

History

Course 21H

There are many good reasons to study history at MIT. The faculty represents a wide range of intellectual interests and is equally committed to undergraduate teaching and the production of new scholarship. Students are encouraged to study the past from a variety of perspectives — social, economic, cultural, and political — and to understand the world they inhabit as a product of historical processes. The curriculum teaches students how to analyze different kinds of source materials, to develop their critical reasoning skills, and to write analytically.

History at MIT

About 70 subjects in the areas of Ancient, American, European, East and South Asian, and Middle Eastern history are offered. A number of these subjects complement study in anthropology, architecture, economics, literature, political science, science and technology, urban studies and planning, and women's and gender studies. Students are also able to cross register in courses at Harvard University and Wellesley College.

Undergraduate Program

Courses of study available in history are a full major (Course 21H); a joint major with science or engineering (Course 21E or Course 21S); a minor; or a concentration. Students may also choose history subjects as individual electives.

The goals of the history curriculum are to lead students from basic survey courses into more focused studies of individual countries or periods of time and to encourage them to think about broader analytical and comparative issues in historical study.

Major

The requirements for a full major in history are four required subjects, including a senior thesis; a program of seven subjects from the history curriculum; and three subjects from a second humanities, arts, or social

sciences field. The joint majors in history with science or engineering require seven history subjects; six subjects in a field of science, engineering, or psychology; and a senior thesis.

Minor

Students choosing to minor in history must complete six subjects, with at least one subject from each of three designated categories. The undergraduate seminar in historical methods, offered each spring semester, is required during the junior year.

Minors in Regional Studies, designed to be interdisciplinary, combine foreign language study with humanities and the arts, social sciences, and historical studies. The following programs are currently available: African and African Diaspora, Applied International, Asian and Asian Diaspora, Latin American and Latino, Middle Eastern, and Russian Studies.

Concentration

To fulfill a concentration in history, a minimum of three subjects is required. Students may also propose interdisciplinary concentrations, including historical study in American Studies, Ancient and Medieval Studies, Black Studies, Asian and Asian Diaspora Studies, Latin American and Latino Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, and Russian and Eurasian Studies.

Research

Through the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP), students are able to work closely with members of the history faculty, obtaining firsthand experience in research activity and earning either credit or money.

Post-Baccalaureate Opportunities

History majors have gone on to graduate study in history and in fields including Classics, Middle Eastern Studies, Asian Studies, Economics, Law, and Education.

Contact Information

For more information, please contact:

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The MIT Course Catalog contains further information on the Institute, including all graduate and undergraduate courses and programs. Please visit the MIT Course Catalog website for more details at <http://web.mit.edu/catalog/index.html>.

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