



## Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

**PROPOSAL TITLE:** Revisions to the Major in the Sciences and Letters Curriculum: BALAS History, Department of History, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

**SPONSORS:** Karen Carney, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, [kmcarney@illinois.edu](mailto:kmcarney@illinois.edu), 333-1350; John Randolph, Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies, History, [jwr@illinois.edu](mailto:jwr@illinois.edu), 333-1155.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:** The Department of History proposes the following interrelated changes to its undergraduate major:

1. allowing any two 100-level courses taken in the department to count toward the preliminary coursework requirement (rather than two of the three specific courses currently accepted as preliminary coursework)
2. changing the name of the “Nonwestern History” geographical area to “African, Asian, Global, Latin American, Middle Eastern History”
3. listing these three regions in alphabetical order, *i.e.*: “African, Asian, Global, Latin American, Middle Eastern history” followed by “European History” and then “U.S. History” (currently they are listed as follows: U.S., Europe, Nonwestern)
4. requiring that at least one course (3 hours) in each of the three designated geographical areas be an advanced course at the 300- or 400-level, and
5. eliminating the supporting coursework requirement.

The total hours of required History coursework will remain the same at 36 hours.

**JUSTIFICATION:** The Undergraduate Studies Committee, in consultation with the department’s Executive Committee, proposes these changes in order to improve the quality of our students’ experience in the major, ensure rigorous engagement with many types and areas of historical enquiry, and to expand the ways that students access and apply historical knowledge.

1. Allowing any two 100-level History courses to count toward the preliminary coursework requirement will enable students to make any introductory survey a point of entry to the major, capturing and rewarding the initiative of students who discover an unexpected interest in the discipline. This change is also in keeping with our renewed commitment to fostering a diversity of historical approaches (see items 3 and 6, below), rather than privileging some areas of the world over others.
2. Requiring that at least one course (3 hours) in each of the three designated geographical areas be an advanced course at the 300- or 400-level will help to ensure

that students receive a more rigorous grounding in all three areas – and do not, as is often the case, take only introductory courses in areas less familiar to them.

3. Changing the name of the “Nonwestern history” geographical area to “African, Asian, Global, Latin American, Middle Eastern history” reflects current practices within the discipline, which eschews the negative description of regions beyond Europe or North America as regions *lacking* in or *absent* from mainstream historical study.
4. Listing these three regions in alphabetical order, *i.e.*: “African, Asian, Global, Latin American, Middle Eastern history” followed by “European History” and “U.S. History” further ensures a more equitable representation of those areas, and does not assume that the history of the United States is somehow primal.
5. Eliminating the supporting coursework requirement will make the History major more comparable with allied units in LAS, and will facilitate students’ ability to double-major or pursue a minor in another area.

#### **BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:**

- a. Additional staff and dollars needed: none.
- b. Internal reallocations (e.g., change in class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratio, etc.): none.
- c. Effect on course enrollment in other units and explanations of discussions with representatives of those departments: none that we anticipate.
- d. Impact on the University Library: none.
- e. Impact on computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.: none.

**DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE:** AY 2013-14

**STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG:** The following represents the revised version of the applicable entry in the Programs of Study Catalog. Changes are highlighted in yellow.

#### **History**

E-mail: [history@illinois.edu](mailto:history@illinois.edu)

Degree title: Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences

Minimum required major course work normally equates to 36 hours of History courses.

General education: Students must complete the [Campus General Education](#) requirements.

Minimum hours required for graduation: 120 hours

Departmental distinction:

To be eligible for distinction, a student must be admitted to the Honors Program in History and complete its required coursework. Those admitted (ideally before the beginning of the junior year) must have earned at least a 3.5 GPA in History and a 3.25 GPA overall. They will then pursue a sequence consisting of HIST 495 (Honors

Research and Writing Seminar), HIST 492 (Historiography and Methodology) and successful completion of either

1) the Honors Senior Thesis (HIST 493 and HIST 499) in two consecutive semesters (in which case, the level of distinction awarded to student will be decided by the examining committee) OR

2) the completion of two approved independent research projects under the supervision of two different advisors (HIST 490). (in which case, students will be eligible for an award of distinction only (not high or highest distinction)).

Hours	Requirements
	Minimum of 36 hours of History courses including:
6	Two introductory History courses at the 100 level (preliminary coursework)
6	African, Asian, Global, Latin American, Middle Eastern History <sup>1</sup> courses at the 200-level or above, at least 3 hours at the 300 level or above
6	European History <sup>1</sup> courses at the 200-level or above, at least 3 hours at the 300 level or above
6	U.S. History <sup>1</sup> courses at the 200-level or above, at least 3 hours at the 300 level or above. 3 hours must be in U.S .Minority History.
12	Hours of history electives (at the 200-level or above). NOTE: HIST 200 Intro Hist Interpretation and HIST 498 Research and Writing Seminar (or HIST 495 Honors Research and Writing Seminar) are required. HIST 200, HIST 495, and HIST 498 may count toward any of the area requirements or the 12 hours of History electives. For those students in the Honors Program, HIST 490 or HIST 493 may count toward any of the area requirements or the 12 hours of History electives. HIST 492 and HIST 499 must be taken as part of the 12 hours of required History electives.
	Of the 36 hours of History courses, students must take 6 hours in a pre-modern period, one defined as before 1600 and one defined as before 1800 <sup>1</sup> (HIST 100 and 142 may not be used to fulfill this requirement.:
36	Total hours <sup>3</sup>

1. Chosen from the list maintained in the Department of History

2. An approved minor or double major may substitute for the supporting coursework requirement, but must include at least 12 hours of advanced-level course work (300- and 400-level).

3. Eighteen advanced hours (300- and 400-level) of History courses are required in the major. **12 of those 18 advanced hours must be taken on this campus.**

Students must pass HIST 200 with a grade of **a C (2.0)** or better in order to remain in good standing in the major. Students transferring to the major after the freshman year must have passed two 100-level history courses and have passed HIST 200 on this campus with a grade of **a C (2.0)** or better. Transfer students must enroll in HIST 200 during their first semester on campus.

All foreign language requirements must be satisfied.

A Major Plan of Study Form must be completed and submitted to the LAS Student Affairs Office before the end of the fifth semester (60-75 hours). Please see your advisor.

**CLEARANCES:**

Signatures:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Unit Representative:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
College Representative:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

**Appendix A:  
Comparative Table of Proposed Changes**

Current Requirements		Proposed Requirements	
Hours	Requirements	Hours	Requirements
	Minimum of 36 hours of History courses including:		
6	Two of the following three courses:	6	Two introductory History courses at the 100 level (preliminary coursework)
	HIST 100 Global History		
	HIST 141 Western Civ to 1660 (or HIST 140)		
	HIST 142 Western Civ Since 1660 (or HIST 143)		
6	US History <sup>1</sup> courses at the 200-level or above. 3 hours must be in US Minority History <sup>1</sup>	6	U.S. History courses at the 200-level or above, at least 3 hours at the 300 level or above. 3 hours must be in U.S .Minority History.
6	European History <sup>1</sup> courses at the 200-level or above	6	European History courses at the 200-level or above, at least 3 hours at the 300 level or above
6	Nonwestern History <sup>1</sup> courses at the 200-level or above	6	African, Asian, Global, Latin American, Middle Eastern History <sup>1</sup> courses at the 200-level or above, at least 3 hours at the 300 level or above
12	Hours of history electives (at the 200-level or above). NOTE: HIST 200 Intro Hist Interpretation and HIST 498 Research and Writing Seminar (or HIST 495 Honors Research and Writing Seminar) are required. HIST 200, HIST 495, and HIST 498 may count toward any of the area requirements or the 12 hours of History electives. For those students in the Honors Program, HIST 490 or HIST 493 may count toward any of the area requirements or the 12 hours of History electives. HIST 492 and HIST 499 must be taken as part of the 12 hours of required History	12	Hours of history electives (at the 200-level or above). NOTE: HIST 200 Intro Hist Interpretation and HIST 498 Research and Writing Seminar (or HIST 495 Honors Research and Writing Seminar) are required. HIST 200, HIST 495, and HIST 498 may count toward any of the area requirements or the 12 hours of History electives. For those students in the Honors Program, HIST 490 or HIST 493 may count toward any of the area requirements or the 12 hours of History electives. HIST 492 and HIST 499 must be taken as part of

	electives.		the 12 hours of required History electives.
	Of the 36 hours of History courses, 9 required hours may be fulfilled in one or more of the above required areas or history electives:		Of the 36 hours of History courses, students must take 6 hours in a pre-modern period, one defined as before 1600 and one defined as before 1800 (HIST 100 and 142 may not be used to fulfill this requirement).
	6 hours in a pre-modern period, one defined as before 1600 and one defined as before 1800 <sup>1</sup> (HIST 100 and 142 may not be used to fulfill this requirement)		
	3 hours in US minority history <sup>1</sup> at the 200-level or above		
18	Hours outside the Department of History (Supporting coursework) <sup>2</sup> : All supporting coursework should be related by time, area, and/or topic to the major and is subject to the approval of the History Department Advisor.		
	12 hours at the 200-level or above, 6 hours at any level. Traditional areas for such supporting coursework are ancient and modern languages (excluding first-year elementary courses and courses used to fulfill the non-primary language requirement in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences); Asian American Studies; African American Studies; African Studies; Anthropology; Architecture; Art History; Asian Studies; Classical Civilization; Comparative and World Literature; East Asian Language and Culture; Economics; Education; English; Geography, Gender and Women's Studies; Library and Information Science; Latina/Latino Studies; Medieval Studies; Music; Philosophy; Political Science; Psychology; Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies; Religious		

	Studies; South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies; and Sociology.		
54	Total hours	36	<b>Total Required Hours</b>