Proposal for a Minor in History

Approved by the Faculty Senate
February 19, 2020
Appendix A: Proposed General Announcement Text [new departmental minor in History]

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Please note that the text below is for the departmental-level “Overview Tab”

History

Overview | Undergraduate | Graduate | Faculty | Courses | Codes

The study of history informs students about the many worlds of the past from which our diverse community has come. It provides analytical tools with which to understand the present in terms of the past, and it helps create a knowledgeable citizenry that can confront the challenges of the future with confidence and historical insight. History is at the heart of the Humanities, which provide the core of a liberal arts education.

The department of History at Rice offers a diverse and exciting range of undergraduate electives that encourage engagement with the past as a way to understand the present and that foster appreciation of past societies for their own sake as important elements of the human experience. Our undergraduate major emphasizes critical skills in communication, writing, and especially research skills, and our department funds travel to archives and libraries as students prepare senior seminar papers and honors theses. The History major is flexible and offers an International Concentration that recognizes study abroad experience and research competency in languages other than English. The Honors Program offers highly motivated students the chance to engage deeply with historical research and writing. Additionally, the department offers an undergraduate minor for students who wish to master a core body of basic knowledge in historical narrative, methodologies and thought.

The graduate program, which trains a limited number of carefully selected students, offers these fields: U.S. History, including U.S. and the World topics; Atlantic World history; Latin American history; and the history of the Middle East. These areas are supplemented by an interconnected range of supporting courses and fields, including early modern and modern colonial history, African history, Asian history, European history, world history, gender history, transnational history, economic history, and the history of empires. PhD students may concurrently pursue one of the graduate certificates offered at Rice, such as those offered through the Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, or the Center for Critical and Cultural Theory.

Through graduate reciprocal agreements with the Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP) and the Instituto Mora, the department offers highly qualified graduate students the opportunity to earn a second PhD at a top-ranked university in Brazil or Mexico. Students in the dual degree program study in Brazil or Mexico, and write theses that are co-supervised by faculty at Rice, and either UNICAMP, or Mora.

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Please note that the text below is for the departmental-level “Undergraduate Tab”

History

Overview | Undergraduate | Graduate | Faculty | Courses | Codes

Bachelor’s Programs
- Bachelor of Arts (BA) Degree with a Major in History
  - and a Major Concentration in History: International Concentration

Minor
- Minor in History

Please note that the sections below are for the new Minor in History-specific tabs

Minor in History

Outcomes | Requirements | Policies | Opportunities

Program Learning Outcomes for the Minor in History

Upon completing the minor in History, students will be able to:

1. Identify and connect the ways that people, ideas, and technologies have circulated across a range of geographic regions and historical periods.
2. Apply historical questions to concrete cases and demonstrate analytical skills through the use of historical evidence.
3. Exhibit a solid understanding of historical methodologies, including the careful and creative use of primary and secondary sources that are read critically and weighed carefully as historical evidence.

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Requirements for the Minor in History

Students pursuing the minor in History must complete:

- A minimum of 6 courses (18 credit hours) to satisfy minor requirements.
- A minimum of 3 courses (9 credit hours) taken at the 300-level or above.
- A maximum of 2 courses (6 credit hours) from study abroad or transfer credit. For additional departmental guidelines regarding transfer credit, see the Policies tab.

The courses listed below satisfy the requirements for this minor. In certain instances, courses not on this official list may be substituted upon approval of the minor’s academic advisor, or where applicable, the department’s Director of Undergraduate Studies. (Course substitutions must be formally applied and entered into Degree Works by the minor’s Official Certifier.) Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

Summary

| Total Credit Hours Required for the Minor in History | 18 |

Minor Requirements

Core Requirements

Select at least 1 course from at least 3 of the 5 following fields (see course lists below):

| Premodern | 9 |
| Europe | |
| United States | |
| Africa, Asia, Latin America, Middle East | |
| Transnational, Comparative, World | |

Elective Requirements

Select 3 elective courses from departmental (HIST) course offerings at the 300-level and above.¹

| Total Credit Hours | 18 |

Footnotes and Additional Information

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1 AP credit for history (HIST 103, HIST 105, HIST 107), and History courses HIST 403 and HIST 404, do not fulfill History minor requirements. Additionally, students may take HIST 390 only once to fulfill History minor requirements.

Core Requirements

Select at least 1 course (3 credit hours) from at least 3 of the 5 following fields. Of the 6 required courses to satisfy the History minor requirements, a minimum of 3 courses total (9 credit hours) must be completed at the 300-level or above.

Premodern Courses

| Same as HIST major | Course List matches this same field from HIST major list |

Europe Courses

| Same as HIST major | Course List matches this same field from HIST major list |

United States Courses

| Same as HIST major | Course List matches this same field from HIST major list |

Africa, Asia, Latin America, Middle East Courses

| Same as HIST major | Course List matches this same field from HIST major list |

Transnational, Comparative, World Courses

| Same as HIST major | Course List matches this same field from HIST major list |

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Minor in History

Outcomes | Requirements | Policies | Opportunities

Policies for the Minor in History

Program Restrictions and Exclusions

Students pursuing the minor in History should be aware of the following program restriction:

- As noted in Majors, Minors, and Certificates, i.) students may declare their intent to pursue a minor only after they have first declared a major, and ii.) students may not major and minor in the same subject.

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Transfer Credit

For Rice University’s policy regarding transfer credit, see Transfer Credit. Some departments and programs have additional restrictions on transfer credit. The Office of Academic Advising maintains the university’s official list of transfer credit advisors on their website: https://oaa.rice.edu. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic program’s transfer credit advisor when considering transfer credit possibilities.

Departmental Transfer Credit Guidelines

Students pursuing the minor in History should be aware of the following departmental transfer credit guidelines:

- No more than 2 courses (6 credit hours) of transfer credit from U.S. or international universities of similar standing as Rice may apply towards the minor.
- Requests for transfer credit will be considered by the departmental Director of Undergraduate Studies (and/or the program’s official transfer credit advisor) on an individual case-by-case basis.
- Courses taken at another university must be equivalent in required reading, writing, research and testing, as well as classroom hours, of a Rice history course. Regarding subject matter, however, there does not have to be an equivalent course in the Rice history course offerings, unless the student requires distribution credit.
- Rice students planning to study at a foreign university must also obtain pre-approval from the Rice Study Abroad Office.
- AP, IB or A-level credit (and the corresponding Rice transfer credit) may not be used to satisfy any requirements for the history minor.
- The Department of History does not accept online courses for transfer credit.

Distribution Credit Information

The determination of distribution eligibility is done as part of the new course creation process. As part of an annual roll call coordinated each Spring by the Office of the Registrar, course distribution eligibility is reviewed and reaffirmed by the Dean’s Offices of each of the academic schools.

Faculty and leadership in the academic schools are responsible for ensuring that the courses identified as distribution-eligible meet the criteria as set in the General Announcements. Students are responsible for ensuring that they meet graduation requirements by completing coursework designated as distribution at the time of course registration.

Distribution courses from History (HIST) are generally 100- or 200-level introductory courses that do not presupposed work in History or the Humanities.

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the History website: https://history.rice.edu/.
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Minor in History

Outcomes | Requirements | Policies | Opportunities

Opportunities for the Minor in History

Academic Honors

The University recognizes academic excellence achieved over an undergraduate’s academic history at Rice. For information on university honors, please see Latin Honors (summa cum laude, magna cum laude, and cum laude) and Distinction in Research and Creative Work. Some departments have department-specific Honors awards or designations.

Research Assistantships

The Department of History offers several paid Research Assistantships to give undergraduate students the opportunity to work closely with a faculty member and exercise their historical research skills.

Ira and Patricia Gruber Fund for Undergraduate Research

This fund supports, amongst many other things, independent research projects carried out by history majors and minors under the supervision of department faculty. Typical forms of support include reimbursements or advances for travel to an archive to do research or to a conference to present a paper.

Additional Information

See additional information, please see the History website: https://history.rice.edu/.

See https://humanities.rice.edu/student-life for tables of fellowships, prizes, and internships/practica that may be relevant to this minor.

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