

HISTORY

Degree Types: PhD

The PhD Program in History (<https://www.history.northwestern.edu/graduate/>) trains students in core research and teaching skills intended to prepare them for a wide variety of careers, including in academia, in education more broadly, in public history, and in the public and private sectors. It is designed to help students achieve a comprehensive grasp of historical fields and processes; develop critical skills in respect to sources, texts, genres, theory, and methods of inquiry; and carry out original research that makes a significant contribution to historical study.

The program is distinguished by its relatively compact size, admitting about 15 students or fewer each year. This highly selective program allows close faculty-student interaction and permits exacting criticism of sources, research procedures, and writing skills.

Each student's course of study revolves around a chosen general field, minor field, and specialization field. The program encourages students to acquire a frame of reference for their research based on grounding in geographical and cross-disciplinary fields outside their specializations.

Students in this program are encouraged to participate in TGS's Interdisciplinary Cluster Initiative program. For more information on how you can have a second intellectual "home" outside of your department or program please visit the Interdisciplinary Cluster Initiative page (<https://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/admission/academic-programs/clusters-and-certificates/>).

Additional resources:

- Department website (<https://www.history.northwestern.edu/>)
- Program handbook(s)

Degree Offered

- History PhD (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/tgs/history/history-phd/>)

History Courses

Note that generally History PhD students take courses numbered **400 and higher**. With consent of adviser, instructor, and DGS they may also enroll in 300-level courses if additional work is assigned to bring those courses up to graduate-level work.

HISTORY 300-0 New Lectures in History (1 Unit)

Lecture courses on special topics not covered in regular offerings. Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

Historical Studies Distro Area Historical Studies Foundational Discipline

HISTORY 305-0 American Immigration (1 Unit)

Themes in history of immigration, especially from Europe, Latin America, and Asia. Law, racial formation, acculturation, transnational and international contexts, competing notions of citizenship. Taught with HISTORY 305-0; may not receive credit for both courses.

Historical Studies Distro Area Historical Studies Foundational Discipline U.S. Perspectives on Power, Justice, and Equity

HISTORY 310-1 Early American History: Contact and Colonization (1 Unit)

So much happened on the North American continent before the United States existed. This course explores those events, from before European contact through the beginning of the Seven Years' War.

Moving chronologically and thematically, we will cover themes including slavery, imperialism, gender, and religion to examine how the meeting of Indigenous, European, and African peoples created new worlds for all.

Historical Studies Distro Area Historical Studies Foundational Discipline U.S. Perspectives on Power, Justice, and Equity

HISTORY 310-2 American Revolution: From British Colonies to Republican Empire (1 Unit)

The American Revolution: a war waged by high-minded gentlemen in wigs. Or was it? This course explores the conflict in all its messy (and surprisingly manure-smeared) reality, particularly its fraught relationship to democracy, settler colonialism, human bondage, and human freedom. We'll also consider the Revolution as a touchstone in modern-day culture wars, from Supreme Court originalism to the 1619 Project.

Historical Studies Distro Area

HISTORY 315-1 The United States Since 1900: Early 20th C. (1 Unit)

America's domestic history and role in world affairs since 1900. Early 20th century.

Historical Studies Distro Area

HISTORY 315-2 The United States Since 1900: Mid-20th C. (1 Unit)

America's domestic history and role in world affairs since 1900. Mid-20th century.

Historical Studies Distro Area

HISTORY 315-3 The United States Since 1900: Late 20th C. to Present (1 Unit)

America's domestic history and role in world affairs since 1900. Late 20th century to the present.

Historical Studies Distro Area Historical Studies Foundational Discipline U.S. Perspectives on Power, Justice, and Equity

HISTORY 317-1 American Cultural History: 19th C. (1 Unit)

Changing values of the American people, how they have been transmitted, and how they have shaped American society, politics, and the economy. 19th century.

Historical Studies Distro Area Historical Studies Foundational Discipline Literature and Arts Foundational Discipline U.S. Perspectives on Power, Justice, and Equity

HISTORY 317-2 American Cultural History: 20th C. to Present (1 Unit)

Changing values of the American people, how they have been transmitted, and how they have shaped American society, politics, and the economy. 20th century to the present.

Historical Studies Distro Area

HISTORY 318-1 Legal and Constitutional History of the United States: Colonial Period to 1850 (1 Unit)

Colonial period-1850. Development of legal institutions, constitutionalism, law and social change, law and economic development. Taught with LEGAL_ST 318-1; may not receive credit for both courses.

Historical Studies Distro Area Historical Studies Foundational Discipline U.S. Perspectives on Power, Justice, and Equity

HISTORY 318-2 Legal and Constitutional History of the United States: 1850 to Present (1 Unit)

1850-present. Law in industrial society: administration, race relations, corporations, environmental protection, civil liberties. Taught with LEGAL_ST 318-2; may not receive credit for both courses.

Historical Studies Distro Area Historical Studies Foundational Discipline U.S. Perspectives on Power, Justice, and Equity

HISTORY 322-1 Development of the Modern American City: to 1880 (1 Unit)

City characteristics of urban society in America from the period of settlement to the present. To 1880.

Historical Studies Distro Area

HISTORY 322-2 Development of the Modern American City: 1880-Present (1 Unit)

City characteristics of urban society in America from the period of settlement to the present. 1880-present.

Historical Studies Distro Area

HISTORY 324-0 US Gay and Lesbian History (1 Unit)

Gender, sexuality, and the rise of modern lesbian and gay identities.

HISTORY 324-0 and GNDR_ST 324-0 are taught together; may not receive credit for both courses.

Historical Studies Distro Area Historical Studies Foundational Discipline U.S. Perspectives on Power, Justice, and Equity

HISTORY 325-0 History of American Technology (1 Unit)

This course studies American history through material artifacts. From colonialism to Silicon Valley, America has been a site of technological change. Topics include slavery and mechanization; industrialization and its discontents; consumer culture and household technology; social media and democratic upheaval; biotech and the digital revolution. Students write the social history of an artifact of their choice. No prerequisites.

Advanced Expression Historical Studies Distro Area Historical Studies Foundational Discipline U.S. Perspectives on Power, Justice, and Equity

HISTORY 332-1 Medieval Europe I: Early Middle Ages, 300-1000 (1 Unit)

Early Middle Ages, 300-1000.

Historical Studies Distro Area

HISTORY 332-2 Medieval Europe II: High & Late Middle Ages, 1000-1450 (1 Unit)

High and Late Middle Ages, 1000-1450.

Historical Studies Distro Area

HISTORY 333-0 The European Renaissance (1 Unit)

In 1348, a third to a half of all Europeans died from the Black Death, which was just one of many calamities, including the near total collapse of international trade and devastating wars that disrupted normal life. In the wake of these disasters, writers and artists began to search for explanations, creating the Renaissance.

Historical Studies Distro Area Historical Studies Foundational Discipline

HISTORY 334-0 The Reformation of Religion (1 Unit)

A history of the Protestant and Catholic Reformations of the sixteenth century. Topics include theological controversies, religious radicalism, the role of women in the Reformation, formation of confessions, the witch craze, religious wars, religion and ritual, and the origins of religious toleration.

Historical Studies Distro Area

HISTORY 338-1 Europe in the 20th Century, 1900-1945 (1 Unit)

The development of Europe in the first half of the twentieth century: modern art and culture, the First World War and the Russian Revolutions, the collapse of monarchical empires in Europe and challenges to colonies abroad, mass politics and the rise of nation-states, socialist and fascist movements, women's and minority rights, the Second World War and the Holocaust.

Historical Studies Distro Area

HISTORY 338-2 Europe in the 20th Century, 1945-Present (1 Unit)

The development of Europe from the Second World War to the present: the Cold War, the rise of the welfare state, the expansion and collapse of the Soviet empire, decolonization and its legacy, European integration and disintegration, immigration and diversity, new political movements,

including environmentalism, feminism, terrorism, and the revival of nationalist authoritarianism. HISTORY 338-1 is not a prerequisite.

Historical Studies Distro Area

HISTORY 342-1 The French Revolution and Napoleon (1 Unit)

The social, political and cultural origins of the French Revolution including the culture and politics of the French Enlightenment. The outbreak and radicalization of the Revolution, culminating in the Reign of Terror. The Haitian Revolution in relation to developments in France. The rise and career of Napoleon Bonaparte. Political and historiographical debates over the meaning of the Revolution.

Historical Studies Distro Area Historical Studies Foundational Discipline

HISTORY 342-2 History of Modern France: 19th c. to present (1 Unit)

France from the late nineteenth-century to the present. The politics and culture of fin-de-siècle France including the Dreyfus Affair and empire. The French experience in World War I, the defeat of 1940, the German occupation, France's role in the Holocaust. Decolonization and the Algerian War. Postwar political, social and cultural developments leading to current problems around immigration, race, and gender.

Historical Studies Distro Area

HISTORY 356-1 History of South Africa, Early Times to 1879 (1 Unit)

From the African iron age to the establishment of the multinational gold mining industry, emphasizing the rise of African states and the contest for land with white settlers.

Historical Studies Distro Area

HISTORY 356-2 History of South Africa, 1879-on (1 Unit)

Emphasis on the 20th century, the rise of African nationalism, and the clash with the apartheid state.

Historical Studies Distro Area

HISTORY 357-0 East Africa (1 Unit)

Selected topics in East African history.

Historical Studies Distro Area

HISTORY 362-1 Modern British History, 1688 - 1815 (1 Unit)

Social, political, and institutional history, 1688-1815.

Historical Studies Distro Area

HISTORY 362-2 The Victorians: liberalism, empire, and morality, 1780-1900 (1 Unit)

This course explores how and why Victorian Britain became the most powerful nation in the world. We will investigate its remarkable political stability; examine its industrial expansion and urbanization; explore its trademark philosophy, liberalism; chart the expansion of empire; and ask what it meant to be a Victorian, whether poor or rich, male or female, notorious or forgotten.

Historical Studies Distro Area

HISTORY 362-3 Britain since 1900: The Decline and Fall of Empire (1 Unit)

In 1900, Britain was the greatest power in the world. Why did the British empire end? And was Britain's decline inevitable? Among the subjects we'll explore are the effects of the two world wars, decolonization and immigration, state expansion, mass culture, and Britain's relation to Europe and the United States.

Historical Studies Distro Area

HISTORY 365-0 Medicine in Latin America: From Chocolate to Che Guevara (1 Unit)

Introduction to the history of medicine in the Americas from precontact to the present, with special focus on Latin America and the Caribbean in imperial, transnational, and global frameworks.

Historical Studies Distro Area

HISTORY 366-0 Latin America in the Independence Era: American Indians and Nations (1 Unit)

A thematic survey of independence in Latin America, with emphasis on the experiences of Native Americans. Independence from Spain only intensified debates about race, citizenship, and nation. What role would American civilizations, cultures, languages, and histories play in forging national identities? What has citizenship meant for indigenous people in the region?

Global Perspectives on Power, Justice, and Equity Historical Studies Distro Area Historical Studies Foundational Discipline

HISTORY 368-2 Revolutions in Latin America and the Caribbean from Haiti to Mexico (1 Unit)

Revolutions have changed peoples' worlds across Latin America since the beginning of modern history. In Haiti a slave revolution ushered in a Black republic; in Mexico a peasant revolution founded one of the most enduring one-party states; in Cuba a guerrilla revolution created the only surviving Communist state in the Americas. This course traces why and how they happened.

Historical Studies Distro Area

HISTORY 381-1 Qing China (1 Unit)

Survey of Chinese history from the rise of the last dynasty (the Qing) to the Revolution of 1911 and the inauguration of the Republic of China. Explores the transition from the "traditional" to the "modern" era and considers the transformation of social, economic, cultural, and international relations.

Global Perspectives on Power, Justice, and Equity Historical Studies Distro Area Historical Studies Foundational Discipline

HISTORY 381-2 Modern China: The Twentieth Century (1 Unit)

Survey of Chinese history from the Revolution of 1911 to the era of post-Mao reform. Course explores the political, social, cultural, and international challenges confronting China under the Republic of China (1912-1949) and the early People's Republic of China after 1949.

Global Perspectives on Power, Justice, and Equity Historical Studies Distro Area Historical Studies Foundational Discipline

HISTORY 384-1 History of Modern Japan: The Modern State, 1860-1943 (1 Unit)

Japan: the modern state, 1860-1943.

Historical Studies Distro Area

HISTORY 384-2 History of Modern Japan: War and postwar Japan, 1943-present (1 Unit)

After defeat in WWII, a devastated Japan quickly became the world's second-largest economy, not to mention the sophisticated society and fascinating culture well-known around the world today. Japan's distinctive mix of achievements and challenges provides thought-provoking opportunities to analyze the range of ways modern people have organized their policies and daily lives. No prerequisites.

Historical Studies Distro Area

HISTORY 385-1 History of Modern South Asia, 1500-1800 (1 Unit)

The early modern period, ca. 1500-1800: The Mughal Empire; the early phase of European trade and conquest in the subcontinent.

Global Perspectives on Power, Justice, and Equity Historical Studies Distro Area Historical Studies Foundational Discipline

HISTORY 385-2 History of Modern South Asia, ca. 1750-present (1 Unit)

ca. 1750-present: The age of British colonial dominance; the politics of nation building and anticolonial resistance; independence, partition, and the postcolonial predicament.

Advanced Expression Global Perspectives on Power, Justice, and Equity Historical Studies Distro Area Historical Studies Foundational Discipline

HISTORY 405-0 Seminar in Historical Analysis (1 Unit)

Seminars focused on historical methodology. Precise topics vary, generally multi-regional/multi-period.

HISTORY 410-1 General Field Seminar in American History: Colonial through Early Republic (1 Unit)

Field seminar designed to familiarize students with pivotal issues, interpretations, controversies, research techniques, and works in the field relating to the history and historiography of early America, from the early colonial period through the early United States.

HISTORY 410-2 General Field Seminar in American History: The Nineteenth Century (1 Unit)

Field seminar designed to familiarize students with pivotal issues, interpretations, controversies, research techniques, and works in the field relating to the history and historiography of the nineteenth-century United States.

HISTORY 410-3 General Field Seminar in American History: 1900-on (1 Unit)

Field seminar designed to familiarize students with pivotal issues, interpretations, controversies, research techniques, and works in the field relating to the history and historiography of twentieth- and twenty-first-century United States.

HISTORY 420-1 Field Seminar in Latin American History: Early Modern/Colonial (1 Unit)

A graduate field seminar that covers different scholarly approaches to Latin America in the early modern (colonial) period.

HISTORY 420-2 Field Seminar in Latin American History: Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries (1 Unit)

A graduate field seminar that covers different scholarly approaches to Latin America in the modern period.

HISTORY 430-1 Field Seminar in Medieval European History (1 Unit)

An introduction to key primary and secondary sources in the High and Later Middle Ages that highlights methodology and critical debates.

HISTORY 430-2 Field Seminar in Early Modern European History (1 Unit)

Graduate student field seminar in early modern European history.

HISTORY 430-3 Field Seminar in Modern European History (1 Unit)

Graduate student field seminar in modern European history.

HISTORY 443-1 Literature of Early Modern English Hist (1 Unit)

Early modern Britain, 1500-1800, including society, religion, culture, and politics.

HISTORY 443-2 Literature of Early Modern English Hist (1 Unit)

The British Empire from its origins to 1800, including trade, exploration, ideology, and governance.

HISTORY 446-0 Literature of English History of the 19th and 20th Centuries Britain (1 Unit)

An introduction to some of the major debates and preoccupations of 19th and 20th c. British history.

HISTORY 450-1 General Field Seminar in African History (1 Unit)

First Africa field seminar of the year. Introduces students to the core literature in some subset of African history. Topics will vary.

HISTORY 450-2 General Field Seminar in African History (1 Unit)

Second Africa field seminar of the year. Introduces students to the core literature in some subset of African history. Topics will vary.

HISTORY 465-0 Sources in African History (1 Unit)

Explores the kinds of meanings that historians can recover from non-written sources and the ways in which recent scholarship has grappled with these sources.

HISTORY 481-0 Western Literature of Chinese History (1 Unit)

A sequence of courses that train students in the Western-language scholarship on China in the Qing, Republic, and PRC periods.

HISTORY 483-0 Literature of Japanese History (1 Unit)

Trains students in the major scholarship on various periods in Japanese history stretching from the seventeenth to the twentieth centuries.

HISTORY 484-0 Literature of the History of Science (1 Unit)

A graduate field seminar covering scholarly approaches to the history of science, technology, and medicine.

HISTORY 490-0 Independent Reading (1-3 Units)

Supervised readings on a particular historical topic with some mechanism for assessing student mastery of the material.

HISTORY 491-0 TA Assistantship (1 Unit)

Administrative registration for graduate students who are TAing an undergraduate class.

HISTORY 492-0 Topics in History (1 Unit)

New courses on cutting-edge topics. Topics will vary by instructor and year.

HISTORY 499-0 Independent Study (1 Unit)

May be repeated for credit. Permission of instructor and department required.

HISTORY 560-0 Teaching History (0 Unit)

Introduction to the main issues that students will confront as history teachers. Engagement with the most profound and interesting questions that arise in teaching history.

HISTORY 570-1 Research Seminar in History (1 Unit)

First half of the first-year research seminar. Students work jointly with the 570 instructor and their adviser to produce a polished research paper based on primary sources.

HISTORY 570-2 Research Seminar in History (1 Unit)

Second half of the first-year research seminar.

HISTORY 580-1 Directed Research in History (1 Unit)

First half of the second-year directed research course. Students work with their advisers to produce a paper which may be research-based or historiography-based, depending on individual needs.

HISTORY 580-2 Directed Research in History (1 Unit)

Second half of the second-year directed research course.

HISTORY 585-0 Dissertation Topics (1 Unit)

Dissertation Topics is intended for students who are writing dissertations in the History Department. Instructor permission required.

HISTORY 590-0 Research (1-3 Units)

Independent investigation of selected problems pertaining to thesis or dissertation. May be repeated for credit.