

The History Minor

2006-07

Department of History

**California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo**

THE HISTORY MINOR

History is the foundation discipline of the Liberal Arts, those disciplines that encourage us to maintain open minds and be independent thinkers. A History Minor offers students the opportunity to study the past in greater depth, improve critical thinking, and enhance career options.

The History Minor is a 30-unit program that focuses on reading, research, and writing skills. Students of any major will find that a History Minor complements their program and gives them specific valuable thinking and technical skills. It is also flexible enough so that students can follow their own particular interests. Transcripts will show clearly that students have a History Minor and, consequently, its accompanying skills.

WHO CAN MINOR IN HISTORY?

The History Minor is open to all Cal Poly undergraduates.

Students can "double-count" courses that are already part of their major requirements or electives they have taken at Cal Poly or at other universities. It is worthwhile for a prospective student to look over the requirements for the History Minor to see if some of the coursework has already been completed or will be completed as a part of fulfilling the requirements for the major.

SPECIALITY OF FACULTY

Instructor	Specialties
Barnes, Timothy	U.S. History, Colonial American History; Agricultural History
Call, Lewis	Modern European Intellectual History
Cotkin, George	U.S. History; Methods in Historical research and writing; American Intellectual History
Firpo, Christina	Southeast Asian History
Foroohar, Manzar	Modern World History, History of Latin/Central America and the Middle East
Harlan, D. Craig	U.S. History; American Intellectual History
Hiltbold, Paul	Western Civilization; History of Spain; Renaissance Europe
Hopper, Matthew	African History; World History
Krieger, Dan	California History; Modern Europe
Morris, Andrew	Modern East Asian History
Oriji, John	Modern World History; African History
Snetsinger, John	U.S. History; U.S. Foreign Relations
Stenson, Gary	Modern European History; World History
Stefanco, Carolyn	U.S. History; Women's History; Historical Research and Writing
Trice, Tom	Modern Europe; Russian History

ADVANTAGES OF THE HISTORY MINOR

Students pursue a History Minor for various reasons: to strengthen their undergraduate program; to increase their skills and, consequently, their career opportunities; and to broaden their intellectual perspectives.

National studies in recent years have pointed with alarm to the tendency in higher education to train students too narrowly. This phenomenon is no more apparent than in fields without sufficient exposure to the humanities. The study of history contributes to cultural literacy and develops critical thinking. Students gain a sense of perspective that comes from examining their own historical tradition and the traditions of other societies. It is this broad perspective that characterizes the students who receive a minor in History.

- In technical fields, the History Minor will help to hone a student's skills in communication and critical thinking. Courses in history will train students to gather and weigh evidence, to understand multiple truths, and to arrive at conclusions based on independent thinking. Students can choose their own upper division courses. All will emphasize various methodologies and ways of thinking about the past. For Majors in the technical fields, studying for a History Minor will sharpen abilities to analyze and explain.
- For students planning to teach, the History Minor will provide the specific training necessary to understand effectively the study of history and therefore teach it in the schools. Courses included in the minor have been chosen so that the historical methodologies, the ways of thinking about the past, and the factual content can all be brought to bear in classroom instruction. New legislation mandates more exacting preparation in the teaching area for our public school instructors; the History minor will provide that training.
- For majors in the business and professional world, the History Minor will address the complaints of company CEOs that students: display little skill in communicating that which they do know; show ignorance of the major cultural and political trends that have shaped modern history; and cannot define a problem, much less solve it. The History minor will remedy each of these educational shortcomings. American society is in desperate need of literate, imaginative, and resourceful people. The History Minor will help produce more graduates who can express conclusions in logical, clear language, who can evaluate alternative courses of action, and who are culturally literate.

HISTORY MINOR CURRICULUM

	<u>Units</u>
Required courses:	14
Hist 110 Western Civilization: Ancient to Renaissance (4)	
Hist 111 Western Civilization: Reformation to 20th Century (5)	
Hist 303 Research and Writing Seminar (5)	
Select 16 units from 300 and 400 upper- division History courses	<u>16</u>
	30

Checklist:

HIST 110	<input type="checkbox"/>	4 units
HIST 111	<input type="checkbox"/>	5 units
HIST 303	<input type="checkbox"/>	5 units
HIST ____	<input type="checkbox"/>	4 units
HIST ____	<input type="checkbox"/>	4 units
HIST ____	<input type="checkbox"/>	4 units
HIST ____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4 units</u>
		30 units

HOW TO APPLY

1. Complete an application form, which is available in the History Department (Bldg. 47, Room 27). After completing the application, consult with the Department's Minor Advisor, Dr. Paul Hiltbold, to plan your courses from the choices listed above.
2. Return the application to the History Department office for final approval by the Chair, Dr. Carolyn J. Stefanco.
3. Make sure you maintain a "C" average in the courses you take for the Minor. Students should be aware of current policy regarding CR/NCR. At least two-thirds of courses must be completed in residence at Cal Poly.
4. The catalog in effect when the student declares or changes a Minor governs the requirements to be satisfied for the Minor. This protects students from possible changes in the Minor.

REGULATIONS AFFECTING THE MINOR AT CAL POLY

1. No minor is required for the bachelor's degree.
2. A minor is a formal aggregate of classes in a specific subject area designed to give a student documented competency in a secondary course of study. In contrast to options and concentrations it stands alone and is distinct from and outside the student's degree major. It is intended that the minor will be completed along with the requirements for the bachelor's degree. The student's transcript will certify completion of the minor.
3. The minor consists of 24 to 30 quarter units, of which at least half must be upper division. Twelve or more of the units in the minor must be in specified courses with the remainder, if any, to be chosen from an approved list.
4. Minors require the same academic review process and justification in terms of purpose, resources, need, etc., as do options and concentrations.
5. Students who wish to complete a minor are to contact the department offering the academic minor as early as possible in the program and fill out the appropriate agreement form.
6. Units taken for completion of a minor may be counted for satisfaction of general education--breadth requirements and for completion of "support" course units for the major. Also, units taken for completion of the minor may not be counted to satisfy requirements for courses in the "Major" column of the student's major curriculum sheet.
7. A minimum of one-half of the required course work for a minor must be completed in residence.
8. A minimum overall 2.0 grade point average is required in all units counted for completion of the minor. Two-thirds of all units counted in the minor must be in courses graded A to F except for those courses which are graded on a mandatory CR/NC basis.
9. Completion of a minor will be noted on the student's Permanent Record Card and will be recorded simultaneously with the recording of the baccalaureate degree.

(from the College Administrative Manual,
Sec 411, addendum of April, 1982)