of the American Revolution, the course of the Revolutionary War, and the birth of a new nation under the Articles of Confederation and the U.S. Constitution. The course will consider whether the Revolution was a radical event, and explore the period from a variety of perspectives, including the Founding Fathers, common soldiers, women, African Americans, and American Indians.

Credits 3

HIS 316: 16th Century Europe

A survey of the main developments in European history between 1480-1610. Topics include the rise of the Habsburgs under Charles V; the impact of the Reformation; the Religious Wars; Spanish colonization overseas; the Military Revolution; and the Habsburg bid for European hegemony under Philip II; and the expansion of the Ottoman Empire in the Western Mediterranean and Eastern Europe.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

HIS 110 or HIS 112 or permission of instructor

HIS 317: U.S. and the World I

This course explores the origins of the United States' relationship with the globe, ca. 1776 until 1919. Throughout the semester we will examine how domestic politics, gender, ideology, and race shaped broader US interactions with the globe. We will also consider how a revolutionary and anti-colonial republic became an imperial power.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

HIS 101

HIS 318: U.S. and the World II

This course investigates the history of the United States' interactions with the globe after World War I, including with Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. It will introduce students to important events, people, and the historiography of the subject.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

HSI 102 or permission of instructor

HIS 319: 19th Century Europe

This course treats the main event in the History of Europe from 1814 to 1914. It will treat such topics as the Congress of Vienna; the age of Metternich; the liberal revolutions especially the those of 1848; the Crimean War; the rise of Louis Napoleon; the Wars of Italian and German Unification; the rise of Socialism and Anarchism; New Imperialism; and the political polarization of Europe at the end of the century. Attention will also be given to artistic and literary movements such as Romanticism; Realism; and Naturalism.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

HIS 112 or permission of instructor

HIS 320: Methods of Teaching Social Studies

An introduction to the materials, methods, and latest trends in the teaching of social studies.

Credits 2

HIS 321: 17th Century Europe

A survey of the main developments in European in the 17th century. Topics include the Thirty Years War; the Little Ice Age; the English Civil Wars; the Franco-Spanish conflict; the reign of Louis XIV of France; and the Glorious Revolution.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

HIS 110

HIS 325: History and Film

A showcase of several films based on real historical events. Students will research both the films and the actual events from the standpoint of professional historians, ascertain their historical veracity, and demonstrate how films are the reflection of the society that produced them. Film topics will vary but treat such issues as war, revolution, imperialism, colonialism, and the struggle of classes and social order.

Credits 3

HIS 334: Recent European History

Dominant currents in Europe and their dependencies from the Congress of Vienna to the present.

Credits 3

HIS 340: The French Revolution and Napoleon

An exploration of the causes and consequences of this very decisive period which witnessed the destruction of the Old Regime and the birth of the modern state. Students will consider the ideology of the Enlightenment, social and political reforms, the forces of radicalism and popular violence, and the origin of nationalism, as well as examine the career of Napoleon and its impact on Europe.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

HIS 201 or permission of instructor.

HIS 355: The Reformation

An exploration of the causes and consequences of the Reformation with emphasis on understanding the role of the major reformers such as Luther, Calvin, and Loyola. In addition, students will explore the Reformation's sociopolitical and cultural dimensions. (Same as RPH 358)

Credits 3

Prerequisites

HIS 201 or permission of instructor.

HIS 356: The Spanish Golden Age

Spanish culture and society during the Golden Age of the 16th and 17th centuries. Through the study of historical texts, students will explore some of the major issues of the age (the Inquisition, the Counter-Reformation, the problem of ethnic and religious minorities, and the rise and fall of an empire).

Credits 3

Prerequisites

HIS 201 or permission of instructor.

HIS 357: Early Modern France

The history of France from the “new monarchs” of the 15th century to the end of the Ancient Regime in 1789.

Course content will focus on students gaining an understanding of such traditional themes as the consolidation of the French kingdom, the Renaissance monarchy, the wars of religion, the development of absolutism, Louis XIV, the Enlightenment, and the forces that would eventually unleash the French Revolution. Great stress will be placed on understanding the larger economic and social forces that helped shape French history. In addition, students will explore some of the recent work in the areas of gender and cultural history.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

HIS 201, or permission of instructor.

HIS 361: The Civil War

An examination of the Civil War as a military conflict with great emphasis on understanding the strategy, operations, and tactics employed by both sides. In addition, students will study the war in the context of international diplomacy and domestic politics as well as its impact on the nation.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

HIS 101 or permission of instructor.

HIS 366: Arkansas in the United States

Arkansas from exploration to the present.

Credits 3

HIS 367: Life in 20th Century America

The history of the United States from the 1900s to the 1990s. Social history, domestic politics, influence of the media and popular culture will serve as themes while considering such topics as the Progressive Era, The Roaring Twenties, the home front during World War II, the Great Depression, Cold War culture, counterculture during the 1960s, and others.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

HIS 102 or permission of instructor.

HIS 382: Special Topics in History

Study of selected topics in history. Prerequisites will vary.

Credits 3

HIS 411, 412: Readings in History I & II

Reading and review of three to six monographs each semester. Tutorial.

Credits 1-3

HIS 460: Practicum in History

Credits 1-3

HIS 475: Seminar in History

These reading- and writing-intensive seminars provide opportunities for concentrated work on a particular theme, national experience, or methodology to develop subject expertise and research acuity. Students will critically assess previous historians' work and refine their expository skills in writing and speech. Topics vary by instructor.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

HIS 280

Or by permission of the instructor.

HIS 480: Senior Seminar

Preparation of a major research paper with some study of methodology in history.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

Senior standing, HIS 101, HIS 102, HIS 201, HIS 202, and HIS 280