HISTORY MAJOR

ADMISSION TO THE MAJOR

How do I join?
Any history faculty member may serve as an advisor by agreement with the
student. If you are not certain which faculty member would be an appropriate
advisor for your intended course of study, you should meet with the department
chair, currently Gary Shaw (gshaw@wesleyan.edu) and beginning with spring
2018, Demetrius Eudell (deudell@wesleyan.edu). Talk to your advisor or the
chair and then go to your portfolio and declare the history major.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE HISTORY MAJOR FOR THE CLASS
OF 2018 AND 2019

What next?
The breadth of topics covered by the Department of History allows students to
create geographic, thematic, or chronological unity in their own unique course of
study. A history major will develop two concentrations by choosing four courses
from each of two thematic modules. (The full list of modules is provided below.)

To be a history major, you need eleven credits; at least eight must be history
credits in two modules. There are no prerequisites to declare a history major.

There is only one required course for all history majors: HIST362. It is offered
only in the fall and should be taken in your junior year.

What counts?
• At least eight of the 11 courses must be history courses, and at least two of
  those should be history seminars.
• You may also count one first-year seminar (HIST 100-149) and one senior
  research tutorial toward the major.
• Two courses taken outside of Wesleyan, for example, during the semester
  abroad, may be included among the history courses.
• Up to three courses in other departments, programs, or colleges may be
  counted toward the total of 11 required courses with the approval of the
  student’s advisor.

Is there a senior research project?
Yes. See the Honors/Capstone section for more details.

What are the modules?
Modules are fields of concentration that provide a thematic, geographic, or
chronological unity for the courses you take for the history major. Any one
course may belong to several modules, but for the major it may be counted only
among those that are within a module. HIST362 cannot be included in
any module, but the two additional seminars required for the major must be.

Students consult with their advisors to identify the modules and the courses
needed to complete the major. With advisor approval, students may occasionally
create their own coherent module.

The modules reveal the richness and depth of the history curriculum. The
department offers modules in many subjects and you can also fashion your own.
In fact, over 40 different modules have been pursued by students. For a fuller
description, go to Descriptions of Modules. (http://www.wesleyan.edu/history/
Modules/Description%20of%20Modules.html) Some of the currently popular
modules include:
• Europe
• North America
• Empires & Encounters
• Revolutions & Social Movements
• War & Violence
• Visual Arts & Culture
• Religion
• Intellectual History
• Economy & Society
• Contemporary History
• Nation & Ethnicity

You may also go to the Department of History’s Modules (http://
www.wesleyan.edu/history/Modules/Courses%20in%20Modules.html) page for
more information.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE HISTORY MAJOR FOR THE CLASS
OF 2020 AND BEYOND

In general: The major program in history consists of at least nine history
courses. These must include one Introduction to History course (numbered from
150-189), normally taken as a freshman or sophomore, and eight other courses,
numbered 200 or higher. Students must also complete two modules and do a
capstone research requirement.

In detail, a major will have:
• nine history courses, including
  • one Introduction to History course numbered between 150-189,
    normally taken as a freshman or sophomore at Wesleyan
  • A minimum of eight other HIST courses, including the following:
    • All majors must include at least one course focused on the period
      before 1800 in their nine HIST courses. It can also count toward a
      module.
    • HIST362, the required seminar that all majors must take, typically
      during the fall semester of the junior year
    • two other HIST seminars, numbered 300 or above, taken at
      Wesleyan
    • Note that only two history courses taken outside of Wesleyan may
      be counted toward the nine required history courses and these will
      count as non-seminar classes.

• Modules: Students pursue two modules, each composed of four courses
  with a thematic, geographic, or chronological unity, assembled from both
  history and non-history department courses. Students may create their own
  modules, but most select their modules from the large list prepared by the
  department faculty. In either case, students work closely with their advisors
  to identify their modules and the specific courses that are at the core of their
  major programs.
• Here are a few things to remember about the courses in your modules:
  • A course may be used in only one of a student’s modules.
  • Most courses in modules will be HIST courses, but up to three
    courses from other departments or programs may count toward
    the modules.
  • HIST362 cannot be included in any module.
History Major

- Pre-1800 courses may count towards modules.

**Research Project:** Every major must complete a substantial research project completed at Wesleyan under departmental faculty supervision.

**LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT**

Is there a foreign language requirement? There is no foreign language requirement for history majors, but the department strongly advises all history majors to learn at least one foreign language.

**TRANSFER CREDIT**

Transfer credit must be preapproved by the appropriate department before the course is taken. All preapproved credits will be posted to the student’s transcript for graduation credit. However, history majors wishing to count transfer credit toward the history major must consult with their history advisor in advance, and upon their return to Wesleyan provide their advisor with syllabi and other materials, such as exams and papers, from the course(s) that they wish to apply toward the history major. Once approved by the advisor, it may count for major credit.

**CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE**

**APPLIES TO ALL CLASS YEARS**

All history majors try out their skills in a senior research project. It can be a senior thesis or a senior essay written in a tutorial or in a 300-level seminar. The senior research project gives all history majors an opportunity to explore a topic they are passionate about.

- **Research Project:** Every major must complete a substantial research project completed at Wesleyan under departmental faculty supervision.
  - This project may take the form of an Honors thesis or a senior essay done through an individual tutorial (e.g. HIST409 or HIST403) or a research paper completed in an advanced seminar in one of the student’s chosen modules, with the approval of the student’s advisor and the instructor of that course. A paper completed in an advanced seminar must be in addition to the course’s normal requirements.