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) (https://northwestern.box.com/s/fjiujd5mcfocym64td2wd4c49y61fse/)

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.

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. HISTORY 305-0 and LEGAL_ST 305-0 are taught together; may not receive credit for both courses.

HISTORY 310-1 Early American History. Conquest and Colonization, to 1688 (1 Unit)
Conquest and colonization.

HISTORY 310-2 Early American History. The Age of the American Revolution, 1688-1789 (1 Unit)
The age of the American Revolution.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

HISTORY 324-0 US Gay and Lesbian History (1 Unit)
Gender, sexuality, and the rise of modern lesbian and gay identities. Lecture and discussion. HISTORY 324-0 and GNDR_ST 324-0 are taught together; may not receive credit for both courses.

HISTORY 325-0 History of American Technology (1 Unit)
American history through its material culture; industrialization and its discontents; consumer culture and household technology; mass communication and democracy; technological utopia and the computer revolution.

**HISTORY 334-0 The Age of the Reformation (1 Unit)**
Decline and revival of European civilization, 1350-1530. Cultural, political, economic, and social developments.

**HISTORY 332-1 The Development of Medieval Europe: Early Middle Ages, 300-1000 (1 Unit)**
Early Middle Ages, 300-1000.

**HISTORY 332-2 The Development of Medieval Europe: High & Late Middle Ages, 1000-1450 (1 Unit)**
High and Late Middle Ages, 1000-1450.

**HISTORY 333-0 The Age of the Renaissance (1 Unit)**
Decline and revival of European civilization, 1350-1530. Cultural, political, economic, and social developments.

**HISTORY 334-0 The Age of the Reformation (1 Unit)**
Europe in the 16th century, especially origins, evolution, and effects of changes in religion.

**HISTORY 338-1 Europe in the 20th Century, 1900-1945 (1 Unit)**
Growth of mass politics, fascism, the home fronts, rise of the welfare state, loss of empire, economic resurgence and integration. 1900-45.

**HISTORY 338-2 Europe in the 20th Century, 1945-Present (1 Unit)**
Growth of mass politics, fascism, the home fronts, rise of the welfare state, loss of empire, economic resurgence and integration. 1945-present.

**HISTORY 342-1 History of Modern France: Ancien Régime and the French Revolution (1 Unit)**
The Ancien Régime and the French revolution.

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

**HISTORY 344-2 Germany Since 1945 (1 Unit)**
Debates about the development of the postwar German states from 1945 to the present. Social, political, economic, and everyday history within the context of East, West, and unified Germany. GERMAN 344-2 and HISTORY 344-2 are taught together; may not receive credit for both courses.

**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.

**HISTORY 356-2 History of South Africa, 20th century (1 Unit)**
Emphasis on the 20th century, the rise of African nationalism, and the clash with the apartheid state.

**HISTORY 357-0 East Africa (1 Unit)**
Selected topics in East African history.

**HISTORY 362-1 Modern British History, 1688 - 1815 (1 Unit)**
Social, political, and institutional history, 1688-1815.

**HISTORY 362-2 Modern British History, 1780-1900 (1 Unit)**
The Victorians: liberalism, empire, and morality, 1780-1900.

**HISTORY 362-3 Modern British History, 1900-present (1 Unit)**
Empire to Cool Britannia, 1900-present.

**HISTORY 365-0 Revolutions in Medicine (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.

**HISTORY 366-0 Race and Nation in the Independence Era (1 Unit)**
The process of Latin American independence, from the colonial background to 19th century insurgency wars, economic development, and nation formation, with emphasis on race and “the Indian question” in liberal thought.

**HISTORY 368-1 Revolution in 20th Century Latin America: Mexico and its Revolutions (1 Unit)**
Mexico and its revolutions. Mexican history, from the modernizing regime of Diaz, through the revolutionary upheaval and the consolidation of a new regime, to contemporary problems.

**HISTORY 368-2 Revolution in 20th Century Latin America: Marxist Revolutions (1 Unit)**
Comparative study of the origins and aftermaths of major Marxist revolutions in Cuba and South and Central America.

**HISTORY 381-1 History of Modern China: Late Imperial China, 1600-1911 (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.

**HISTORY 381-2 History of Modern China: Twentieth-Century China, 1911-2000 (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.

**HISTORY 384-1 History of Modern Japan: The Modern State, 1860-1943 (1 Unit)**
Japan: the modern state, 1860-1943.

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

**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.

**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.

**Historical Studies Distro Area**

**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 (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 (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 (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 (19th and 20th Century) (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 450-3 General Field Seminar in African History (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 Africa, from the early colonial period through the early United States.

**HISTORY 460-0 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.