History Department Checklist of Requirements (effective 2010-11 catalog year)

A. 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.

B. Distributive Studies Areas 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.)

Humans and the Arts (9-12 hours in 2 colleges, with no more than 6 h. 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) _____; _____.

Skill Requirement for B.A. Degree: Foreign Language (2 yrs. or equivalent) _____.

Skill Requirement for B.S. Degree (with history major): 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." The Department of History also has a separate handout listing these sequences.

C. History Major (40 hours)

6 hours 100-level Survey (choose any two of the following) _______ _______.
   110 Western Civilization to 1500
   111 Western Civilization 1500-1815
   112 Western Civilization Since 1815
   140 Asia to 1500
   141 Asia Since 1500
   171 The World Since 1500

3 hours HIST 391 Historical Methods _____.

21 hours (seven courses) at the 300/400 level, of which at least 6 hours (two courses) must be at the 400 level.* Choose any combination of fields, but include no more than four courses in any one field. (Courses are listed under the field headings in the print catalog.) At least one 400-level field course must be taken prior to the senior thesis.

Ancient-Medieval  _______ _______ _______ United States  _______ _______ _______
European/British  _______ _______ _______ Latin American  _______ _______ _______
Russian  _______ _______ _______ Global  _______ _______ _______
Asian/African  _______ _______ _______ Public  _______ _______

4 hours HIST 491 Senior Thesis (or HIST 491H for University or Departmental Honors students) _____.

*A survey of current practices among NIU History faculty indicates that classes at the 400-level are substantially different from 300-level classes. Students can normally expect some combination of the characteristics listed below in 400-level HIST classes, any of which provides valuable training for thesis preparation. Individual faculty
have discretion to decide which of the identified elements they emphasize in their respective classes, and some may employ these pedagogical methods in HIST classes at other levels, as well.

✓ 400-level HIST classes tend to be writing intensive.

✓ 400-level HIST classes tend to have fairly small enrollments.

✓ 400-level HIST classes tend to emphasize higher-level historiographical thought through the reading, analysis, and active discussion of historical scholarship.

✓ 400-level HIST classes are likely to require either historiographical writing assignments (i.e., book reviews, state-of-the-field essays) or research projects based on primary sources.

✓ 400-level HIST classes tend to have a more focused thematic emphasis or chronological scope than 300-level classes.

✓ When cross-listed as 500-level classes, 400-level classes may include graduate students (who usually do additional work to earn graduate credit).

TO COMPLY WITH 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 hours in 300-400 level courses, including at least 12 hours in the major taken at NIU.
  * Completion of the History major requirements (7 300/400-level classes, 391, and 491) provides 28 of these 40 hours. The other 12 must be completed with coursework in other departments or additional History courses (although no student may count more than 50 hours in the major toward the 120 – see below).

___ 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 education and to student teaching; see departmental advisor in teacher certification for details.)

___ To meet the residence requirement: This can be satisfied by taking the last 30 hours in NIU courses. See the undergraduate catalog for a more detailed statement and exceptions.

ALSO NOTE:
Students seeking secondary school teacher certification must complete significant additional course work, primarily in professional education and the social sciences. For a complete explanation of certification guidelines, including admission and retention requirements and a projected timetable for program completion, students should consult with the department's office of teacher certification as soon as possible.

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