Department of History

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History is the study of the human past. It is both a subject matter and a way of thinking—a discipline. No people, time, or place is neglected in the investigation of the human community’s historical record. And no method is alien to the historian’s quest for understanding. The historian’s interests embrace the permanent and changing concerns of our civilization: the individual and society; the emergence of nations; the rise and fall of empires; race and ethnicity; class, gender, and status; war and revolution; science and technology; slavery and emancipation; dictatorship and democracy; rural life and urbanization; the interaction of human communities and the environment; the struggle for empowerment waged by minorities, women, and workers; the life of the mind; religion; and culture. Because every succeeding generation has new questions to ask of the past, history is constantly being rewritten. The discipline of history rests on the discovery, evaluation, and ordering of evidence. It sharpens critical-thinking, reading, and writing skills and gives students practice in the use of these basic tools of modern life. The study of history is excellent preparation for careers in a wide variety of fields, including business, journalism, government, information science, museum administration, and the law.

Distinction
The department offers the following two options:

1. Students who earn a 3.50/4.00 cumulative GPA for all UIC courses and a 3.75/4.00 GPA in all courses taken in the Department of History at UIC will be awarded Departmental Distinction.

2. Students who earn a 3.25/4.00 cumulative GPA for all UIC courses and 3.50/4.00 GPA in all courses taken in the Department of History at UIC may choose to complete an honors thesis while enrolled in HIST 398. To qualify for honors, the student must earn at least a grade of B in HIST 398.

Degree Programs
• BA with a Major in History (http://catalog.uic.edu/ucat/colleges-depts/liberal-arts-sciences/hist/ba-hist)
• BA in the Teaching of History (http://catalog.uic.edu/ucat/colleges-depts/liberal-arts-sciences/hist/ba-teach-hist)

Minor
• Minor in History (http://catalog.uic.edu/ucat/colleges-depts/liberal-arts-sciences/hist/minor-hist)