

Undergraduate Programs of Study

Major in History: 42 credits

The History Major begins with a series of **survey courses (18 credits)**, designed to introduce you to concepts, eras and methodological basics in World and US history.

- HI 103 World Civilization I
- HI 104 World Civilization II
- HI 105 World Civilization III
- HI 111 US History I (to 1877)
- HI 112 US History II (since 1877)

In your sophomore or junior year, take **HI 411, The Historian's Craft**. To take HI 411, you must have already taken HI 103, 104, 111 & 112.

Through 21 credits of **elective courses** in History, you strengthen your research and writing skills and follow your interests in learning about the history of diverse regions and time periods. At least 2 of your electives must be at the 300 or 400 level.

There are 4 categories of electives:

- United States History: 6 credits (2 courses)
- European History: 6 credits (2 courses)
- Area Studies: 6 credits (2 courses)
- Other Electives: 3 credits (1 course), can be from the "General" Category or any other category

In the fall of your senior year, you participate in a 3-credit **Senior Capstone Seminar**, usually HI 460. In the capstone, you develop a substantial project of historical inquiry leading to a well-crafted research paper or senior thesis. If you are a double-major with Education, your student teaching can serve as your capstone experience. As a senior you also complete a **Senior Portfolio** reflecting on your learning over the course of the major.

Minor in History: 24 Credits (8 courses)

- HI 103 World Civilization I
- HI 104 World Civilization II
- HI 105 World Civilization III
- HI 111 US History I (to 1877)
- HI 112 US History II (since 1877)
- HI 411 The Historian's Craft
- History Electives: 6 credits (Any 2 HI courses)



Department of History and Political Science



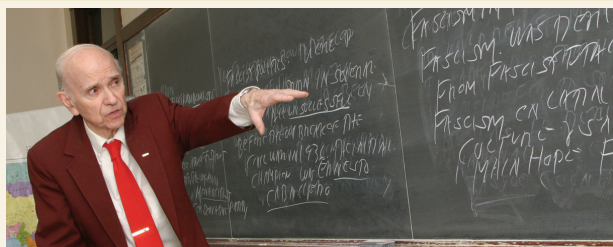
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Why History?

In a world transformed by powerful tides of globalization, History provides an intellectual toolkit for dealing with complex international realities. History majors and minors develop these skills by the time they complete the program:

- ✓ Develop a working sense of how history unfolded, by setting historical eras and facts/events in their broader context and connecting historical knowledge across their coursework.
- ✓ Identify the kinds of sources historians use to construct the past, and understand their scholarly uses; develop analytical abilities and information literacy in working with historical sources; gain strong research, critical thinking and writing skills.
- ✓ Frame historical research questions, conduct a program of research inquiry, and create original works of historical scholarship. Become self-reliant and reflective history thinkers and learners.

One of our strengths is our diversity and breadth of offerings, despite the department's modest size. We offer courses on a wide variety of topics including world history, European, Asian, African, Near East, Latin American and United States history, in addition to courses to help students explain and understand contemporary government and politics. Most students at Worcester State University take one of our survey offerings during their studies here; many continue on to major or minor in one of our excellent degree programs. The study of history and political science lies at the heart of a well-rounded college education: furthering your research and analytical skills, problem-solving capabilities, and writing ability, all of which will help you in today's complex world and job market.

History in Your Future

Many of our majors go on to teach History or Social Studies, or to continue their studies in graduate school. History also provides a solid foundation for public history or museum work, law, business, government, and the nonprofit sector; indeed, anywhere that critical thinking, analytical skills and clear writing are valued.

Honor Society

We maintain the Rho Upsilon Chapter of the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society, the national honor society for History Majors. This student club celebrates history excellence and provides social events for strong History majors. You need 18 credits of history earned with a 3.25 GPA, and at least a 3.0 overall GPA. See the faculty advisor, Robert Smith, for additional information.

Robert M. Spector Scholarship

We grant one full-semester tuition scholarship to an exemplary History major each year. The award honors the memory of the late Dr. Robert Spector, a beloved faculty member at Worcester State. See our departmental administrator, Mrs. Lu Houde, for an application.

Double Major with Education

Students planning to pursue a career as a teacher can double-major in History and Early Childhood Education. If you plan to teach secondary school, you should major in History and minor in Secondary Education.

Minors and Concentrations

We also offer Minors in **Political Science** and **Middle Eastern History**. We have departmental concentrations in **Public History** and **Foreign Service** and a **Pre-Law Program**. The department offers some of its courses for **Honors credit**. See your advisor for more details on these opportunities and their requirements.

Internships for Academic Credit

Our majors can conduct History-related internships at local archives, Old Sturbridge Village, law firms, and in other relevant workplaces. David Twiss is the internship coordinator for the department.

Faculty

Joseph Baratta

World History, English History, History of Science

Bruce Cohen

US Gilded Age, Progressive Era, Labor History

Michael Gesin

Modern Europe, World History

Aldo Garcia Guevara

Latin American History, Native American History

Frank Minasian - Department Chair

Comparative Political Systems, Legislative Process

Charlotte Haller

Early America, Women's History

Tona Hangen

19th and 20th century US Social & Cultural History

Peter Holloran

United States Popular Culture, Massachusetts History, Social History

Tanya Mears

African and African-American History

Najib Saliba

Medieval and Modern History of the Middle East and Europe

Emmett Shea

Russian History, Far East History, History of the Cold War and Modern Terrorism

Robert Smith

United States Foreign Relations, Revolution & Early Republic, Constitutional History

David Twiss

United States Government, Public History, Constitutions