

HISTORY, B.A.

Program Description

In accordance with our belief that History is, as G.R. Elton once put it, "the only living laboratory we have of the human experience," the History Department of La Salle University seeks to immerse its students as broadly as possible in that experience. In the best tradition of the Christian Brothers, we aspire to teach our students, "where we find them," regardless of means or status. Toward that end we take to heart the words of the University's mission statement, seeking "to educate the whole person by fostering a rigorous free search for truth." We believe that showing students the full reach of the human past "prepares students for the lifelong pursuit and exploration of wisdom, knowledge, and faith that lead to engaged and fulfilling lives marked by a commitment to the common good."

Why Take This Major?

History is a great major to keep your career options open, because majors acquire invaluable critical reading, writing, and thinking skills essential for jobs in all fields. History majors have ended up in just about every career imaginable, but it is an especially good major for careers in museums/archives, government (at the federal, state, or local levels), law, and teaching.

Degree Earned

B.A.

Required for Graduation

- Courses
 - Major: 12
 - Total: 38-40
- Credits
 - Major: 36
 - Total: 120
- GPA
 - Major: 2.0
 - Cumulative: 2.0

Student Learning Outcomes

- Identifying the major features of foundational American history and World history, and using the past to understand contemporary issues.
- Understanding a range of historiographic approaches.
- Demonstrating competency in analyzing and evaluating secondary sources.
- Demonstrating competency in locating, contextualizing, and analyzing primary sources.
- Applying skills (I-IV) to ask historical questions and create evidence-based written arguments (synthesizing historical events).
- Valuing self-directed learning

Progress Chart

Level One - Core Courses

12 courses and 2 modules required.

Major Requirements

Major requirements include 4 Level Two ILO requirements, *fulfilled through the major*.

Students in this major must complete **38-40** courses in total in order to graduate. 12 courses will be from this major program.

Code	Title	Credits
Level One - Core Courses		
<i>Universal Required Courses</i>		
Students must complete the following 4 courses.		
ILO 8.1: Written Communication (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		
ENG 110	College Writing I: Persuasion	3
ILO 5.1: Information Literacy (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		
ENG 210	College Writing II: Research	3
ILO 1.1: Understanding Diverse Perspectives (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		
FYS 130	First-Year Academic Seminar ¹	3
ILO 2.1: Reflective Thinking and Valuing (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		
REL 100	Religion Matters	3
<i>Elective Core Courses</i>		
Students must complete 1 course in each of the following 4 ILOs.		
ILO 3.1a: Scientific Reasoning (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		
Choose course within ILO (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		3
ILO 3.1b: Quantitative Reasoning (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		
Choose course within ILO (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		3
ILO 6.1: Technological Competency (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		
Choose course within ILO (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		3
ILO 8.1a/12.1: Oral Communication/Collaborative Engagement (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		
Choose course within ILO (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		3
<i>Distinct Discipline Core Courses</i>		
Students must complete 1 course in each of the following 4 ILOs. Each course must be from a different discipline. (A "discipline" is represented by the 3- or 4-letter prefix attached to each course.)		
ILO 4.1: Critical Analysis and Reasoning (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		
Choose course within ILO (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/) ²		3
ILO 9.1: Creative and Artistic Expression (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		
Choose course within ILO (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/) ²		3
ILO 10.1: Ethical Understanding and Reasoning (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		

Choose course within ILO (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/) ²	3	ILO 9: Choose course within ILO (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)	
ILO 11.1: Cultural and Global Awareness and Sensitivity (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		ILO 10: Choose course within ILO (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)	
Choose course within ILO (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/) ²	3	ILO 11: Choose course within ILO (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/) ⁴	
<i>Universal Required Modules</i>		Select one of the following ILO 4 courses:	
Students must complete the following 2 non-credit modules. ³		HIS 200 U.S. Republic to 1877	
ILO 7.1a (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		HIS 202 Themes in American History: A Biographical Approach	
Health Literacy Module		HIS 205 US Since 1877	
ILO 7.1b (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		Option B:	
Financial Literacy Module		ILO 4: Choose course within ILO (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/) ⁵	
Major Requirements		ILO 9: Choose course within ILO (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)	
<i>Level Two</i>		ILO 10: Choose course within ILO (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)	
Students must complete 1 course/learning experience in each of the 4 commitments.		Select one of the following ILO 11 courses:	
ILO 2.2: Broader Identity (Capstone Course/Experience) (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		HIS 206 The Americas before 1492	
HIS 480 (ILO 2.2)	3	HIS 251 Global History From 1500 To the Present	
Select one ILO from 3.2a, 3.2b, 4.2, 5.2, 6.2, 7.2a, or 7.2b: Expanded Literacies (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		HIS 255 20th Century Global History	
Select one of the following: (ILO 4.2)	3	<i>Electives</i>	
HIS 302 American Revolution		Select one additional history course at the 300- or 400-level	3
HIS 315 Fiery Trial: Civil War		<i>Seminar</i>	
HIS 327 Modern America		HIS 481 Seminar ⁶	3
HIS 331 America's Military Past		<i>Concentrations</i>	
HIS 333 The American Immigrant		Americas Concentration:	
HIS 340 Topics in U.S. History		5 Americas 300-349 electives and 3 Afro-Eurasian 350-399 electives	
ILO 8.2b: Effective Expression (Writing-Intensive Course) (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		Afro-Eurasian Concentration:	
HIS 481 Seminar (ILO 8.2b)	3	5 Afro-Eurasian 350-399 electives and 3 more Americas 300-349 electives	
Select one ILO from 10.2, 11.2, or 12.2: Active Responsibility (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		<i>Free Electives</i>	
Select one of the following:	3	In addition to the requirements listed above, students must take enough courses to the fulfill graduation credit requirements for their School and major.	
HIS 365 Greek Civilization		Total Credits	78
HIS 366 The Roman Empire		1	
HIS 367 The Early Middle Ages		Note. The following students use Level 2 Capstone Experience in Major instead of FYS 130 First-Year Academic Seminar: Honors, BUSCA, Core-to-Core, Transfer, and Non-Traditional/Evening	
HIS 368 The Later Middle Ages		2	
HIS 369 The Holocaust		Note: All History majors must take HIS 200 U.S. Republic to 1877, or HIS 202 Themes in American History: A Biographical Approach, or HIS 205 US Since 1877 AND they must take HIS 206 The Americas before 1492, or HIS 251 Global History From 1500 To the Present, or HIS 255 20th Century Global History. Because of the distinct discipline requirement, a student may only apply one of these six courses toward the core. Majors may therefore choose Option A or Option B.	
HIS 382 20th-Century Russia and the USSR		3	
HIS 390 Traditional China To 1840		The Modules are not required for Transfer Students, Core-to-Core Students, or BUSCA Students. BUSCA students are required to take modules if/when they pursue a bachelor's degree.	
<i>All Other Required Courses</i>			
All History majors must take: ²			
HIS 200 U.S. Republic to 1877	3		
HIS 202 Themes in American History: A Biographical Approach	3		
HIS 205 US Since 1877	3		
Select one of the following:	3		
HIS 206 The Americas before 1492			
HIS 251 Global History From 1500 To the Present			
HIS 255 20th Century Global History			
Select one of the following two options:	12		
Option A:			

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to be taken in addition to HIS 206 The Americas before 1492 or HIS 251 Global History From 1500 To the Present or HIS 255 20th Century Global History

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to be taken in addition to HIS 200 U.S. Republic to 1877 or HIS 202 Themes in American History: A Biographical Approach or HIS 205 US Since 1877

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All History majors, whether first, second, or Education with Social Studies Certification double majors, are required to take: HIS 481 Seminar

Recommended Course Sequence

- **Fall Year 1:** Core Americas (ILO 4.1)
- **Spring Year 1:** Core Afro-Eurasian (ILO 11.1)
- **Fall Year 2:** Two Upper-Level Electives
- **Spring Year 2:** Two Upper-Level Electives
- **Fall Year 3:** Two Upper-Level Electives
- **Spring Year 3:** Two Upper-Level Electives
- **Fall Year 4:** HIS 481 Seminar
- **Spring Year 4:** One Upper-level Elective

Dual Major Requirements

Double Majors: Students whose second major is History must complete all of the requirements for the History major listed above with the exception of the one additional upper-level elective course for a total of **11 courses**.

Minors

- History, Minor (<https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/history/history-ba/history-minor/>)

Course Descriptions

History

HIS 200 U.S. Republic to 1877

This course examines the creation of the United States, the modern world's first truly successful experiment in republican government (representative democracy). After tracing the 17th-century founding and 18th-century maturation of the British North Amer

HIS 202 Themes in American History: A Biographical Approach

This introductory survey course covers United States history through the lives of representative Americans. Course readings consist of a series of paired biographies of major figures who confronted the pivotal issues and challenges of their times. Course

HIS 205 US Since 1877

The second half of the survey begun by the Core concentration course, HIS 200, is presented in this study. It addresses the Progressive Movement, American involvement in World War I, the Roaring Twenties, America between the wars, World War II, the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam Era, and the United States at the dawn of the 21st century. (Formerly His 305.)

HIS 206 The Americas before 1492

This course is an introduction to the cultures and civilizations of the Americas prior to the period of sustained European contact. Using an interdisciplinary approach, we will examine how the American continents were peopled and how different groups deve

HIS 250 Global History To 1500

This course examines the development of the first civilizations in Africa, Asia, the Mediterranean, and the Americas, with the aim of exploring their distinctive approaches to human needs and social organization. Students are also introduced to historical

HIS 251 Global History From 1500 To the Present

This course offers a study of the evolution and interactions of the cultures of Europe, the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Oceania from 1500 to the present, designed to give students a greater understanding of the relationships among modern nations so necess

HIS 255 20th Century Global History

This course is a survey of global history during the 20th century. Key topics include the rise of modern ideologies, imperialism and neocolonialism, global conflicts (World Wars I and II and the Cold War), decolonization, economic integration and globaliz

HIS 270 Special Topics

HIS 271 Special Topics

HIS 275 Special Topics

HIS 276 Special Topics

HIS 302 American Revolution

Revolutions have shaped the modern world. Perhaps the most important of these revolutions gave birth to the United States, an experiment in republican government. Covering 1740-1790, this course analyzes the colonies' separation from Great Britain, an upheaval whose promise Americans have sought to fulfill for more than 200 years. Topics include the causes, results, stages, and historiography of the Revolution. This course examines how revolutionary the American Revolution really was, politically, militarily, socially, and ideologically. (Formerly His 402.)

HIS 303 Asia/Africa/America from 1920 to the Present

This class traces the recent history of the world outside the "core," using case studies to try to understand the big picture of global history and see how historical changes affected the daily lives of individuals in the Third World. The topics covered will include the impact of the world wars and the Cold War; the circumstances of empire, the processes of decolonization, and the experiences of independence; and the history of local economies in the face of globalization.

HIS 305 US since 1877

The second half of the survey begun by the Core concentration course, HIS 300 is presented in this study. It addresses the Progressive Movement, American involvement in World War I, the Roaring Twenties, America between the wars, World War II, the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam Era, and the United States at the dawn of the 21st century.

HIS 307 Latin America: The Colonial Period

This course surveys Latin American history from the pre-contact era (with an emphasis on Aztec, Mayan, and Inca cultures) through the Spanish and Portuguese empires. It employs social, cultural, and political history perspectives.

HIS 308 Latin America In Revolution

This course is an introduction to the history of post-independence Latin America. It studies the political, social, and economic history of the former American colonies of Spain and Portugal from their revolutions for independence through the present day.

HIS 312 Jacksonian America**HIS 315 Fiery Trial: Civil War**

The Civil War has been called the defining moment in our nation's history. Not only did the conflict emancipate four million slaves, but it also settled a longstanding debate over American federalism and proved once and for all the success of the Founders' experiment in republican government. Covering 1850-1877, this course analyzes the causes, course, and aftermath of the most momentous war in American history. It explores political, constitutional, military, economic, and social issues. (Formerly HIS 415.)

HIS 322 Introduction to Public History**HIS 324 History of Philadelphia**

Philadelphia was America's "First City" both in size and influence. Although its importance later declined, the city has continued to be an American icon. This course covers the development of Philadelphia from colonial times to the present, with an empha

HIS 326 Oral History

Through this course, students will become proficient in the methods and theory of oral history. Students will read and discuss books and articles that explain oral history theory and methods and that demonstrate how historians use oral history interviews to construct interpretive historical narratives. Students will learn how to plan, conduct, process, transcribe, and digitally preserve oral history interviews. Themes may include political history, family history, labor and class history, gender history, African-American history, and military history.

HIS 327 Modern America

This course examines the growth of government involvement at home and abroad since 1939 with readings and analysis of original documents. (Formerly HIS 425.)

HIS 328 Women & History

Selected topics on the history of women in Europe from the Classical Period to the 21st century will be explored in this course

HIS 329 History of US Women

An in-depth analysis of the experience of women in American culture is examined in this course. Special attention is given to the women's rights movement, women in the Industrial Revolution, and women in World War I and World War II.

HIS 331 America's Military Past

The impact of the American military establishment upon American society and the formation of defense strategy and foreign policy are the topics of emphasis in this course.

HIS 333 The American Immigrant

This course focuses on the history of immigration to America and the ethnic impact upon American institutions.

HIS 334 The Political Economy of Latin America

This course begins by examining aspects of the indigenous societies prior to the arrival of Europeans in what has come to be called "Latin America." Throughout, it considers issues such as colonialism, militarism, race, gender relations, and religion that

HIS 337 African-American History

This course covers African-American history from colonization to the modern Civil Rights Movement.

HIS 340 Topics in U.S. History

This course is an examination of selected topics illustrating the political, social, and cultural history of the United States.

HIS 341 Russia And America Since 1741

Topics emphasized in this course include Russian colonization of Alaska, Russian diplomatic relations with the United States, Russian emigration to America, the Cold War, trade, and cultural exchanges between the Soviet Union and the United States.

HIS 342 History of the Westward Movement in America

This course is a study of the American frontier, emphasizing pioneer life, federal Indian policy, and the settlement of the Great Plains and Far West.

HIS 343 Modern Europe: 1789 to 1914

A survey of Europe in the "long nineteenth century," this course begins with the French Revolution and ends with the outbreak of World War I. It focuses on the political and social history of France, Germany, and Russia.

HIS 347 Presidential Elections

This course provides an historical analysis of presidential campaigns from 1900 to 1980, stressing the evolution of political techniques, issues, political parties, and presidential personalities.

HIS 348 Muscovy & the Russian Empire

This course is an examination of the history of the Muscovite state and of the Russian empire from 1462 to 1917. Central themes will include autocratic rule, statebuilding, imperial expansion, church-state relations, Westernization, serfdom, popular rebellion, modernization, and revolution.

HIS 349 The United States in the Pacific Basin

This course explores the interrelationship of the United States and the East Asian world in the modern period. (Formerly HIS 447.)

HIS 355 Topics in Modern European History

This course is an examination of selected topics illustrating the political, social, and cultural history of modern Europe.

HIS 357 Colonialism and Decolonization in the 20th Century

This class traces the experience of colonialism and decolonization during the twentieth century, using case studies to try to understand the big picture of global history and see how historical changes affected the daily lives of individuals. The topics covered will include the impact of the world wars and the Cold War; the circumstances of empire, the processes of decolonization, and the experiences of independence; and the history of local economies in the face of globalization. (Formerly HIS 303.)

HIS 359 Europe To 1400

This course traces the unfolding of Western civilization from pre-history to the Renaissance. The legacies of Greece and Rome; the heritage of both early Christian Europe and the Byzantine and Islamic civilizations; and the contribution of later medieval society to the governmental, economic, and intellectual growth of Europe. (Formerly HIS 310.)

HIS 361 Imperialism in the Modern World

This course examines the causes and consequences of imperialism in the modern world. It considers and compares imperial institutions, ideologies, economies, and cultures. It also studies the variety of ways in which subject peoples shaped these encounters and evaluates the significance of these experiences for the post-colonial global order. (Formerly His 325.)

HIS 362 World War II

This course will examine the origins of World War II, its theaters of military operations in Europe, the Pacific, Asia, and North Africa, the impact of total war on combatants and civilians, and the memory of World War II. Students will learn how to apply historical methods such as document analysis, oral history, visual history, and public history to the study of World War II and how it is remembered.

HIS 365 Greek Civilization

This course is a survey that stresses the development of Greek civilization until the death of Alexander the Great. (Formerly HIS 335.)

HIS 366 The Roman Empire

This is a survey course that places a special emphasis upon the Roman Republic and the Empire until 476 A.D. (Formerly HIS 336.)

HIS 367 The Early Middle Ages

This course is a study of the period from 284 A.D. until circa 1000 A.D., emphasizing the synthesis of Roman, Christian, and barbarian cultures. (Formerly HIS 338.)

HIS 368 The Later Middle Ages

This course is a study of the period from circa 1000 A.D. until the Renaissance, focusing on the social, economic, intellectual, and political revival of Europe. (Formerly HIS 339.)

HIS 369 The Holocaust

The Holocaust was the most significant human rights tragedy in twentieth-century history. This course examines the history and memory of the Nazi campaign from 1933 to 1945 to stigmatize, isolate, and destroy European Jews. Roots of the Holocaust are addressed.

HIS 370 Special Topics in Third World Areas

Central America, the Middle East, China, India, etc.

HIS 371 Special Topics**HIS 372 Special Topics****HIS 373 Special Topics****HIS 374 Special Topics****HIS 375 Special Topics****HIS 376 Special Topics****HIS 380 Twentieth Century Europe**

Beginning with World War I and ending with the collapse of the Soviet Union, this course surveys major events of twentieth-century European history.

HIS 381 Muscovy and the Russian Empire, 1462-1917

This course is an examination of the history of the Muscovite state and of the Russian empire from 1462 to 1917. Central themes will include autocratic rule, statebuilding, imperial expansion, church-state relations, Westernization, serfdom, popular rebellion, modernization, and revolution. (Formerly HIS 348.)

HIS 382 20th-Century Russia and the USSR

Major themes of this course include revolution, collapse of the empire and creation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, industrialization, Stalinist repression, World War II, reform, and the collapse of the Soviet Union. (Formerly HIS 452.)

HIS 383 Modern Europe: 1789 To 1914

A survey of Europe in the "long nineteenth century," this course begins with the French Revolution and ends with the outbreak of World War I. It focuses on the political and social history of France, Germany, and Russia. (Formerly HIS 343.)

HIS 384 Topics in African History

History 384 is an introductory survey of African history from the origins of humanity to the events of the recent past, with special attention paid to the early modern and modern eras. The course focuses on the global role of Africans in the history of the world, the importation of commodities and culture, the ways outsiders have portrayed Africa and Africans, the daily lives and experiences of the continent's inhabitants, and the challenges of using the available sources for "doing" African history. (Formerly HIS 344.)

HIS 385 Modern Ireland

This course is an examination of the major political, social, and economic developments in Ireland since the Famine of 1845. (Formerly HIS 440.)

HIS 389 Political Economy of Africa

This course examines the political and economic conditions in Sub-Saharan Africa and provides a historical perspective on these conditions. Issues examined include the political and economic consequences of colonialism, post-independence political forces and economic policies, and U.S. foreign policy toward Africa. Course is offered only every other Spring (i.e. of odd numbered years). Prerequisite(s): ECN 150

HIS 390 Traditional China To 1840

This course will trace the social, political, cultural, and economic origins of the Chinese dynastic system, the elaboration and triumph of Confucianism, and the expansion of the empire south of the Yangtze and west to Central Asia. The course will conclude with an overview of the initial Western intrusion into this wealthiest and most populous of traditional civilizations. (Formerly HIS 350.)

HIS 391 Modern China, 1840 To the Present

Beginning with the traumas of the Opium Wars and Taiping Rebellion, this course will provide an overview of China's initial attempts at using foreign technology to safeguard the Confucian polity, the rending of the social fabric during the Republican and Civil War eras, and the eventual triumph of Chinese Communism. The economic reforms of Deng Xiaoping and the events leading to Tiananmen Square will receive particular attention. (Formerly HIS 351.)

HIS 392 Traditional Japan To 1840

For nearly two millennia, the people of Japan have shown a remarkable ability to marry religious, political, and cultural innovations from abroad with vigorous indigenous institutions. The result has been one of the world's most remarkable cultural syntheses.

HIS 393 Modern Japan, 1840 To the Present

This course will assess the astounding transformation of Japan from Tokugawa seclusion to the dynamic superpower of today. Along the way, such topics as the impact of the Meiji Restoration, Japan's "special relationship" with China and the Asian mainland, the grand catastrophe of World War II, and the resurgence of a demilitarized economic colossus in the Pacific Rim will be examined. (Formerly HIS 353.)

HIS 394 The Modern Middle East

This course investigates the history of the modern Middle East since the 18th century. It examines the political, economic, social, and cultural transformations of this period in the Ottoman Empire, its successor states, Egypt, and Iran. Topics include the encounter with Western imperialism, modernization, ideological change, revolution, and war. (Formerly HIS 354.)

HIS 460 Directed Readings

This course involves readings of certain basic books relating to a specific historical topic, theme, or era; assignments discussed in seminar-tutorial fashion.

HIS 475 Internship

Working under a public historian, a student will expand his/her understanding of History through participation at a historical site, museum, or archive. The internship requires meetings with a faculty supervisor, a project, a major paper, and an evaluation.

HIS 481 Seminar

As the senior seminar in history, the course leads toward a capstone project that integrates the skills historians use when researching and writing history. Reading, discussion, and writing are major requirements of the course. The course includes discussion.

Program Contact Information

Stuart Leibiger, Chair
345 Hayman Hall
leibiger@lasalle.edu
(215) 951-1090