

I've declared a major in history! What do I do now?

Plan! Meet with your major adviser and discuss your interests and the requirements. Read the course descriptions before the next registration period and map out a semester-by-semester plan.

Get involved! Visit the department webpage often for updates and up-coming events.

What are the main requirements?

The major has four main requirements

- 1) A minimum of 31 credit hours in History with an overall GPA of 2.0
- 2) HST 390 (Research Seminar) or HST 392 (Independent Research)
- 3) One pre-modern history course
- 4) Three credit hours in each of the three geographic fields: Europe, US, Africa/Asia/Latin America/Middle East.

Note: At least 15 hours of class work in history must be completed at Wake Forest University. 100-level courses and 390 (and 391/392/395 independent research/study) do NOT meet the pre-modern and geographic distribution requirements.

What is HST 390 and when should I take it?

HST 390 is the required research seminar in which you select a topic, conduct independent research, and write a 25-30 page essay. The department typically offers three sections of the course each semester, with each section focused on a different geographic area. It is recommended that students register for HST 390 after completing at least two or three courses at the 200- and 300-level. Selecting a topic may be easier if you already have content knowledge in a particular field or historical theme. Most students enroll in HST 390 in their junior or senior year.

Which classes meet the pre-modern requirement?

A list of courses that can be found in the Bulletin. They are also indicated on WIN. If you have further questions, please ask your advisor.

What is the difference between 100-, 200-, and 300-level courses?

100-level courses offer a survey of cultures, regions, and themes at the global level, and often span across several centuries. As the broadest surveys, the 100-level courses provide “big picture” views into the past while introducing students to historical methods, sources, and modes of presentation. Thus, these courses serve as a good foundation for 200- and 300-level courses. Majors may only count two 100-level courses toward the required 31 hours.

200-level courses offer geographically-specified surveys. This regional focus allows for greater specificity in the history of a particular part of the world in a smaller time-frame.

300-level courses are designed to introduce students to more specific regions, themes, and epochs in history. Although these courses focus on more narrow thematic, topical, and/or temporal topics, they have no pre-requisites and students are not expected to have prior knowledge of the topic before enrolling.

What are the opportunities for individual study and internships?

You may wish to pursue an individual research project in lieu of the research seminar (392, 4h), a History Writing Tutorial (397, 1.5h) an individual study (398, 1-3h), or a directed reading on a particular topic (399, 3h). You may also receive credit for a historical internship (395, 1-3h) with prior arrangement. A faculty member must approve your topic, project, or internship and serve as the instructor of record.

Note that students may include up to 6 hours of any combination of 395, 398, and 399 toward the 31 hours required for the major. Individual study and internship courses do NOT count toward the pre-modern and geographic distribution requirements.

What is a Thematic Concentration and how do I pursue it?

Majors who wish to focus their history coursework on a particular theme may complete a self-designed concentration, which will be recognized at the Department Awards Banquet and receive a formal letter or acknowledgment. You must first select an area of concentration or propose a concentration of your own design. Proposals will be evaluated in consultation with your adviser. Next, you must submit a form of intention to your adviser with a list of possible courses (already completed or planned) that fit within the concentration. It is recommended that students contact individual faculty members about possible courses to be included. Third, you must complete at least 9 hours relevant to the theme with a minimum grade of C in each course. Finally, you must submit a Completion Form to the History office by April 15 of your senior year.

How do I pursue Honors?

Students must qualify for admission to the honors program in history. To be graduated with the designation "Honors in History," you must:

- 1) Complete 391 ("Making History")
- 2) Present an honors-quality research paper (almost always begun in 390 or 392)
- 3) Successfully defend the paper in an oral exam composed of faculty members
- 4) Earn an overall grade point average of 3.3 with an average of 3.5 in history

Tips: 390 and 391 need not be taken in a particular order, and may be taken in the same semester to good effect. Students may enroll in 397: History Writing Tutorial (1.5h) with their thesis adviser as they prepare their research paper for submission and defense.

What is Phi Alpha Theta Honor Society?

To be invited to become a member of this honor society, students must meet certain standards set by the national organization. These requirements include: upper 35% of the class; completion of 12 hours in

history with a B average; and maintenance of a B average in at least 2/3 of the remainder of your coursework. Professor Ruddiman is the faculty adviser for PAT in 2016-2017; contact him at ruddimja@wfu.edu for more information.

Will the History Department accept AP/IB credit?

Students earning a 4 or 5 on AP exams (U.S. History, European History, or World History exam) or a 6 or 7 in the IB exam may receive 3 hours of elective credit toward the major. AP/IB exams may not fulfill the department's requirements for pre-modern and geographic distribution. If you received college credit for two AP exams, you may elect to fulfill the college divisional requirement (a 100-level History course) with any 200- or 300-level history course (except 390 and above). This may be a good option for majors who wish to build more specialized knowledge in a particular historical theme or geographic region.

I'm a transfer student. Will the History department accept transfer credit?

Transfer students must complete half of the courses required for either the major or minor at Wake Forest or in WFU study-abroad programs. You must apply for transfer credit by following the guidelines established by the Registrar's office. Once you apply for credit, the syllabi from previously completed courses will be reviewed to ensure they are commensurate with department standards.