

# The History Major

The major in history exists because of that special environment in which man lives: time. History is a way of understanding the ways men and their societies change over time. Furthermore, history properly understood should focus not just on the events and changes, but also on the reasons for those changes. Thus, history stresses more than just knowledge of places or facts; rather, it stresses analysis and insight. For the Catholic, history assumes a special importance. By the fact of the Incarnation, at a specific place, in a specific time, God Himself has sacralized human life, and, indeed, time itself. The Catholic believes that history begins in God and ends in God.

History serves to instill in its practitioners a number of qualities. The ability to analyze and understand is paramount to an understanding of history. The ability to express oneself well, be it in speech or in prose, is crucial. The ability to adopt a critical sense of one's material is important, as is the ability to read accurately and well. Students should be able to cultivate a historical sense that will free them from the presuppositions of their own era, and teach them empathy for other peoples and places. History has long been considered the ally of the statesman and lawyer, and serves these professions well. Finally, as Cicero noted, "To be ignorant of what happened before you were born is to live the life of a child forever." At the dawn of a new millennium, when so many people around the world are emerging from political tyranny, history aids in the attempt to establish or maintain societies striving for an ordered liberty.

The history major begins with a three-semester core program that is required for all undergraduates. It is not intended to produce historians; rather, it has a number of other aims. First, it is meant to provide a framework and background for the University's curriculum such that students can develop an understanding of the historical context in which the other subjects they are studying arose. Second, it is meant to give all students a sense of era and period, a sense of history. Third, it is meant to give the students a common culture and context for discussing and interactions based on their knowledge of history. As part of this common culture, the curriculum is designed to impart an appreciation of the glories of their inherited Catholic faith. Finally, it is meant to assist the other departments at the University in the inculcation of analytical skills for critical thinking and reading, as well as good prose style and writing habits, in Ave Maria students.

After the core courses have provided an overview of history, history majors are expected to take a total of six 300-level courses. Finally, in the senior year, the student is required to take two courses: one, a general course in Historiography and historical sources and methods, to train the student in the craft of history; another, a Senior Seminar, to train the student for potential graduate work.

## Core Courses

HIST 101 Western Civilization I  
HIST 102 Western Civilization II  
HIST 203/POLT 203 American Civilization

## Required Major Courses

HIST 401 Historiography  
HIST 490 History Seminar

**Elective Major Courses (six required)**

HIST 204 American History I  
 HIST 205 American History II  
 HIST 206 European History I  
 HIST 207 European History II  
 HIST 212 America: The Colonial Era  
 HIST 213 America: The Revolution through the Civil War  
 HIST 214 America: Reconstruction through Versailles  
 HIST 215 America: 1920 - Present  
 HIST 221 History of the Ancient Near East  
 HIST 222 History of Ancient Greece  
 HIST 223 Roman History  
 HIST 224 Medieval Europe  
 HIST 225 The Renaissance and Reformation  
 HIST 226 Absolutism and the Age of Revolution  
 HIST 227 Nineteenth Century Europe  
 HIST 228 Twentieth Century Europe  
 HIST 301 Church History  
 HIST 302 The Catholic Church in America  
 HIST 305 History of the Catholic Church in the Nineteenth Century  
 HIST 335 History of Modern Ireland  
 HIST 338 United Kingdom  
 HIST 352 American Economic History  
 HIST 353 The American Presidency  
 HIST 357 American Religious History  
 HIST 359 American Political History  
 HIST 362 The Crusades  
 HIST 363 The History of Chivalry  
 HIST 365 The Waning of the Middle Ages  
 HIST 366 The History of the British Empire

**Minor in History**

A Minor in History is available. Students must complete four history courses beyond the three required for the core curriculum.

**Course Descriptions**

HIST 101 WESTERN CIVILIZATION I

This unit will cover the rise of the Christian West, from its pagan origins to the eve of the Protestant Reformation. It is meant to work in conjunction with LITR 103 Classic Epics, and will help the students appreciate the roots and some of the glories of Catholic culture.

HIST 102 WESTERN CIVILIZATION II

This class will go from the sixteenth century to the present, covering the Protestant, Scientific, Industrial, and French Revolutions, the Napoleonic and Romantic era, the age of nationalism, and the often-troubled twentieth century. It is intended to make the student aware of the breakdown of the medieval synthesis and reorientation of society along modern lines.

HIST 203 AMERICAN CIVILIZATION

This course will cover the major events and themes in the development of the American Republic, from its colonial origins to the present day. Special concentration will be

## History

paid to the development of the American political system, and this course will be cross-listed in the political science department. It is meant to provide special background for U.S. students interested in the history of their own nation, as well as Ave Maria's foreign students who are interested in the history of their host country. This course is cross-listed at a political science course: POLT 203.

### HIST 204 SURVEY OF AMERICAN HISTORY I

This course will cover the main events in American history from the founding of the American colonies, through the American Revolution, to the development of American society through the Civil War.

### HIST 205 SURVEY OF AMERICAN HISTORY II

This course will cover the main events in American history from Reconstruction through the present.

### HIST 206 SURVEY OF EUROPEAN HISTORY I

This course will cover the history of Western Europe from the fall of the Western Roman Empire and the Christianization of the Germanic invaders through the conflict with Islam to the Reconquista.

### HIST 207 SURVEY OF EUROPEAN HISTORY II

This course will cover the rise and fall of European hegemony from the expansion into the New World to the Age of World War and globalization

### HIST 212 AMERICA: THE COLONIAL ERA

This course will examine the American colonies from the founding to the end of the French and Indian War in 1763.

### HIST 213 AMERICA: THE REVOLUTION THROUGH THE CIVIL WAR

This course will examine the origins of the American Revolution, the development of the American government, expansion, sectionalism and the sources of the American Civil War.

### HIST 214 AMERICA: RECONSTRUCTION THROUGH VERSAILLES

This course will survey the failure of Reconstruction, the industrialization, and the rise of the United States to great power status.

### HIST 215 AMERICA: 1920 - PRESENT

The course will examine the Jazz Age, the New Deal, the Second World War, the Civil Rights movement, the Cold War, and the globalization of America in the late 20th century.

### HIST 221 HISTORY OF THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST

This course will examine the ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, Israel and Persia.

### HIST 222 HISTORY OF ANCIENT GREECE

Beginning with the Minoan age, this course will survey the development of Greece to the Hellenistic era. Topics include the Mycenaean Invasions, the development of the polis, growth of Athens and Sparta, the Persian Wars, the Peloponnesian Wars, and the conquests of Alexander the Great. Particular attention will be paid to Greek culture.

**HIST 223 ROMAN HISTORY**

A survey of the history of Rome beginning with the Etruscans and ending with the imperial era. Topics include royal Rome, early wars for conquest, the struggle of the orders, the Punic Wars, Roman imperialism, the development of Roman culture, and the crisis of the Republic.

**HIST 224 MEDIEVAL EUROPE**

This course will cover Western Europe from the collapse of the Western Roman Empire to the thirteenth century.

**HIST 225 THE RENAISSANCE AND REFORMATION**

This course will survey the cultural flowering of Europe from the fourteenth to the sixteenth centuries, and the split in Christianity led by Luther and Calvin.

**HIST 226 ABSOLUTISM AND THE AGE OF REVOLUTION**

This course will examine the Enlightenment, the rise of modern natural science and the collapse of absolute monarchy in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

**HIST 227 NINETEENTH CENTURY EUROPE**

This course will examine the industrial revolution, the democratization of politics and the scramble for empire in the "long" nineteenth century.

**HIST 228 TWENTIETH CENTURY EUROPE**

This course will examine the end of European global hegemony from the partition of Africa through the rise of fascism, the age of World War, and the project of European revival in the European Union.

**HIST 301 CHURCH HISTORY**

This course will cover the global history of the Church from the time of the Apostles to the present.

**HIST 302 THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN AMERICA**

This course will cover Catholicism in the United States from the early Spanish colonies to the present.

**HIST 305 HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE 19TH CENTURY**

This course will survey the conflict between the Church and varieties of modernism.

**HIST 335 HISTORY OF MODERN IRELAND**

This course will survey the history of Ireland from the Easter Rebellion to the present.

**HIST 338 UNITED KINGDOM**

This course will examine Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and England from the Eighteenth century to the present.

**HIST 352 AMERICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY**

This course will examine the growth of the American economy from colonial agricultural origins to the most powerful force behind contemporary economic globalization.

## History

### HIST 353 THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY

This course will survey the political and cultural importance of the American Presidency from Washington to the present.

### HIST 357 AMERICAN RELIGIOUS HISTORY

This course will survey the influence of religion on American life from colonial puritan origins to the religious pluralism of contemporary America.

### HIST 359 AMERICAN POLITICAL HISTORY

This course will examine the history of American politics from the Constitutional convention to the present.

### HIST 362 THE CRUSADES

This course will examine the wars fought between Christendom and Islam for control of the Holy Land.

### HIST 363 THE HISTORY OF CHIVALRY

This course will examine the political and social aspects of medieval knighthood.

### HIST 365 THE WANING OF THE MIDDLE AGES

This course will examine the erosion of the medieval synthesis, the rise of nominalism, the consolidation of the nation state and the reconquest of the Iberian peninsula.

### HIST 366 THE HISTORY OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

This course will survey the history of the British Empire from the conquest of Ireland to the collapse of colonialism in the twentieth century.

### HIST 401 HISTORIOGRAPHY

Study in the philosophy of history and the methods of various sample historians. Methods and instruments of research will also be stressed. Successful completion of this course is required for graduation with a degree in history.

### HIST 490 HISTORY SEMINAR

An advanced seminar focused on the creation of an original historical essay of between 10,000 and 20,000 words, on a topic chosen by the student. Guided by a member of the faculty, this essay will require original historical thinking and primary research. Successful completion of this course is required for graduation with a degree in history. Distinction in the senior thesis is required for an honors degree in history.

# Typical Plan—History Major

## Freshman Year

<u>Fall Semester</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Spring Semester</u>	<u>Credits</u>
MATH 100,120,150 or 151	4	THEO 105 Sacred Scripture	4
LITR 103 Literary Tradition I	4	LITR 104 Literary Tradition II	4
HIST 101 Western Civ I	4	HIST 102 Western Civ II	4
LATN 101 or 103 Elem Latin	4	LATN 102 or 104 Inter Latin	4
MUSC 101 Gregorian Chant*	0		
Total	16	Total	16

\*may be taken in the Fall or Spring semester.

## Sophomore Year

<u>Fall Semester</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Spring Semester</u>	<u>Credits</u>
PHIL 205 Nature and Person	4	PHIL 206 Ethics	4
THEO 205 Sacred Doctrine	4	HIST/POLT 203 Amer Civ	4
Science I with Lab	4	Science II with Lab	4
General Elective	4	General Elective	4
Second Arts Practicum*	0		0
Total	16	Total	16

\*may be taken in the Fall or Spring semester.

## Junior Year

<u>Fall Semester</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Spring Semester</u>	<u>Credits</u>
History Elective	4	History Elective	4
History Elective	4	History Elective	4
General Elective	4	General Elective	4
General Elective	4	General Elective	4
Total	16	Total	16

## Senior Year

<u>Fall Semester</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Spring Semester</u>	<u>Credits</u>
HIST 401 Historiography	4	HIST 490 Senior Seminar	4
History Elective	4	History Elective	4
General Elective	4	THEO 400 Living in Christ	4
General Elective	4	PHIL 400 Phil Perspectives	4
Total	16	Total	16