

# History

## The Field of History

History is the study of humankind's recorded past. It encompasses all aspects of human behavior, social organization, and cultural development. The arts and the sciences, the development of technology, and changing economic forces are as much a part of history as politics or social conflict.

The student of history is engaged in a journey through time in which he or she can witness and compare the development of a variety of cultures and the interrelations between peoples in many different circumstances. Through the study of past events, history provides a great storehouse of experience by which the theories of the other social sciences can be tested. Its analysis of the development of institutions and cultures provides one of our best tools for understanding social phenomena.

History is also one of the broadest and most universal of the humanities. Just as the personality of any individual is shaped through the totality of his or her past experience, so cultures and institutions also develop in time. The study of history can help students understand themselves and their culture better and develop a more tolerant and humane spirit toward others. In this way, as in so many others, a knowledge of the past can help

all of us meet the problems of today with greater understanding and compassion.

## The Department

The History Department at California State University, Fresno currently has more than 15 faculty members, offering a wide variety of courses in the history of Europe, the United States, Latin America, and the British Empire. The department also offers courses in intellectual and cultural history, social history, military history, and the history of women.

The History Department offers a major and minor in history for the Bachelor of Arts, a graduate program leading to the Master of Arts, courses leading to the Single Subject Teaching Credential in Social Sciences, and a Certificate of Advanced Study in Teaching American History. The History Department participates in interdisciplinary programs and minors in Armenian studies, Asian studies, classical studies, Chicano and Latin American studies, Russian area studies, and women's studies. History courses may also be used as electives toward graduation in most other majors. The History Department encourages students to take minors and second majors in other fields as well.

## Careers in History

A student majoring in history is trained to read with comprehension and to compare and analyze both written and oral material. In addition the student must know how to evaluate evidence and sources, how to do research and writing, and how to critique the writing of others. These are highly valued skills in many occupations and professions today. The History Department offers preparation for careers in teaching, law, government service, librarianship, journalism, publishing, and business. Career opportunities may also be found in such diverse fields as marketing, advertising, insurance, public relations, social services, urban planning, and the foreign service.

## Future Education

Careers in college teaching generally require — in addition to a B.A. — an M.A. (for teaching in community colleges) or a Ph.D. (for teaching in four-year colleges and universities).

## General Preparation

The skills needed for success in the history program are fundamental skills: the ability to read well, to write clearly, and to think critically.

**California State  
University, Fresno**

**Department of  
History**

**559.278.2153**

**B.A. in History**

**M.A. in History**

**Secondary Teaching  
Credential in  
Social Science**

**Minor in History**

**Jewish Studies  
Certificate**

**FRESNO STATE**

Discovery. Diversity. Distinction.

# History

## High School Preparation

Students should meet California State University's admission requirements in terms of college preparatory course requirements, grade point average, and test scores.

## College Program

Students should consult the university's *General Catalog* for specific major and university requirements. Community college transfers should consult their catalogs to ensure that courses taken are CSU transferable (baccalaureate level). Students in community colleges might consider taking United States History (Fresno State History 11 or 12), History of Western Civilization (Fresno State History 1 and 2), and World History (HIST 20 and 21) before transferring to Fresno State.

## General Education

Students should complete as many of the Fresno State General Education requirements as possible during the freshman and sophomore years, whether they are attending Fresno State or a community college. Community colleges can certify up to 39 of the units required in Fresno State's General Education pattern.

## Course Requirements

Since changes may occur, students should consult the *General Catalog* and a Fresno State adviser prior to registering for classes.

### Required Lower Division

Freshman-Sophomore level courses

World History I (HIST 20)

World History II (HIST 21)

Introduction to Historical Skills (HIST 4)

Select two classes from the following:

Colonial America (HIST 3)

European Civilization (HIST 5)

East Asian Civilization (HIST 6)

African Civilization (HIST 7)

Republics of Latin America (HIST 8)

Russian and Eurasian Civilization (HIST 9)

### Required Upper Division

Historical Research and Writing (HIST 100W)

### Upper-Division Electives

Select nine classes, chosen from three fields, such as the following:

Ancient Greece

England and the Empire

European Cultural History

Modern Mexico

Renaissance

Russia and Eurasia in the 20th Century

The American Civil War

**For additional  
information, write**

**California State  
University, Fresno  
Department of  
History**

5340 North Campus Dr.  
M/S SS21  
Fresno, California  
93740-8019

**Visit or call**

**Department of  
History**

Social Science Building,  
Room 101  
559.278.2153  
[www.csufresno.edu/historydept](http://www.csufresno.edu/historydept)

**FRESNO**  
**STATE**

Discovery. Diversity. Distinction.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This document is for general informational purposes only. The information is subject to change; consult the appropriate department or an academic adviser. Entering freshmen must follow the revised General Education program effective fall 1999 and thereafter. The university catalog and schedule of courses are available online at [www.fresnostate.edu/ClassSchedule](http://www.fresnostate.edu/ClassSchedule) and [www.fresnostate.edu/catalog](http://www.fresnostate.edu/catalog).

Revised 5/15