

Department of History
University of Houston
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To prospective History majors and minors: If you are reading this letter, it's because you are enrolled in a UH US, Western, Early/Modern, or World Civ class that there's a 99% chance you're taking because it's a core required course. The History Department is excited that you are learning about US and global histories with us. The purpose of my letter is to introduce you to the History major and minor so you will know what your options are, especially for those of you who have a passion for understanding the past.

How the Major/Minor Works: The History Department offers high-quality, flexible degree plans **that will meet your schedule with numerous on-campus as well as a variety of distance ed classes.** The B.A. in History requires 36 credit hours (usually 12 courses, 6 of which are at the advanced, 3- or 4000 level) in History. Three of those will be in a historical methods seminar capstone course through which you will learn research methods broadly applicable to many post-graduation jobs or fields of study. You can focus geographically (U.S., European, Latin American, Asian, African, Middle Eastern, or transnational history), thematically (war and society, family and gender, environmental, public history, or food studies are areas of great strength), or chronologically (from ancient to very recent time periods). The **15-hour minor** is even more flexible: A Minor in History consists of 15 semester hours (usually 5 courses), of which 9 semester hours must be at the 3000 or 4000 level.

Events We Hold: Every year we hold a series of events to support our majors and minors with planning for the future. In the fall we hold an Open House at which we talk about how to fulfill the requirements of the major and minor and reinforce student success in our courses and the major overall. We also hold an event for students wanting to go on to graduate school or professional studies to inform you about the application process; a mentoring week to encourage majors and minor to meet with professors during their office hours for advice; we hold a Career Day in the spring; and an annual awards event to celebrate student achievements where a number of prizes and scholarships are awarded.

What Kinds of Skills Does a History major provide you? A knowledge-based view of the U.S. and world, including a systemic understanding of human institutions; strong analytical and critical thinking skills; excellent oral and written communication skills; experience using technology in research and presentation of findings; ability to work both independently and as part of a group; and the ability to both manage details and to see the big picture.

What Can You Do with a History Degree? History majors go on to do many different kinds of work, teaching of course, but History can be an entry way into jobs in libraries, museums, media, law, technology, nonprofit management and administration, and finance. A History major combined with a minor in business, political science, an area studies minor, a minor in a language, or communications—any of these could help prepare you for the always changing job market. Doing study abroad or taking an internship can also be a great move. And don't feel that History majors lose out in the search for good salaries. Over time, liberal-arts majors often move into high paying fields with history majors often out-earning people with more technical majors especially over time. And UH has a terrific Career Services office that can provide many services to you!

If you have an interest in becoming a History major or minor, feel free to come in to see me (skellogg@uh.edu) or to meet with our Undergraduate Advisor, Ms. Sandra Wages (smwages@uh.edu). You can also find more information at: <http://www.uh.edu/class/history/undergraduate/>.

With all best wishes for your studies at UH,
Susan Kellogg
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