

# DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

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**Website:** [www.shsu.edu/academics/history/](http://www.shsu.edu/academics/history/) ([http://www.shsu.edu/~his\\_www](http://www.shsu.edu/~his_www))

Knowledge of history is a key to the present and the future. History is the foundation of virtually all academic disciplines in that intellectual progress is based on a critique of traditional assumptions, dogmas, and paradigms. In a series of writing-intensive courses in the department's curriculum, students develop analytical, verbal, and cultural skills that can be applied in a variety of professional settings.

## Mission

The Department of History prepares students to analyze historical events and processes, evaluate changes in values and institutions over time, assess complex forces at work in the past and today, and learn how, in written and oral expression, to explain them. In doing so, the department prepares students for any career requiring critical and analytical skills. The Department of History considers itself a vehicle—through teaching, research and service—for presenting and gaining perspective on the values of the past and for conveying those values and perspectives to future generations.

## Highlights

With over 300 majors and nearly 4,000 student enrollments in its courses each semester the History Department continues to be one of the largest and strongest departments on campus. The Department faculty members demonstrate high standards of quality in both teaching and research. Four members have won SHSU's Excellence in Teaching Award, two have won the Minnie Stevens Piper Award, and another won the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Texas Professor of the Year Award. Nine members have received more than \$2.6 million in federal grants to train Texas high school teachers in Traditional American History. Faculty also enjoy engaging in innovative historical research in the United States and around the world. They regularly publish scholarly books and articles that are read by academic and popular audiences alike.

## Suggested Minors

History majors can minor in a wide variety of disciplines, including:

- English
- Political Science
- Criminal Justice
- General Business
- Economics
- Computing Science
- Psychology
- Philosophy
- Math
- Communication Studies
- Mass Communication
- Journalism
- Sociology
- Geography
- Theater
- Health
- Kinesiology
- Agricultural Business, Agricultural Engineering Technology
- Industrial Technology
- Photography
- Spanish
- French
- German
- Middle Eastern Studies

## Career Opportunities

History students enhance their critical abilities by examining original texts, acquiring research skills, learning to write, and analyzing social, political, economic, and cultural changes over time. This develops talents that serve well in any employment setting. Many history students pursue careers in teaching, museum studies, law, business, and records management, and can also be found working successfully in medicine and governmental service and business.

## Student Organizations and Activities

The History Department sponsors the Bearkat History Club and also Phi Alpha Theta (a national history honor society). The Bearkat History Club has many student members, a set of student officers, scholarships, and organizes a wide variety of fun and educational activities, including: various speaking engagements, the showing and discussion of films concerning historical subjects both at the Huntsville movie theatre and in a university auditorium, and excursions for student members to historical sites, events, and re-enactments around Texas. Student members of Phi Alpha Theta at SHSU have developed their skills and craft via training seminars, the organizing of history events, and participating in Phi Alpha Theta's biennial convention, which is held in various cities around the United States.

## Internships and Study Abroad

History majors interested in museum careers have the opportunity of completing a museum internship as part of their undergraduate curriculum. In recent years, interns have served at the Sam Houston Memorial Museum, the Star of the Republic Museum at Washington-on-the-Brazos, the Contemporary Art Museum of Houston, the Texas Prison Museum, and the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York among others.

SHSU History faculty have offered classes in England, China, Russia, and Greece. Check with the department for availability.

## Scholarships

A variety of University and departmental scholarships are available. Since all history department scholarships are arranged by faculty nomination, students do not apply for them directly. For information on University scholarships, please, visit the Office of Academic Scholarships (<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/financial-aid/scholarships>) or telephone (936) 294-1672.

## Program Specific Requirements

History majors pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree are required to take four semesters of a single foreign language. The languages offered at Sam Houston State University are French, German, Spanish, and Arabic. However, any language can be accepted in transfer.

## Curriculum

### Required History Courses for Majors

The Bachelor of Arts degree requires 36 semester credit hours in History, including: HIST 1301 HIST 1302, HIST 2311 HIST 2312, three Advanced Hours in American History, three Advanced Hours in European History, and three Advanced Hours in World History. All History majors are required to complete at least one 4000-level history course. At least 12 hours of advanced history must be taken in residence.

- Bachelor of Arts, Major in History ([catalog.shsu.edu/archives/2016-2017/undergraduate/colleges-academic-departments/humanities-social-sciences/history/ba-history](http://catalog.shsu.edu/archives/2016-2017/undergraduate/colleges-academic-departments/humanities-social-sciences/history/ba-history))
- Bachelor of Science, Major in History ([catalog.shsu.edu/archives/2016-2017/undergraduate/colleges-academic-departments/humanities-social-sciences/history/bs-history](http://catalog.shsu.edu/archives/2016-2017/undergraduate/colleges-academic-departments/humanities-social-sciences/history/bs-history))
- Minor in History (without Teacher Certification) ([catalog.shsu.edu/archives/2016-2017/undergraduate/colleges-academic-departments/humanities-social-sciences/history/minor-history-without-teacher-certification](http://catalog.shsu.edu/archives/2016-2017/undergraduate/colleges-academic-departments/humanities-social-sciences/history/minor-history-without-teacher-certification))
- Minor in History (with Teacher Certification) ([catalog.shsu.edu/archives/2016-2017/undergraduate/colleges-academic-departments/humanities-social-sciences/history/minor-history-teacher-certification](http://catalog.shsu.edu/archives/2016-2017/undergraduate/colleges-academic-departments/humanities-social-sciences/history/minor-history-teacher-certification))

#### **HIST 1301. United States History To 1876. 3 Hours.**

The colonial origins of the United States and growth of the Republic to 1876.

#### **HIST 1302. United States History Sn 1876. 3 Hours.**

Continuing survey of the United States to the present.

#### **HIST 2311. World History to 1500. 3 Hours.**

A survey of world history from the dawn of civilization in Mesopotamia, China, India, Egypt, and Mesoamerica through the Middle Ages in Europe and Asia. The Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Reformation, as well as the rise of nation states and the commercial economy are stressed as background to modern history. Recommended as a basic history course for all liberal arts majors.

**HIST 2312. World History since 1500. 3 Hours.**

A survey of world history since sixteenth century. Special attention is given to European expansion overseas, imperialism and colonization, the Industrial Revolution, the Enlightenment, the French Revolution, nineteenth century nationalism and democracy, and the colonial rebellions in Africa, Latin America, and Asia. Such 20th century problems as World War I, World War II, the Cold War, and the collapse of the Soviet Union are also considered. Recommended as the second half of a basic history course for all liberal arts majors.

**HIST 3331. Early Asian History. 3 Hours.**

A study of Asian history from its beginnings to the fourteenth century. The emphasis is on the social and political foundations of traditional Asian society and the historical influences of religion on Asian culture.

**HIST 3332. Modern Asian History. 3 Hours.**

A study of Asian history since the fourteenth century. The emphasis is on the modernization of Asia and the influence of colonization, nationalism, and industrialization on present-day Asia.

**HIST 3333. Religion In World History. 3 Hours.**

This course will examine the origins, development, and modern manifestations of the major living world religions. It will discuss the peoples, times and places of the founders of each tradition, the classical literature within each tradition and the canonization of these sacred writings, and the significant sects and schisms within the religions that have influenced major events in world history.

**HIST 3334. Renaissance Europe. 3 Hours.**

This course examines the intellectual, political, social and cultural history of Europe from the 14th to 16th centuries, a period that saw, starting in Italy, a ?rebirth? of the values and culture of Classical Greco-Roman civilization. The primary focus will be on intellectual and artistic movements, and the profound implications these had for European values, worldview, politics, and art.

**HIST 3335. Germany & Cen Europe Sn 1815. 3 Hours.**

A study of German and Central European history, emphasizing the principal political, economic and social trends since the Congress of Vienna.

**HIST 3336. Middle East Since 1700. 3 Hours.**

This course will study the political, social, economic, and cultural development of the Middle East since the seventeenth century. The course will study such topics as the decline of traditional empires; the encroachment of Europe; the Eastern Question; the development of nationalism among the Turks, Arabs, and Iranians; Islam and modern ideologies; and the Middle East in the twentieth century.

**HIST 3337. The Bible and Reform in Europe. 3 Hours.**

This course examines the religious, social and cultural history of Europe from the 16th into the 17th centuries, a period that saw the fracturing of a unified Christendom. The primary focus will be on religious and theological changes and the profound implications these had for European politics, social norms, cultural values, and economic endeavors.

**HIST 3338. Eco His: Ind Rev To Present. 3 Hours.**

This course examines the Industrial Revolution as it came into being in Britain in the nineteenth century and as leadership passed to the United States in the twentieth. Topics discussed include the relationship between agriculture and industry, the rise of the corporation, the development of the international monetary system, and systems of trade.

**HIST 3339. French Revol & Napoleonic Wars. 3 Hours.**

This course examines the history of France during the French Revolution Napoleonic Era, 1789-1815. The course is focused primarily on the military and political history of the era, with a detailed examination of the battles and campaigns of the Napoleonic Wars.

**HIST 3340. Mexican Americans Since 1848. 3 Hours.**

This course considers the history of Mexican-Americans in what is now the United States Southwest. The course begins with the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo that ended the war between the United States and Mexico and created a Mexican-American minority within the U.S. It covers such themes as the indigenous background of this population, the Chicana/o perception of the Southwest as a homeland, and the effect of that perception on the history of this ethnic group.

**HIST 3342. History of Seapower. 3 Hours.**

In this course students examine naval warfare and maritime trade from the mid-seventeenth through the twentieth centuries. The emergence of modern state-based navies, their growing importance in warfare, the role of politics and administration in waging naval war, maritime cultures and societies, privatized war at sea, and major naval campaigns of the era are discussed. The complexities of maritime trade and communication, which the naval forces are committed toward defending or attacking, is also a topic of discussion.

**Prerequisite:** Junior Standing.

**HIST 3350. Early Christianities. 3 Hours.**

This course is an interdisciplinary and cross-cultural examination of central themes in the history of early Christianities beginning with the transformation of the Jesus Movement into a separate Christian religion and concluding with the divisions made permanent by the Fourth Crusade.

**HIST 3355. Urban and Suburban History. 3 Hours.**

This course examines the growth and development of cities and suburbs in the U.S., paying particular attention to public policy, race, class, ethnic enclaves, and connections between American and global cities. Special emphasis will be placed on major metropolitan areas, such as Houston, Texas. Research into the city and its surrounding suburbs and locales will be conducted. Credit 3 .

**HIST 3357. World War I (1914-1918). 3 Hours.**

In this course students examine World War I from its European origins to its emergence as a global conflict. The formation of political and military alliances, emerging role of the state, role of industrial economies in waging war, homefront cultures and societies, major land campaigns of the Eastern and Western Fronts, and war at sea are discussed. The Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, which emerged out of the war, and the complexity of the peacemaking process is also a topic of discussion.

**Prerequisite:** Junior Standing.

**HIST 3358. Silk Roads to Atlantic World. 3 Hours.**

This course is an interdisciplinary investigation of the contexts, impulses, and implications of long-distance interplay among cultures in both pre-modern and modern times. Students will apply scholarly models of cross-cultural interactions using three specific case studies: the ancient Silk Roads, the trans-Eurasian Mongol Empire, and the trans-Atlantic Columbian Exchange.

**HIST 3359. Germany at War and Peace. 3 Hours.**

In this course students examine the history of militarism and warfare in Germany, from the rise of the Prussian state in the 18th century through the present. The relationship between warfare and the development of German politics, society, and culture are discussed. Major historical figures include Frederick the Great, Clausewitz, Otto von Bismarck, and Adolf Hitler. How contemporary, pacifist German politics emerged out of two difficult centuries of warfare is examined.

**Prerequisite:** Junior Standing.

**HIST 3360. American Religious History. 3 Hours.**

A study of selected themes bearing on the relation of religion and culture in America from colonial times to the present.

**HIST 3361. The U. S. And The Vietnam War. 3 Hours.**

The course will focus on the United States involvement in Southeast Asia from 1945 to 1975. In particular, it will deal with the issues of nationalism and communism in Southeast Asia, the first Indochina war between the French and Vietnamese, the United States military effort in Indochina from 1965 to 1975, and the postwar political, economic, and social problems in the region. The course will also deal with the impact of the Vietnam War on American culture and foreign policy.

**HIST 3362. The Middle East, 500 - 1700. 3 Hours.**

This course will study the political, social, economic, and cultural development of the Middle East from the eve of the rise of Islam through the seventeenth century. The course will address such general topics as the following: the Middle East before Islam; the Rise of Islam; the faith and practices of Islam; the Rightly-Guided Caliphs; Shiih and Sunni Islam; the Umayyad and Abbasid Caliphates; the Crusades and Islam; Islam and the Steppe Empires; the rise and apogee of the Ottoman Empire; and Islam's initial response to the encroachment of the west.

**HIST 3363. Britain To 1714. 3 Hours.**

This course traces the development of the British peoples from prehistoric times to the end of the Stuart dynasty. While English dominance is a theme, the course also covers the peoples of Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

**HIST 3364. Modern Britain 1714-Present. 3 Hours.**

A continuation of HIS363, emphasizing the effects of industrial change, the enmity of France in foreign affairs, Great Britain's renewed expansion overseas following the American Revolution, movements favoring social and economic reform, and political trends to the present.

**HIST 3365. Russian History. 3 Hours.**

Explores the roots of Russia (Kiev, Christianity, the Mongol occupation, Ivan the Terrible, the Times of Troubles), then surveys Russian history from Peter the Great to the present.

**HIST 3366. Modern European Military Hist. 3 Hours.**

This course examines European military history and its links to political, social, and cultural changes from 1600 to the present day. While emphasis is placed on major wars in Europe, attention is also given to European military conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa, especially the wars of decolonization.

**HIST 3367. Eur-Age Absoltsm/Rev:1648-1815. 3 Hours.**

Europe in the Age of Absolutism and Revolution. A study of significant issues in European history from 1648 to 1815. The course focuses on developments in political theory, natural science and economics as well as the tensions in the old social order which helped instigate the French Revolution.

**HIST 3368. European History 1815 1914. 3 Hours.**

The history of the principal European powers from the Congress of Vienna to World War I.

**HIST 3369. The World In The 20Th Century. 3 Hours.**

A study of global politics and diplomacy since World War I.

**HIST 3370. Ancient History. 3 Hours.**

The history of the civilizations of the Ancient Near East, Greece, and Rome with special emphasis upon their contribution to the cultural heritage of the western world.

**HIST 3371. Medieval History. 3 Hours.**

A study of the political, economic, social, intellectual, and religious institutions and developments in Europe from the collapse of the Roman Empire in the fifth century to the Renaissance.

**HIST 3372. Historiography. 3 Hours.**

Special emphasis is devoted to a survey of historical interpretations and to the development of research skills.

**HIST 3373. Topc In Hist Of Sci & Medicine. 3 Hours.**

This course will examine selected topics in the history of science and medicine. Emphasis will be placed on the development of scientific knowledge across the centuries. Because the geographic regions, time frame, and topics will vary from semester to semester, with departmental approval, This course may be repeated for credit.

**HIST 3376. Early America To 1783. 3 Hours.**

An examination of early American history from the beginnings of European colonization through the American Revolution and the War for American Independence.

**HIST 3377. America In Midpassge 1783-1877. 3 Hours.**

The course examines United States history from 1783 to 1877 and studies the origins of the U.S. Constitution, the early republic and rise of the two party-system, the nature of Jeffersonian and Jacksonian democracy, the sectional crisis and the Civil War, and the era of Reconstruction.

**HIST 3378. Emergence Mod Amerca 1877-1945. 3 Hours.**

This course will examine United States history from 1877 to 1945 and will include discussions of the Industrial Revolution, the Populist and Progressive movements, World War I, the era of the 1920s, the Great Depression and New Deal, and World War II.

**HIST 3379. Recent America, 1945 To Presnt. 3 Hours.**

This course will examine United States history from the end of World War II to the present and will include discussions of the Cold War; the civil rights and environmental movements; the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and the war on global terrorism; the public policy debates surrounding the role of the federal government in the modern economy; and the evolution of American popular culture.

**HIST 3380. The American Civil War. 3 Hours.**

This course examines the sectional conflicts of the 1850s, the Civil War and Reconstruction. The course focuses on the military, political, social and diplomatic history of the era.

**HIST 3381. British Empire & Commonwealth. 3 Hours.**

The study of the British Empire and Commonwealth to the present time. Special emphasis is given to the rise of colonial and dominion nationalism, the imperial conferences, and the unfolding of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

**HIST 3382. Immigration Ethnicity Amer His. 3 Hours.**

A study of ethnic group relations, nativism, and racism in the historical development of American civilization, with special emphasis on the patterns of assimilation and non-assimilation of particular ethnic groups.

**HIST 3383. American Women's History. 3 Hours.**

An examination of American women's history, focusing on everyday concerns (including work, marriage, family, sexuality, reproduction, and education) and on the social forces which have aided or blocked change in women's roles in American society. Particular attention is paid to differences in race, class, and ethnicity.

**HIST 3384. Fam & Childhd in Atlantic Wrld. 3 Hours.**

This course explores how encounters among Indians, Africans, and Europeans during the early modern period transformed the structure, relationships, and experiences of families and children. Special emphasis is given to primary historical research and the effect of cross-cultural developments on shaping notions of race, gender, and sexuality in the Atlantic World.

**HIST 3385. American Diplomatic History. 3 Hours.**

A study of selected topics in American Diplomatic History.

**HIST 3386. Military & War In America. 3 Hours.**

This course is an intensive study of the American military experience from the Colonial period to the present. The course focuses on the military, political and diplomatic history of the great conflicts of the United States.

**HIST 3387. World War II. 3 Hours.**

A comprehensive study of the inter-war and World War II era from 1919 - 1945, emphasizing the events leading to the war in Europe, the rise of Nazi Germany, the major battles and campaigns in the European theatre, and the aftermath of the war. The course also examines the rise of the Japanese Empire, the events leading to the outbreak of war in Asia and the Pacific, and the major battles and campaigns of the Pacific war through the defeat of Japan.

**HIST 3388. Public History. 3 Hours.**

This course will explore topics in the field of Public History, including architectural preservation and restoration, museum studies and oral history. The topics will vary from semester to semester, but each semester students will receive instruction on the techniques of analyzing oral sources, primary textual materials and historical artifacts of various types, including architectural dwellings, tools, and local and family records.

**HIST 3389. Africa - Past & Present. 3 Hours.**

An examination of the problems, potentials, and upheavals of Modern Africa. Emphasis is on such topics as the impact of the slave trade on African society, racial conflicts, apartheid, the emergence of African nationalism, the end of white colonial rule, and the difficulties of achieving economic and political stability in contemporary Africa.

**HIST 3390. Conceptualizing History Edu. 3 Hours.**

This capstone course will examine conceptualization techniques in Texas, U.S., and World History. The course is designed to enable History students to organize a vast amount of material into a logical framework that will help them to better understand the interactions of individuals, communities, nations, and cultures across time and place. Special emphasis will be placed on subject areas included in the Texas Examination for Educator Standards.

**HIST 3391. Colonial Latin America. 3 Hours.**

This course is designed to trace the conquest and development of the colonial institutions of Spain and Portugal in the Americas, including the Spanish borderlands as the center of Spanish colonial activity and power in the Americas.

**HIST 3392. American Indian History. 3 Hours.**

This course examines the history of Native Americans in the United States. Although the emphasis is historical, the course does include ethnographic material.

**HIST 3393. African-American History. 3 Hours.**

A comprehensive course in the African American experience which explores the various forces shaping race relations in the United States.

**HIST 3394. America in the 1960s. 3 Hours.**

This course will explore the decade of the 1960s in the United States, paying particular attention to the social, cultural, and political shifts that occurred during these years. Students will develop a nuanced understanding of this pivotal decade in American history and will be able to engage in contemporary debates about its multiple meanings.

**HIST 3395. American Environmental History. 3 Hours.**

This course focuses on how nature has affected the course of American history, particularly in regards to the role of natural resources, the growth of the economy, responses to environmental crises and challenges, and transformations in the environment resulting from centuries of use.

**HIST 3396. The American South. 3 Hours.**

This course examines the dynamics and expansive nature of the American South. Key topics include: examining the peoples and varied regions of the South, its economic and political development, literature, race and religion.

**HIST 3397. Modern Mexico. 3 Hours.**

This course examines the national history of Mexico from the era of independence (c.1810) to the present. It explores the challenges that the Mexican people faced after gaining independence, their resilience during years of political and economic change, and the rich culture that has emerged in the wake of those struggles. Attention is also given to the US-Mexican border as a site of complex cultural interaction.

**HIST 3398. Texas And The Southwest. 3 Hours.**

As a study of the Greater Southwest, This course examines Spanish expansion and the Spanish-French rivalry in the lower Mississippi region and Texas. Special emphasis is given to geographic factors and cultural developments.

**HIST 3399. Special Topics in History. 3 Hours.**

This course examines various specialized topics in history not normally covered in detail by other upper-level courses.

**HIST 4075. Independent Study. 3 Hours.**

A course designed especially for advanced students in history with schedule problems who are capable of independent study. This course may be taken for Academic Distinction Credit. See Academic Distinction Program in this catalog.

**HIST 4333. Black Civil Rights Movement. 3 Hours.**

This course examines the black civil rights struggle in the United States from the late 19th century to the present. Topics examined include the black response to Jim Crow laws, the emergence of national civil rights organizations as well as local activism, and historical events that have served as catalysts for change in civil rights legislation.

**HIST 4363. History Of American Slavery. 3 Hours.**

(SH Prior Course ID: HIS 463); This course will provide foundational knowledge for students studying American history prior to the twentieth century. Students will engage in a comprehensive examination of slavery as an integral part of America's social, cultural, and economic development as a country and also as a catalyst to the establishment of antislavery and abolitionist movements.

**HIST 4368. Era Of Amer Revoltn 1763 1789. 3 Hours.**

An intensive study of the issues of conflict between English continental colonies and British imperial policy which led to the movement for independence. Consideration is also given to internal colonial conflicts and attempts to solve the federal problem culminating in the formation of the Constitution.

**HIST 4370. The History Of The West. 3 Hours.**

A study of the settlement and development of the Trans-Mississippi West and its influence upon national and international affairs.

**HIST 4378. Modern China And Japan. 3 Hours.**

This course will focus on the history of modern China and Japan from the last Chinese dynasties to the present, with emphasis on the resilience and weaknesses of China's imperial system; the challenges posed to China's traditions by Western economic and cultural penetration; China's twentieth century experiments in forms of government and in direction of its cultural development; and the political, economic, social, and intellectual history of Japan from the beginning of the Meiji period (1868) to the present.



**HIST 4380. Mod France: From Rev To Presnt. 3 Hours.**

This course examines the history of France from 1789 to the present. The military, political, and diplomatic history of France in this era are the main focus of the course.

**HIST 4383. Topics in the History of Gender and Sexuality. 3 Hours.**

The topic will vary by semester, each offering of the course likely emphasizing how the understanding of gender and sexuality differs historically according to factors such as race, class, ethnicity, religion and/or sexual orientation.

**HIST 4395. Contemporary Latin America. 3 Hours.**

The development of the South American Republics from their independence to the present. Social, economic, and political development will be closely examined.

**HIST 4399. History Senior Seminar. 3 Hours.**

Students will explore and evaluate specific topics in historical research. They will also be required to write an extensive research paper on the topic using primary and secondary sources.

**Prerequisite:** Senior standing in history or departmental approval.

Chair: **Brian F. Domitrovic**

Chair: **David C. Mayes**

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**Stephen H. Rapp, Ph.D.** (shr002@shsu.edu), *Professor of History, Department of History*, Ph.D., University of Michigan; M.A., University of Michigan; B.A., Indiana University

## Interim Faculty

**John W. Biles, Ph.D.** (jwb011@shsu.edu), *Lecturer of History, Department of History*, Ph.D., University of Kansas; M.A., University of Maryland, College Park; B.A., Southwestern University

**Micki L. Brady, M.A.** (mlb053@shsu.edu), *Lecturer of History, Department of History*, M.A., Sam Houston State University; B.S., The University of Texas at Tyler

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