• HISTORY (HTY)

The discipline of history embraces a diverse world of ideas, peoples, and events. Our faculty seeks to inform and question, to provoke and to challenge our students to a higher level of understanding of the past. History at South Florida offers the student an opportunity to explore civilizations from around the globe and from the ancient through contemporary eras. We encourage our students to move beyond traditional memorization of material to a critical level of thinking, analysis, and synthesis. Accomplished history majors are attractive to all kinds of employers in any number of fields, as well as to graduate and professional schools. USF history alumni can be found in such diverse professions as law, medicine, business, government, foreign service, politics, and education.

Requirements for the Major in History

A minimum of 36 semester hours is required for a major in history. A minimum grade of “C” or better must be attained in each course counted toward the 36-hour requirement. However, grades of “D” or “F” in history coursework will be used in calculating the major GPA unless the course is retaken under the grade forgiveness policy.

Prerequisites (State Mandated Common Prerequisites)

Students wishing to transfer to USF should complete the A.A. degree at the community college. If students transfer with fewer than 60 semester hours of acceptable credit, they must meet the university’s entering freshman requirements including ACT or SAT test scores, GPA, and course requirements. The transfer student should be aware of the immunization, foreign language, and continuous enrollment policies of the university.

Students at a community college planning to transfer to USF and major in history are encouraged to complete as many of the lower level requirements as possible at the community college level. Courses that fulfill the General Education/Gordon Rule requirement would be especially valuable. The minimum acceptable grade for courses being transferred for history department credit is a “C.” If these courses have not been completed satisfactorily upon enrolling at USF, they must be taken before the degree is granted.

Lower-level Course Requirements for the Major

A minimum of 12 hours of 2000 level courses, or their equivalent, constitute the lower level requirements. Two of these courses must be sequential. Students may choose from introductory courses in the fields of Ancient, Medieval, Modern European, or American history to fulfill this two-course sequence. The remaining hourly requirements may be filled by taking any of the other 2000 level history courses.

Upper-level Course Requirements for the Major

A minimum of 24 hours of course work from the 3000-4000 level is required to fulfill the 36-hour minimum requirement. Two of these courses, the Pro-Seminar and the Theory of History courses are required for all majors. These courses may only be taken in the last two semesters prior to graduation and may not be taken during the same semester. The remaining 16 hours of credit may be chosen from the department offerings each semester. It is recommended that history majors take ENC 3310, “Expository Writing,” SPC 2600, “Public Speaking,” and LIS 2937, “Library/Internet Research Skills.” Additional hours can be profitably drawn from the following disciplines: Africana Studies, American Studies, Anthropology, Classics, Economics, Geography, Government and International Affairs, Psychology, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Sociology, Women’s Studies, Literature, the Humanities, and the Fine Arts. Majors intending to pursue graduate work should take a minimum of two years of classical or modern foreign language.

Open University courses and exit courses titled “Issues in History” (HIS 3938) and “War and Society” (HIS 3308) are not eligible for major field credit.

Requirements for the Minor

The minor in History entails a 18-hour program organized and contracted by the student and the department around the specific needs of the student’s major program. A minimum of 8 hours must be completed at the University of South Florida and the student must maintain a 2.0 GPA in the minor. A minimum grade of “C” or better must be attained in each course. One lower-level sequence is required, earning 6 credit hours. The department will supervise certification of the minor. Students interested in a minor in history are encouraged to see the History department advisor as early in their undergraduate program as possible.

Open University courses and exit courses titled “Issues in History” (HIS 3938) and “War and Society” (HIS 3308) are not eligible for minor field credit.