Department of History

Contact Information:
Campus Location: 913 University Hall (UH)
(312) 996–3141
hist.uic.edu

Administration:
Chair, Chris Boyer, crboyer@uic.edu
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Laura E. Hostetler, hostetle@uic.edu
Director of Teaching of History Program, Robert Johnston, johnsto1@uic.edu
Undergraduate Advisor for Teaching of History Majors, Julie Peters, jlpeters@uic.edu

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

Departmental Distinction
In addition to completing the degree requirements for the Major in
History, a candidate for Departmental Distinction must earn a 3.00/4.00
UIC (cumulative) GPA and a 3.50/4.00 GPA in all courses taken in the
Department of History at UIC.

High Departmental Distinction
Students who complete all requirements for Departmental Distinction with
a 3.75 GPA in all courses taken in the Department of History at UIC will
be awarded High Departmental Distinction.

Highest Departmental Distinction
Students who complete all requirements for High Departmental
Distinction and complete HIST 398 with a grade of A will be awarded
Highest Departmental Distinction.

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)