History

David M. Luebke, Department Head
541-346-2394
275 McKenzie Hall

The study of history offers a framework for a liberal education and the background that is essential for understanding the contemporary world. Through analyzing interpretive studies, accounts by witnesses to past events, and historical records, students come to appreciate the complexity of human experience. By examining changes in the past, they develop a broad perspective and the ability to weigh evidence and argument.

Faculty


Leslie Alexander, associate professor.


Curtis Austin, associate professor.


Emeriti


Leslie Decker, professor emeritus. BA, 1951, Maine; MA, 1952, Oklahoma State; PhD, 1961, Cornell. (1969)

Matthew Dennis, professor emeritus. AB, 1951, MA, 1952, PhD, 1956, California, Irvine; MA, 1979, PhD, 1986, California, Berkeley. (1988)

Paul S. Holbo, professor emeritus; vice provost emeritus, academic affairs. BA, 1951, Yale; MA, 1955, PhD, 1961, Chicago. (1959)


The Department of History offers two undergraduate degrees, a bachelor of arts (BA) and a bachelor of science (BS). Requirements are the same for both.

All history majors, regardless of whether they are earning a BA or BS, must fulfill the second-language requirement associated with the university’s bachelor of arts general-education requirement. They must demonstrate proficiency in a second language either by completing, with a C– or better or P, at least the third term, second year of a second language. History courses that satisfy major requirements must be taken for letter grades. Specific requirements follow:

### Bachelor of Arts Requirements

#### Upper-Division History Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Details</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21 credits at the 400 level, including a 5-credit Seminar (HIST 407)</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 credits in history before 1800</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 credits in each of three concentration areas selected from a list of six historical fields</td>
<td>12</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Additional History Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1. No more than 8 credits of Reading and Conference (HIST 405) may be used to fulfill major requirements.
2. Historical fields: 1) Europe, 2) United States, 3) Africa and the Middle East, 4) Asia, 5) Latin America, 6) World
3. Upper or lower division

### Additional Requirements

In exceptional circumstances, a term paper written in Colloquium: [Topic] (HIST 408) or in a 400-level course may be expanded into a research paper. Students who have secured approval from the director of undergraduate studies for this option enroll in Reading and Conference: [Topic] (HIST 405) for 2 graded credits. The arrangement for writing a research paper based on the term paper is one that requires not only the approval of the instructor in the relevant 400-level course to teach the reading and conference course and to supervise the writing of the research paper. This procedure for writing a research paper does not duplicate the seminar experience. It should not be used to compensate for a student’s lack of planning or preparation. It is permitted only when there are strong pedagogical reasons for pursuing it.

A grade point average (GPA) of 2.50 or higher is required in history courses taken at the University of Oregon. A mid-C or better is required in courses taken to fulfill the research paper requirement. Majors who maintain a GPA of 3.50 or better qualify for the history honors track. More information on this option may be found on the department website.

A total of 21 upper-division credits, including three courses numbered 408, 410–499, and all courses taken to fulfill the research paper requirement must be taken at the University of Oregon.

### Bachelor of Science Requirements

#### Upper-Division History Courses
Additional History Courses 3 12

Total Credits 45

1 No more than 8 credits of Reading and Conference (HIST 405) may be used to fulfill major requirements.
2 Historical fields: 1) Europe, 2) United States, 3) Africa and the Middle East, 4) Asia, 5) Latin America, 6) World
3 Upper or lower division

Additional Requirements

In exceptional circumstances, a term paper written in Colloquium: [Topic] (HIST 408) or in a 400-level course may be expanded into a research paper. Students who have secured approval from the director of undergraduate studies for this option enroll in Reading and Conference: [Topic] (HIST 405) for 2 graded credits. The arrangement for writing a research paper based on the term paper is one that requires not only the approval of the director of undergraduate studies but also the agreement of the instructor in the relevant 400-level course to teach the reading and conference course and to supervise the writing of the research paper. This procedure for writing a research paper does not duplicate the seminar experience. It should not be used to compensate for a student’s lack of planning or preparation. It is permitted only when there are strong pedagogical reasons for pursuing it.

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History Honors Program

The honors program provides an opportunity for capable and highly motivated history majors to develop their interests in historical research by writing a thesis during the senior year. To be eligible for admission to the program, students must have completed at least 28 credits in history, of which at least 16 upper-division credits must have been taken at the University of Oregon. The grade point average in all history courses must be 3.50 or better. Students who satisfactorily complete the thesis and related work and fulfill the requirements of the history major are eligible for a bachelor’s degree with honors in history. Information about procedures for admission to the honors program, the course of study, the nature of the thesis, and the oral examination on the thesis may be obtained from the history department staff.

Minor Requirements

These new requirements became effective at the beginning of winter term 2010. Minors who signed up when the previous plan was in force may opt to fulfill the requirements of the 2010 plan, although they must formally declare their intention to do so with the director of undergraduate studies of the Department of History.

At least 20 credits—including at least 8 400-level credits—must be completed at the University of Oregon. Courses in history before 1800 and non-European or non-U.S. history require a grade of C– or better to apply toward the minor requirements. Four of the credits may be completed at the lower division. Specific requirements follow:

History Courses

- 24 upper-division credits 1
- 4 credits in a course on history before 1800
- 4 upper-division credits in a course that does not focus on either European or United States history

1 12 of the 24 credits must be at the 400 level (three courses from among HIST 408, 410–499).

Additional Requirements

A grade point average (GPA) of 2.50 or higher is required in history courses taken at the University of Oregon.

Advising and Entering the Minor

To declare a minor in history, students must first have a formal advising session with the director of undergraduate studies. The director aids the student in developing and directing a plan of study that ensures timely completion of the requirements.

A staff of undergraduate peer advisors is available in the History Peer Advising Office to help minors and prospective minors at any stage of their academic careers. Peer advisors are trained in university and history minor requirements as well as information on graduate programs, careers, and other history-related activities.

Kindergarten through Secondary Teaching Careers

Students completing a degree with a major in history are eligible to apply for the College of Education’s fifth-year licensure program in middle-secondary teaching in social studies. Students may also apply to the fifth-year licensure program to become an elementary teacher. More information is available from the department’s education advisor, Robert Haskett; see also the College of Education section of this catalog.

Four-Year Degree Plan

The degree plan shown is only a sample of how students may complete their degrees in four years. There are alternative ways. Students should consult their advisor to determine the best path for them.

Bachelor of Arts in History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Year</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Placeholder</td>
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| Winter | | | |
| Placeholder | | | |

The University of Oregon
### Bachelor of Science in History

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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Second Year</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Fall</strong>&lt;br&gt;Placeholder</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Winter</strong>&lt;br&gt;Placeholder</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong>&lt;br&gt;Placeholder</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Third Year</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Fall</strong>&lt;br&gt;Placeholder</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Winter</strong>&lt;br&gt;Placeholder</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong>&lt;br&gt;Placeholder</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fourth Year</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Fall</strong>&lt;br&gt;Placeholder</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Winter</strong>&lt;br&gt;Placeholder</td>
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</table>

- Master of Arts
- Doctor of Philosophy

### Graduate Studies

The department offers graduate instruction leading to the degrees of master of arts (MA) and doctor of philosophy (PhD) specializing in...
Admission

Applicants must submit the following items to be considered for admission to the graduate program in history:

1. A completed UO Graduate Admission Application
2. Transcripts of all college work
3. Three letters of recommendation
4. Scores on the verbal, quantitative, and analytical sections of the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE)
5. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores for international students
6. A sample of written work and a statement of academic purpose

A number of graduate awards in the form of graduate teaching fellowships are available each year for entering graduate students.

Fields of Study

The primary fields are ancient history, medieval Europe, Europe 1400–1815, Europe since 1789, Russia, colonial America and the United States, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Latin America, and Africa.

Master of Arts Degree Requirements

The department recently adopted new requirements (listed below) for MA students entering in fall 2008 and subsequent years. Students who entered before this date are still subject to the old requirements, which are still available on the department website.

Applicants are expected to have completed an undergraduate degree in the liberal arts with emphasis on history. The MA program is typically completed in two years of full-time study. Before receiving the degree, students must demonstrate competence in a second language.

Students must write a master’s thesis or complete two substantial research papers in the primary field and defend the thesis or research papers in an oral examination.

Major Field Requirement

Students must declare a major field of study, chosen in consultation with a faculty advisor.

Plan of Study

By the end of the first term in the program, students are required to file a plan of study, signed by the advisor, in which they state their major field, list all anticipated course work, and specify their language requirement. The plan of study may be modified later by agreement of both student and advisor. All plans of study are reviewed and approved by the director of graduate studies.

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<td>5</td>
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<td>HIST 612</td>
<td>Historical Methods and Writings</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 615</td>
<td>Professional Development</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 616</td>
<td>Graduate Student Conference</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 507</td>
<td>Seminar: [Topic] (two seminars)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or HIST 607</td>
<td>Seminar: [Topic]</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1 Completed during the first two terms of the first year. This requirement may also be satisfied by completion of (1) an appropriate 500-level course, approved by an advisor, or (2) Colloquium: [Topic] (HIST 608), if equivalent to Field Readings (HIST 611).

2 Taken fall term.

3 Taken winter term.

4 Taken spring term.

5 Student may petition to replace Colloquium: [Topic] (HIST 608) with Colloquium: [Topic] (HIST 508).

Language Requirement

All MA students must demonstrate proficiency in at least one foreign language by passing an exam that tests the ability to read and comprehend a passage of average difficulty drawn from primary sources or the secondary literature. The language exam is offered once each term during the regular academic year.

Advisors must approve the choice of language. MA students whose thesis or research papers require work in foreign language sources are strongly urged to complete this requirement by the end of the first year of study. Advisors may set higher standards or include additional languages in which students must demonstrate competence. These standards should be established at the time a faculty member accepts a graduate student and fills out the plan of study form.

Writing Requirement

There are two options for satisfying the major writing requirement for the MA:

- A student must complete two substantial research papers and pass an oral defense of these papers before a committee of three faculty members.
- A student must complete a master's thesis in his or her major focus of study and pass an oral defense of the thesis before a committee of three faculty members.

For the purposes of this option, a research paper is defined as a paper of twenty-five pages or more, based on primary source research.

Students completing the thesis option may enroll in a maximum of 10 credits of Thesis (HIST 503), usually in the winter and spring of their second year. Students choosing the research papers option may register for 5 credits of Research: [Topic] (HIST 601), usually in either winter or spring of their second year.

Under ordinary circumstances, it takes students two full years of work to complete this program.

Doctor of Philosophy Degree Requirements

The department recently adopted new requirements (listed below) for PhD students entering in fall 2008 and subsequent years. Students who entered before this date are still subject to the old requirements, which are still available on our website.

Typically, incoming PhD students who enter with a master's degree are expected to have completed the equivalent of the history department's MA program. Students admitted on the BA-to-PhD track complete the program's MA requirements as they progress toward their PhD degrees. In some cases, doctoral students might be admitted without
PhD students prepare themselves in three fields, as follows:

1. **Major Research Field.** A specific, more narrowly defined field—typically, the area of a student’s dissertation, as conventionally understood.
2. **Major Teaching Field.** A general, more broadly defined field that encompasses the research field but is more extensive—typically, a teaching field, as conventionally understood.
3. **Minor Thematic, Methodological, or Comparative Field.** Typically the theme, method, or comparison to be advanced in the dissertation.

For example, a student of modern France might choose modern France as a major research field, modern Europe as a major teaching field, and gender history, intellectual history, or military history as a minor thematic field. A student of China might take a major research field in modern China, a teaching field in China, and a minor comparative field in Japan.

**Plan of Study**

By the end of the first term in the program, students are required to file a plan of study, signed by the advisor, in which they state their major field, list all anticipated course work, and specify their language requirement. The plan of study may be modified later by agreement of both student and advisor. All plans of study are reviewed and approved by the director of graduate studies.

An entering PhD student lacking the equivalent to Historical Methods and Writings (HIST 612) must take the same HIST 612, 615, 616 sequence (http://history.uoregon.edu/graduate/ma/#/course) as that required of MA students (see table below). This requirement may be waived for incoming students with sufficient preparation based on prior graduate work.

**Code** | **Title** | **Credits**
--- | --- | ---
HIST 611 | Field Readings | 5
HIST 612 | Historical Methods and Writings | 5
HIST 615 | Professional Development | 1
HIST 616 | Graduate Student Conference | 1
HIST 507 or HIST 607 | Seminar: [Topic] (two seminars) | 5
HIST 608 | Colloquium: [Topic] (two colloquia) | 5

1. Completed during the first two terms of the first year. This requirement may also be satisfied by completion of (1) an appropriate 500-level course, approved by an advisor, or (2) Colloquium: [Topic] (HIST 608), if equivalent to Field Readings (HIST 611).
2. Taken fall term.
3. Taken winter term.
4. Taken spring term.
5. Student may petition to replace Colloquium: [Topic] (HIST 608) with Colloquium: [Topic] (HIST 508).

**Additional Requirements**

- **Minor Field.** Two courses at the 500 or 600 level that, together, define a thematic, methodological, or comparative field. A nonhistory course may be used with approval.
- **One additional course at the 500 or 600 level in history or another field.
- **Distribution Requirement.** PhD students are required to take two courses focusing on subjects outside their country or region of geographic specialization.

There is no total credit requirement for the PhD—rather, the Graduate School stipulates both a minimum (per term) credit requirement and a residency requirement (http://gradschool.uoregon.edu/?page=residencyEnrollmentRequirements).

**Language Requirement**

PhD students must demonstrate proficiency in at least one foreign language by passing an exam that tests their ability to read and comprehend a passage of average difficulty drawn from primary sources or the secondary literature. The language exam is offered once each term during the regular academic year.

Advisors must approve the choice of language. The language requirements of PhD students, however, will vary according to field. Students admitted into the PhD program should have the language preparation required to enable historical work in their field. Some additional language study might be required by individual advisors as an essential part of a student’s PhD work. These standards should be established at the time a faculty member accepts a graduate student and fills out the plan of study form.

**Oral Comprehensive Examination**

PhD students should take and pass their oral comprehensive examinations in the winter term of their second year, or during spring term at the latest. BA-to-PhD students should take their oral comprehensive exams in their third year. Students may, but are not required, to register for Comprehensive Exam Preparation (HIST 618) to prepare for their comprehensive examinations with the appropriate faculty members.

**Dissertation**

After completing course work, demonstrating language competence, and passing the oral comprehensive examination, the doctoral student advances to candidacy. The doctoral candidate must compose and defend a dissertation prospectus and then research and write a dissertation that makes an original scholarly contribution to the field and shows evidence of ability in independent investigation. Finally, the candidate defends the dissertation in a formal, public session.

Students should have tentatively identified a dissertation topic by the end of their first year (or, for BA-to-PhD students, by the fall of the third year) and should then file a Tentative Dissertation Topic Form with the graduate director.

PhD students must also prepare and defend a dissertation prospectus no later than the term subsequent to successful passage of the oral comprehensive exam. Students may, but are not required, to register for Dissertation Prospectus (HIST 619) to prepare their dissertation prospectus with the appropriate faculty.

**Time to Degree**

Applicants with MA degrees who are accepted into the PhD program must complete the PhD requirements within seven years. Students with BA degrees who are admitted to the PhD program must complete the MA requirements within two years. Such students must have fulfilled some of these prerequisites—for example, a course equivalent to Historical Methods and Writings (HIST 612). If this is the case, doctoral students will be required to take Historical Methods and Writings (HIST 612), Professional Development (HIST 615), and Graduate Student Conference (HIST 616).

Advisors must approve the choice of language. The language requirement may also be satisfied by completion of (1) an appropriate 500-level course, approved by an advisor, or (2) Colloquium: [Topic] (HIST 608), if equivalent to Field Readings (HIST 611).

2. Taken fall term.
3. Taken winter term.
4. Taken spring term.
5. Student may petition to replace Colloquium: [Topic] (HIST 608) with Colloquium: [Topic] (HIST 508).

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1. Completed during the first two terms of the first year. This requirement may also be satisfied by completion of (1) an appropriate 500-level course, approved by an advisor, or (2) Colloquium: [Topic] (HIST 608), if equivalent to Field Readings (HIST 611).
2. Taken fall term.
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5. Student may petition to replace Colloquium: [Topic] (HIST 608) with Colloquium: [Topic] (HIST 508).
complete both the MA and the PhD requirements within a total of seven years from the time of admission.