Working with Course Lists

Undergraduate programs in History focus on new ways to understand the past and new ways to use what we know. Department faculty offer three different degree programs: the B.A. in History, the B.A. in Global Studies, and the interdepartmental B.A. or B.S. in Ethics, History, and Public Policy (described both here and in the catalog section on Interdepartmental Majors). All three focus on connections between past and present and on how historical knowledge facilitates understanding of social, cultural, and policy change.

Our degree programs emphasize empirical methods and conceptual analysis, as well as specific research skills relevant to many types of jobs and further professional training. The Department's mission also includes courses introducing students to various societal units and diverse types of controversial public issues, thus contributing actively to both liberal education and professional development.

Each of the three degree programs combines a structured sequence of courses, training in research methods, theoretical concepts, and analytical writing skills, plus a considerable array of electives. Each program stems from the teaching and research strengths of a department that is internationally known for its innovative historical and anthropological approaches to the study of social, cultural, and policy change.

Our degree programs prepare students for many career options. There is, of course, a historical profession, composed largely of research scholars and teachers who have completed a Ph.D., and graduates of the CMU History Department have gone on to earn doctorates at Harvard, Northwestern, and other major universities. More often, graduates of our department pursue post-undergraduate professional school, such as law, business administration, public policy, urban planning, journalism, the ministry, or social work. Most schools in these fields prefer students who have acquired a strong liberal education and broad perspectives on human problems, rather than students with narrowly specialized training or skills.

History is also excellent preparation for careers that may begin immediately upon graduation, including business; indeed, most graduates of history departments, at Carnegie Mellon and elsewhere, take jobs in business and management. Having been trained to analyze subtle and complex issues, to dig out information and make sense of it, and to present their findings effectively, our graduates do extremely well in many types of organizations, both public and private. The U.S. Foreign Service is another traditional avenue for graduates from history departments, especially in combination with foreign language skills.

### Major in History

#### 79-104 Global Histories

- 79-113 Freshman Seminar: Rethinking Race: The Shaping of the African American Experience
- or 79-157 Freshman Seminar: Feast & Famine: Population & Family Systems in Past and Present (9 units)
- 79-125 Disastrous Encounters *
- 79-112 & 79-113 Race, Nationality, and Culture in American Society - Culture and Identity in American Society
- 79-173 /174 Freshman Seminar: Barack Obama and the History of Race in America

- 79-155 Freshman Seminar: Rethinking Race: The Shaping of the African American Experience
- see Instructor

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- 79-1130 Freshman Seminar: Rethinking Race: The Shaping of the African American Experience
- see Instructor

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