

History major and minor curriculum

I. Introduction

The History Department continues to update its curriculum to keep in standing with our peer institutions. We are also adjusting to changes in our department faculty, including the retirement of two historians of U.S. History (Professor Susan Clemens, May 2020, and Dr. John Malsberger, May 2023). We maintain our status as a globally-focused department, and this submission reflects that commitment. This proposal addresses our efforts to offer students a scaffolded curriculum, and aligns with our peer institutions. Based on updated benchmarking and a department retreat in January 2023, we propose the following modifications.

II. Summary Table of Proposed Changes: History Major

Current Curriculum: 9 courses	Proposed Curriculum: 9 courses
<p>CUE Seminar: 2 courses HST 4xx: Readings Seminar HST 4xx Research Seminar (W)</p>	<p>CUE Seminar: 2 courses HST 4xx: Readings Seminar HST 4xx Research Seminar (W)</p>
<p>No more than one HST 100</p>	<p>Majors may take two HST 100s from two different geographical regions</p>
<p>Majors must take one course in American History, one course in European History, and two courses from two different geographical regions</p>	<p>Majors must take courses from four of the six geographical regions represented (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America & the Caribbean, the Middle East, the U.S.)</p>
<p>HST 200s (chronological approach) and HST 300s (thematic approach) differ in approach rather than level of difficulty. Students take remaining electives from HST 200s and HST 300s</p>	<p>HST 300s are research- and methods-based experiential learning courses capped at 15; majors must take at least one and are strongly encouraged to take this prior to the CUE</p>
<p>Majors must take at least one modern course and at least one pre-modern course</p>	<p>Majors must take at least one modern course and at least one pre-modern course</p>

III. History Major Proposal and Rationale:

- a. **CUE:** The two-semester CUE is the cornerstone capstone experience in the History Major at Muhlenberg College. We are preserving this unique reading and research opportunity for our majors.
- b. **HST 100s:** HST 100s are designed to introduce students to the major and to the study of history. Topical courses support the development of critical and analytical thinking, and writing skills based on historical data and methods. They also introduce students to primary and secondary sources, historical thinking and developments in time, and encourage an appreciation of the diversity of the historical past. In the past, we have limited majors in history to taking one HST 100, when in reality, students often opt to take additional HST 100s based on their interest in the proposed topics. Given our enhanced global selection of courses, and the increased diversity of topics offered at the 100-level, we believe that students will benefit from exposure to our broader and diverse range of topics, pedagogies, historical thinking and data, and methodologies. As such, we are open to students taking more than one HST 100, provided that they do so across geographical offerings.
- c. **Geographical Requirements:** Through 2020, majors were required to take one American History, one European History, and one additional world region. In the spring of 2020, the History Department expanded its initial geographic requirements to the following: one course in American History, one course in European History, and two courses from two additional world regions. Staffing changes, including the addition of East Asian History and African History, and the reduction of Americanists from four to two, have allowed us to offer broad geographical representation in our course offerings. We regularly offer the highest number of DE courses on campus, and this revision will allow us to continue to support the global focus of the DE. As such, we propose a change that reflects this, and is in keeping with our peer institutions. Majors will take four courses from four of six geographical areas.
- d. **HST 200s and 300s:** In the past, students have selected their remaining electives (6 or 7, depending on whether they take a HST 100 or not) from course offerings at the 200 and 300 level. In our proposed changes, we are asking majors to take at least one HST 300, which will incorporate hands-on experiential learning and research. These courses will be capped at 15, allowing students to conduct original research as a stepping stone to the two-semester CUE. We strongly encourage majors to take the HST 300 prior to the CUE, with the expectation that students will be exposed to historical methods and research that will better prepare them for the intensive nature of the CUE. In keeping with our peer and benchmark institutions, the HST 300s function as building blocks of historical methods,

diverse pedagogical approaches, and broad and deep geographic and thematic approaches. Faculty may decide to offer their 300-level courses as “W” courses if their approach satisfies those requirements. HST 200s will serve as bridges between the introductory 100-level and the advanced 300-level courses, and will be both thematic and chronological in orientation. They will also span across geographical areas in accordance with the global focus and expertise in the department.

IV. Summary Table of Proposed Changes: History Minor

Current Curriculum: 6 courses	Proposed Curriculum: 6 courses
CUE Seminar: 2 courses HST 4xx: Readings Seminar HST 4xx Research Seminar (W)	Minors must take two courses from the 300 or 400 level. They can take two 300s, one 300 and the Readings CUE, or the Readings and the Research CUE
No more than one HST 100	No more than one HST 100

V. History Minor Proposal and Rationale:

- a. Benchmarking revealed that we are not in alignment with our peer institutions in requiring a two-semester CUE sequence of our minors. However, we agree that minors should still benefit from exposure to advanced historical methods and thinking. As such, we believe that students should complete the minor by taking two upper-level courses with some built-in flexibility. Minors can choose to complete two 300-level courses; one 300-level and the Readings Seminar; or the Readings and Research Seminars. This allows minors flexibility in selecting four additional electives.

- b. **HST 100s:** Students in the minor can take a maximum of one HST 100. This provides students with the introductory exposure to the discipline and critical and analytical thinking and writing. Minors will then select from additional electives at the 200 and 300 levels.

VI. Staffing and Current Courses Offered

The current curricular proposal does not affect staffing in any way. We are offering disciplinary, geographical, pedagogical, and thematic breadth and depth across our curriculum. The proposed changes are aimed at ushering students through the major in a slightly more structured (in terms of skills) manner. They will also have the opportunity to engage with more faculty whose expertise lie in geographical areas around the world. The current proposed changes reflect our commitment to global education, and will better prepare our majors for their Culminating Undergraduate Experience.

Below is a list of our current courses offered in each geographic area.

History of Africa

- 151: African Independence and Liberation
- 128: Medicine and Power in African History
- 209: Africa Since 1800
- 288: ST Africa Before 1800
- 384: ST Global Health/African History
- 386: ST Africa & World War II

History of East Asia

- 107: China's Magical Creatures (and Where to Find Them)
- 124: Women in Chinese History
- 137: People/Their Stuff-Chinese History
- 259: Korean History
- 267: Intro to Traditional Japan
- 269: Intro to Traditional China
- 271: Modern China
- 273: Modern Japan
- 380: ST Edge of Empire: China's foreign relations before 1800

History of Europe

- 105: Modern European History
- 108: World War One and Remembrance
- 114: Holocaust Cinema
- 131: World War Two and Memory
- 136: Nazi in Popular Imagination
- 205: Orthodox Christianity: A Root of Russia
- 213/4: Seventeenth Century Europe
- 215/6: Eighteenth Century Europe

217: Rev. & Birth of Modern Europe
247: Civil War, Holocaust, Crisis: 1900-1945
249/50: From Cold War to Unification: 1945-Present
251/2: Foundations of the British Peoples
253/4: From England to the United Kingdom
255/6: The British Empire/Commonwealth
315/6: Renaissance
317/8: Reformation
319: The French Revolution & Napoleon
337: France from Napoleon to the Great War
377/8: Gender & Sex in European History
History of Latin America & the Caribbean
139: Visual Culture in Latin America & the Caribbean
147: Popular Culture in Latin America & the Caribbean
291: Colonial Latin America & the Caribbean
293: Modern Latin America & the Caribbean
208: The Inquisition
211: Sex, Beauty and the Body in Brazil and the Caribbean
373: Environmental History of Latin America & the Caribbean
375: Race, Ethnicity, and Gender in Latin America & the Caribbean
389: Bodies & Identities in Contemporary Cuba
History of the Middle East
117: Mediterranean Encounters
119: Frontiers in History
275: Rise of Islam
277: Modern Middle Eastern History
295/6: Revolutions in the Middle East
297: Palestine Before Israel
220: Arab-Israeli Conflict
305: The Mongol Legacy
309: Sultans, Harems & Slaves: The Ottoman Empire
311: Women in the Middle East
United States History
104: Reformers & Radicals
109: Gender & Jim Crow
113: The Birds & the Bees
126: Coming to America
149: Remembering the American Revolution
221: Colonial America
223: Revolutionary America
238: Eliza Hamilton's America

- 231: History of American West
- 235: American Civil War & Reconstruction
- 323: Constitutional History of US
- 330: Books & Their Readers
- 339: Popular Protests: Parades, Riots, & Mass Movements in U.S. History'
- 343: History of Disability in the United States
- 345: Disease & Medicine in American History
- 347: History of Public Health in America

VII. Implementation Process

The proposed curriculum will be put into place with the incoming first year students in fall 2023. Current students who declare AY 23-24 will have the option to either major or minor in the existing or new curriculum. This provides current students at the college interested in the existing History curriculum to pursue this option. The existing curriculum will be in place until AY 25-26, and the new curriculum will be the sole option for all students declaring from the class of 2027 and beyond.

Class Year	Existing Curriculum	New Curriculum	Annual Year
2024 (current junior)	.1	-	2020-2021
2025 (current sophomore)	.1	-	2021-2022
2026 (current first year)	.1	.1	2022-2023
2027		.1	2023-2024
2028		.1	2024-2025
2029		.1	2025-2026