History Major Checklist of Degree Requirements

History Major (40 hours)

Lower Division Requirements (15 hours/5 courses):
6 hours 100-level Survey (choose any two of the following) 6 hours 200-level Survey (choose any two of the following)
110 Western Civilization to 1500 260 American History to 1865
111 Western Civilization 1500-1815 261 American History since 1865
112 Western Civilization Since 1815 270 The African-American to 1865
140 Asia to 1500 271 The African-American Since 1865
141 Asia Since 1500
170 World History I: Problems in the Human Past
171 World History II: Problems in the Human Past

3 hours HIST 295 Historical Methods (HIST 295 must be taken before HIST 495)

Upper Division Requirements (25 hours/8 courses) at the 300/400 level:
- Majors must take a minimum of one class each from Groups A, B, and C (consult the undergraduate catalog to see which courses are in which group) plus 4 electives at the 300 or 400 level. Although HIST 390, 395, 398, 399, 469, 470, 492, 493, 494, and 496 are not assigned to any specific group, they all are available for credit in the major as one of the four electives.
- Majors must take at least 6 hours/2 courses at the 400 level in addition to HIST 495 (and for licensure students in addition to HIST 400). At least one of these 400-level courses must be taken before HIST 495.

Upper Division Distribution Requirement (9 hours/3 courses):
Group A Group B Group C

Upper Division Electives (12 hours/4 courses)

HIST 495 Senior Thesis (4 hours/1 course)

Majors must take HIST 295 and at least one 400-level course before HIST 495.

History Major FAQ
What are the differences between 300- and 400-level courses?
A survey of current practices among NIU History faculty indicates that 400-level classes differ from 300-level classes. They often have a more focused thematic emphasis or chronological scope than 300-level courses. 400-level courses tend to be writing intensive and have fairly small enrollments. If cross-listed as 500-level courses, they will include graduate students who must do additional work to earn graduate credit. 400-level courses are likely to require either historiographical writing assignments (e.g. book reviews, state-of-the-field essays) or research projects based on primary sources. 400-level courses tend to emphasize historiographical thought through reading, analysis, and discussion of historical scholarship. Individual faculty have discretion to decide which of these identified elements they emphasize in their respective classes, and some may employ these pedagogical methods in history classes at other levels as well.

What is the logic behind the numbering of upper division history courses?
The subject matter of an upper division history course does more to dictate its number than any other factor. Higher numbers do not therefore represent increased difficulty.

What exactly are groups A, B, and C?
These groups are designed to ensure that history majors have geographic and temporal breadth in their studies. A is pre-1800, B is non-western, and C is post-1800 western (US and Europe). Because certain courses could fall under more than one group or do not clearly fall into a single group, majors should never depend on the descriptions above in determining a course’s designated group. Majors should always check the lists for Groups A, B, and C in the undergraduate catalog.

(See reverse for other degree requirements)
General Education, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and University Degree Requirements

See a CLAS advisor on a regular basis to ensure that you are meeting the following requirements in a timely fashion:

**Core Competency Requirements** (0-12 hours) ENGL (103 and 104; or 105); COMS 100; MATH (101 or at least a "C" in 155, 201, 206, 210, 211, or 229). Some or all of these required hours may be reduced by passing competency exams.

**Distributive Studies Area Requirements** (29 hours, with no more than three courses in one department. History courses do not count for history majors; they do count for history minors. See catalog for course choices).
- Humanities and the Arts (9-12 hours in two colleges, with no more than 6 hours in one department).
- Sciences and Math (7-11 hours in at least two but not more than three departments).
- Social Sciences (6-9 hours in at least two departments).
- Interdisciplinary Studies (3-6 hours).

**B.A. Degree Requirement for history majors:** Candidates for the Bachelor of Arts degree must demonstrate competence in a foreign language equivalent to that attained in two years of college instruction. See the Undergraduate Catalog for the ways in which one can fulfill this requirement.

**B.S. Degree Requirement for history majors:** Candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Science in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences must demonstrate competence in laboratory science/mathematical/computational skills. This requirement may be met by completing one of the five sequences listed in the Undergraduate Catalog under the heading "College Requirement for the B.S. Degree."

**To comply with NIU university requirements you will also need:**
- A minimum of 120 semester hours (that can be applied toward the bachelors degree) for graduation.
- At least 40 of those 120 hours in 300-400 level courses, including at least 12 hours in the major taken at NIU.
  - Completion of history major requirements (7 300/400-level classes and 495) provides 25 of these 40 hours.
  - The other 15 must be completed with coursework in other departments or additional history courses.
- No more than 50 semester hours in your major. (This limit applies to all majors in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences).
- To attain a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.00 in all credit earned at NIU and 2.00 in NIU courses in your major. (There are higher requirements for those seeking admission to teacher licensure and to student teaching; see departmental advisor in teacher licensure for details).
- To meet the residence requirement. This requirement can be satisfied by taking the last 30 hours in NIU courses. See the undergraduate catalog for a more detailed statement and exceptions.

**Please note:**
Students seeking teacher licensure must complete significant additional course work, primarily in professional education and the social sciences. For a complete explanation of licensure guidelines, including admission and retention requirements and a projected timetable for program completion, students should consult with the department's office of teacher licensure as soon as possible. Information is also available online at [http://www.niu.edu/history/teacher_certification/index.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/history/teacher_certification/index.shtml).

Seeing a history advisor as well as a college advisor and your minor advisor each semester will help ensure that you graduate in a timely manner.

(See reverse for major requirements)

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