**Undergraduate Course Levels in History**

What can you expect from history courses at each level? This document provides some answers in terms of the geographical/chronological scope of various courses and the strategies different courses might incorporate to achieve the History Department’s learning outcomes.

Professors in the History Department all have their own approaches and ways of doing things, fitted to their personal teaching styles and the subject matter. We find that this is a strength of the department. It does mean however that the following descriptions can be only a general guide. If you have questions about a class, it is best to get in touch with the person teaching that class.

100-level, Foundations of the Humanities Courses: Surveys
- Intended for students who are new to university study and/or the study of history.
- Broad courses that introduce students to foundational concepts and basic skills in the humanities. Includes surveys in US history, Western Civilization, World History, and US military history.
- Assignments generally include examinations and short essays.

200-level, Foundations of the Humanities Courses: Topics
- Intended for students who are new to university study and/or the study of history.
- Devoted to specific themes and topics and often feature smaller enrollments, providing a better environment for discussions.
- Readings are more focused than those assigned in 100-level surveys, but assignments, like those in 100-level courses, allow for a general level of engagement with the course material.

300-level, Introductory History Courses
- Intended for all levels of undergraduate students.
- Introduction to the study of the past through popular topics. Includes courses such as Race & US Foreign Relations, Gender and Society in the Ancient World, Medieval Europe, and Europe and the World Wars, 1914-1945.
- Assignments often include a combination of primary and secondary sources (modern histories and the evidence used to write them). The exploration of the course topic may include debates among historians.

HIST 300, Introduction to Historical Thinking
- Required class for History majors, usually at an early point in the History curriculum.
- Introduces History majors to the principles of historical thinking as well as the methodologies of historical research.
- Assignments focus on honing the skills integral to the discipline of History.
400-level, History Workshops
- Intended for History majors, as well as other majors who have taken courses in History or related fields.
- These courses feature innovative approaches to teaching and research. Examples include: digital humanities projects, local history research, historical simulations, and primary source seminars. The emphasis will be on doing History in a collaborative way.
- Assignments will be less conventional than testing, traditional essay-writing, and/or composing research papers, and they will allow students to practice the historical skills introduced in HIST 300 in fun and exciting ways.

500-level, Advanced History Courses
- Intended for advanced undergraduate students in History and related fields.
- Features topics similar to many 300-level offerings, but allow for more intense engagement with historical literature. Includes a wide variety of subjects, usually focused on a particular place and period, such as the History of Kansas or Japan since 1550.
- Readings and assignments usually engage with more specialized historical literature, and some sections may also include independent research related to the course theme.

HIST 586, Advanced Seminar in History
- Required class for History majors nearing the completion of the History major.
- Focuses on the intellectual principles of the historical discipline as well as the fundamental research techniques and writing skills used by historians.
Each section of the seminar will center on a particular topic or historical problem. Students will prepare a research paper on a relevant subject of their choice.