Consider History for your major

A common question is: “What can I do with a history degree?” We have some answers.

The top 3 career destinations for history majors are:
1. Education
2. Management (in business, science, and the arts)
3. Legal occupations*

Also, did you know that 24% of all MBA students in top programs earned undergraduate degrees in the liberal arts like history??

* ACS 2010–14 5-year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)
** Poets and Quants. “MBA Acceptance Rates by Major” by Jeff Schmitt

Consider History for your minor

A common phrase is: “Pick a major to secure a job, pick a minor to pursue your passion.” A history minor completed with our electives can be a great way to balance a college major in a fun and intellectually challenging way. A history minor can also show employers and graduate schools that you know how to carefully analyze data, understand diverse cultural backgrounds, and effectively communicate ideas.

Consider History for an elective

Need to fill an elective next semester? Check out if any of our offerings appears interesting. The good news is that, by completing any 1000-level history course, you have already completed the required prerequisite for a 3000-level class. We’d love to see you in our focused seminars with smaller classes, innovative activities, and new intellectual challenges.
HIS 3012 – The Ancient World: Rome
Class: 27472
Section: EWA
Days & Times: We 2:30-3:45pm
Instructor: Anna Boozer
Instruction Mode: Hybrid Asynchronous
Prequisites: One 1000-level history course, or instructor permission
3 hours, 3 credits

This course will survey the history of Rome from its beginnings to the fourth century CE. It will consider the political, economic, religious, social, and cultural developments of the Romans in the context of Rome's growth from a small settlement in central Italy to the dominant power in the Mediterranean world. Special attention will be given to such topics as urbanism, imperialism, the development of Roman law, and the influence of Greek culture. The course will introduce different types of sources: literary, epigraphically, archaeological, etc. and students will learn how to use them as historical documents.

HIS 3072 – History of Modern Latin America
Class: 27471
Section: CTRA
Days & Times: Tu/Th 10:45 am-12:00 pm
Instructor: Mark Rice
Instruction Mode: In person
Prerequisites: One 1000-level history course, or instructor permission
3 hours, 3 credits

From the upheavals of the Haitian Revolution to the present-day debates about migration and environment, modern Latin America has often proven a critical laboratory for testing the meaning of democracy, citizenship, and race. This course examines the history of Latin America since the region’s independence in the early 1800s until the present. We will learn how geographically vast territories with culturally diverse societies have striven to create modern nation states and stable development over the past two centuries with attention to the political and cultural changes these efforts have produced.
HIS 3088 – The Israel-Palestine Conflict
Class: 27198
Section: MTA
Days & Times: Tu 11:10am-2:05 pm
Instructor: Andrew Sloin
Instruction Mode: In person
Prerequisites: One 1000-level history course, or instructor permission
3 hours, 3 credits

This class focuses on the intertwined histories of Israel and Palestine during the late 19th and 20th centuries. The first part examines the region as a crossroads of empires. We’ll examine the political, economic, and social contexts that shaped Jewish and Palestinian nationalist movements in the region. The remainder of the class will examine the history of these intertwined populations in the period following 1948. Topics include: 19th-century imperialism in the Middle East; antisemitism and the emergence of Zionism; Ottoman and British Palestine; Israeli and Palestinian societies under war and conflict, the peace processes; and the return of “religious” war.


HIS 3100 – Jesus: Historical & Critical Approach
Class: 27469
Section: CMWA
Days & Times: Mo/We 10:45am-12:00pm
Instructor: Randolph Trumbach
Instruction Mode: In person
Prerequisites: One 1000-level history course, or instructor permission
3 hours, 3 credits

This course tries to find out what it is possible to know of the life of Jesus and of his time and place. It considers the nature of the New Testament documents and of the communities and individuals that produced them. It looks at the varying interpretations of Jesus in the first few centuries after his death and at twentieth-century historical interpretations. Same as Religion 3100. Credit cannot be received for both HIS 3100 and REL 3100.

HIS 3456 – American Intellectual History
Class: 27468
Section: FMWA
Days & Times: Mo/We 4:10 -5:25pm
Instructor: Johanna Fernández
Instruction Mode: In person
Prerequisites: One 1000-level history course, or instructor permission
HIS 3551 – History of the People of New York City
Class: 27470
Section: FTRA
Days & Times: Tu/Th 4:10-5:25 pm
Instructor: Vincent Digirolamo
Instruction Mode: In Person
Prerequisites: One 1000-level history course, or instructor permission
3 hours, 3 credits

A study of the history of New York City from its foundation to the present day focusing on the major national groups who settled here. During the semester, the class will consider the background of the great migrations to America, why New York attracted so many of the newcomers, the immigrant experience in the city, and the impact of the various ethnic groups on the city.

Image: Sydney Hull, Life on the Broadway, New York, 1872 (detail)

HIS 3842 – The Making of Modern India
Class: 27020
Section: NETA
Days & Times: ONLINE
Instructor: Hill Krishnan
Instruction Mode: Online Asynchronous
Prerequisites: One 1000-level history course, or instructor permission
3 hours, 3 credits

This course explores the dynamics of British colonialism and the making of the contemporary Indian nation-
What is digital history and how has it changed the ways historians “do” history? This class offers students an introduction to digital history by examining three key elements of the field: 1) the digitization of primary sources and growing availability of historical data 2) the creation and use of digital tools to analyze and interpret primary sources and historical data; 3) and the use of digital platforms and programs by historians to publish and disseminate their scholarship and findings. Along the way, we will explore how these resources, tools, and techniques are changing the ways historians practice their craft and the kinds of histories they research and create.
Southeast Asia is remarkable for its linguistic, cultural, social, and religious diversity, and is often called the “crossroads of the world.” This course introduces students to the key historical themes in the history of Southeast Asia as a region from the eighteenth century to the present, while exploring the national political narratives of its largest countries: Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines, and Burma. Particular attention will be paid to the following topics: the coherence of Southeast Asia as a discrete historical region; European imperialism and the growth of colonial capitalism; the emergence of anti-colonial movements including nationalism and communism; World War II and Japanese occupation; the Vietnam War and other wars of independence and decolonization; the impact of the Cold War and the rise of authoritarian/military regimes; and finally, globalization and the geopolitical and economic organization of these countries into the bloc called ASEAN. The course focuses on interactions between states, elites and mass society in ways that attempt to link broad political and economic changes to everyday social and cultural experiences. (Students will receive credit for HIS 3781 or AAS 3781. These courses may substitute for each other in the F-replacement policy.)

Please note: This class does not cover South or East Asia, so students interested in India/Pakistan/Bangladesh or China/Japan/Korea should consult the history department's other course offerings.
HIS 4900 – Capstone – Objects of Empire
Class: 18160
Section: EMA
Days & Times: Mo 4:10-5:25 pm
Instructor: Elizabeth Heath
Instruction Mode: Hybrid asynchronous
Prerequisites: Two 3000-level history courses
3 hours, 3 credits
A rum bottle. An indigo dyed dress. A teapot. A banjo. What can these ordinary objects tell us about European imperialism? About the people who made and used them within these imperial contexts? Though frequently studied in terms of military and economic domination, European colonial power was equally constituted and exercised through everyday actions and activities that produced both colonizer and colonized. This capstone uses ordinary objects like the ones listed above to explore the quotidian practices helped to constructed and reinforce imperial power at the everyday level. It also considers how these objects provided avenues for resistance and decolonization. We will begin by exploring methods for using material objects as historical sources and also read some recent object-focused histories of European empire. From there students will pursue original research into the history of European imperialism using an object of their choice.

HIS 4900 – Capstone – Women and Gender in the Cold War
Class: 18161
Section: CTRA
Days & Times: Tu/Th 10:45am-12:00pm
Instructor: Katherine Pence
Instruction Mode: In person
Prerequisites: Two 3000-level history courses
3 hours, 3 credits
This course will examine the role of women and gender in the global Cold War from the end of World War II to the 1990s. It will consider the way the politics of bipolar conflict between capitalism and communism affected women and ideologies of gender. Readings will examine women and gender in both communist and capitalist countries as well as non-aligned nations in Africa and Asia undergoing decolonization. Students will focus on methodologies of gender history and complete a book review and substantial research paper. Prerequisites: Two upper-level (3000 or above) courses in History or Women's Studies.
Learning from teachers who are active researchers matters.
In the past five years alone, the Baruch History faculty have published:
- 10 books
- 3 edited volumes
- 24 journal articles
- 29 book chapters

HIS 4900 – Capstone: Foreigners in China, 1840-1949
Section: ETRA
Class number: 15556
Day & Time: TuTh, 2:30-3:45
Instructor: Charlotte Brooks
Mode: In-Person
Prerequisites: Two upper level (3000 or above) courses in history
3 credits

This section of the capstone will focus on the Western and Japanese presence in coastal China from the last imperial dynasty through World War II and the Chinese civil war. In addition to reading scholarship about this subject, students will conduct primary and secondary research and complete a substantial research paper. The course will examine how and where to do such research, how to structure and write an effective paper, and how to preserve academic integrity. You do not need any previous knowledge of Chinese language or history to take this course.