

HISTORY (BA)

CIP: 54.0101

Program Description

What stories will humanity tell about itself in the 21st century? The 20th-century story of the “Rise of the West” proves increasingly inadequate in our present day, and appears now to capture only a short-term realignment in the global distribution of power. Students who study History at NYU Abu Dhabi will learn about patterns of human experience - continuity and change - that always already exceeded such singular accounts of what we, in the singular and the plural, have become. History at NYU Abu Dhabi, moreover, engages students in the next and even more intellectually daunting task of developing an alternative account - indeed alternative accounts - of humanity's collective and divided experience, in order to help us make sense of the challenges that the world, and the planet, face today. No decisions about the present or the future make sense without a clear understanding of the past.

History at NYU Abu Dhabi is a global enterprise, with a faculty carefully selected for its range of expertise in all major world areas: Asia, Africa, North and South America, Australia, Oceania, and Europe. Nothing excites our faculty more than sitting in the classroom to discuss world history with students from over 140 different countries. No classrooms are better suited for generating stories that resonate meaningfully across the world.

The program, moreover, offers a unique approach to thinking about the space of history, organizing its curriculum through the four long-term zones of human interaction and imagination—the Asia-Pacific World, the Atlantic World, the Indian Ocean World, and the Mediterranean, Black, and Caspian Sea World. It does not offer a ready-made alternative to prior frameworks of analysis, but aims to challenge ourselves and our students to inquire into the various levels of scale at which people make history, and to offer them a chance to generate categories of historical analysis that help us discover and reveal historical events and forms of human experience that remain obscured by more conventional units of analysis like the nation-state.

Students can enter the major from a range of different globally-situated vantage points—such as “Africa in the World”; “Russia in the World”; “China in the World”; or “Alexander and the East”; progress toward more strictly globally thematic classes—including “Urbanism and Modernity”; “The Global Sixties”; and “Museums and Empire”—and then advance toward courses that offer a sustained engagement with more regionally focused areas of ongoing scholarly innovation—for example, “Muslim Societies in African History”; “Nationalism in the Middle East”; “The United States in a Transnational and Global Perspective”; or “Arts and Politics in Latin America”.

Two required courses, “Globalization and History” and “Writing History,” create a shared vocabulary among our students of theoretical innovation and a foundation for the creative practice of producing original historical research for the History Capstone during the senior year. History majors leave NYU Abu Dhabi with a foundation of knowledge that is genuinely globally comparative and regionally informed. Having acquired historical methods of research and thinking, majors graduate well prepared for the pursuit of many professions where thinking globally matters, including policymaking, law, public health, teaching, politics, diplomacy, and business, or advanced study and teaching in history.

Admissions

New York University's Office of Undergraduate Admissions supports the application process for all undergraduate programs at NYU. For additional information about undergraduate admissions, including application requirements, see How to Apply (<https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/how-to-apply.html>).

Program Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
General Education Requirements		
Colloquia		8
First-Year Seminar		4
Arts, Design, and Technology		4
Cultural Exploration Analysis		4
Data and Discovery		4
Structures of Thought and Society		4
January Term Courses (3 courses)		12
Required Courses		
HIST-UH 2010	History and Globalization	4
HIST-UH 3010	Writing History	4
Electives ¹		
Select two 1000-level courses (“Regional Perspectives on World History”)		8
Select one 2000-level course (“Global Thematic”)		4
Select four 3000-level courses (“Major Topics”) ²		16
Capstone		
HIST-UH 4000	Capstone Seminar	4
HIST-UH 4001	Capstone Project	4
Other Elective Credits		56
Total Credits		140

1

At least one of the seven electives must have a pre-1800 designation.

2

Selected from at least three of the four curricular ones: Asia-Pacific; Atlantic World; Indian Ocean; and Mediterranean, Black, and Caspian Sea Worlds)

Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
General Elective		4
Colloquium		4
Core		4
General Elective		4
		Credits
		16
2nd Semester/Term		
General Elective		4
		Credits
		4
3rd Semester/Term		
History Elective		4
First-Year Writing Seminar		4
Core		4
General Elective		4
		Credits
		16

4th Semester/Term		
HIST-UH 2010	History and Globalization	4
Core		4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
Credits		16
5th Semester/Term		
General Elective		4
Credits		4
6th Semester/Term		
History Elective		4
Colloquium		4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
Credits		16
7th Semester/Term		
History Elective		4
Core		4
General Elective		4
History Elective		4
Credits		16
8th Semester/Term		
General Elective		4
Credits		4
9th Semester/Term		
HIST-UH 3010	Writing History	4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
History Elective		4
Credits		16
10th Semester/Term		
HIST-UH 4000	Capstone Seminar	4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
History Elective		4
Credits		16
11th Semester/Term		
HIST-UH 4001	Capstone Project	4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
Credits		16
Total Credits		140

- Present historical arguments in rhetorically efficient forms—both written and oral—manifesting effective use of evidence, organizational skill, and, where appropriate, new technologies;
- Demonstrate expertise in one particular trajectory of historical inquiry resulting in the production of a senior Capstone project; and
- Complete effectively for places at elite doctoral programs in history in the U.S. and around the world should they so desire.

Policies

NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).

NYU Abu Dhabi Policies

A full list of relevant policies can be found on NYU Abu Dhabi's undergraduate academic policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/abu-dhabi/academic-policies/>).

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the NYU Abu Dhabi History degree, all graduates are expected to have developed:

- Analyze and interpret different kinds of evidence, including cultural, social, economic, and political;
- Organize evidence into a coherent argument;
- Develop arguments in which they reassess and, where necessary, revise accepted historical conclusions, while continually questioning and justifying their own methodological assumptions and practices;
- Understand the ways in which the field of history complements or overlaps with other scholarly disciplines;
- Conduct historical research, including the use of primary and secondary sources, archives, library resources, and relevant new technologies;