

## The History Major at Oberlin College

Beginning on April 19, 2010, with the opening of registration for Fall 2010 courses, the major in History will be revised as follows. Students who declared their majors in History before April 19, 2010 are permitted to opt for the new major, or they may choose to follow the previously published requirements for the History major.

**Advanced Placement:** Students with a grade of 4 or 5 on the US History AP examination may receive four hours of *social science credit toward graduation, but such credit may not be applied to the major*. Students with a grade of 4 or 5 on the European History AP examination or the World History AP examination may receive three hours of *social science credit toward graduation, but such credit may not be applied to the major*. Students receiving scores of 6 or 7 for IB History of the Americas or IB European History may be eligible to receive three hours of *credit toward the History major; to apply for credit, students should bring all IB course materials, especially papers and written work, to the History Department chair for review*. Students may not receive credit for both AP and IB courses in overlapping areas. No student may receive credit toward graduation for any combination of more than 2 courses in either the IB or AP programs in History. AP or IB credit is granted only during the first year that a student enrolls at Oberlin College.

### History courses are numbered as follows:

- 100-level courses are introductory-level survey classes that focus on large geographical areas over long periods of time. They introduce content as well as historiography, and help students develop skills in historical thinking. History department survey classes are usually composed of a two-semester sequence.
- 200-level courses are also offered without prerequisites, but focus on a theme, smaller time period, particular group of people, or smaller geographical unit. Like 100-level courses, they introduce content as well as historiography, and help students develop skills in historical thinking
- 300-level courses are open to students with appropriate preparation with instructor's consent. They explore a theme, time period, and/or particular location, emphasize the process historians use to do research; these classes include student research in original sources as appropriate.
- 400-level courses are open to students with appropriate preparation with instructor's consent. They focus on exploring the historical scholarship in specific areas, themes, and/or time periods, and emphasize critical reading and historiographical work.
- 500-level courses include History 500, a one-semester course Senior Projects course in which seniors pursue an in-depth research project, and History 501-502, the honors sequence, available by invitation to seniors.

### The Major

The History Major requires 9 courses of at least 3 credits, including:

- At least 2 survey courses at the 100-level representing two different geographical areas (excluding FYSP)
- At least 1 course at the 300-level
- At least 1 course at the 400-level. In exceptional cases, students may apply to the department to count a structured private reading in place of a 400-level course. Students seeking this unusual exemption should obtain and complete the appropriate form from the History Department office.

In addition, the 9 courses must include

- At least 1 course designated as “Pre-Modern”
- At least 1 course from each of the following categories:
  - Europe including Russia/USSR
  - North America/US
  - Global/Comparative (outside the Western tradition)/Other geographical areas
- At least 5 courses (equivalent to at least 3 credits each) taught by faculty regularly appointed in the History Department
- No more than 2 courses (equivalent to at least 3 credits each) taken in approved study-away programs
- No more than 3 courses (equivalent to at least 3 credits each) taken from selected courses based on historical methodologies taught in African American Studies, East Asian Studies, and Classics.
  - Note: courses taught by regular faculty jointly appointed in History and another program/department are counted as courses within the History Department; the list of courses approved for the major but outside the History Department is available from the History Department faculty).

Students may find the additional courses needed to complete 9 full courses at the 100- 200- 300- 400- or 500-levels; credit earned in First-Year Seminars taught by members of the Oberlin History Department may also be applied toward the major. Grades below “C–” earned in any History or history-related or transfer course cannot be applied toward the major.

#### **Focus within the History Major.**

Students declaring a history major consult with their adviser to complete a Major Proposal Form, projecting their course work and defining their own area of focus within the major. Majors are expected to develop a balanced program of historical study, and to develop a concentration including coursework focused in a geographic, chronological, or thematic area. Students are encouraged to consider pursuing a senior capstone that focuses on advanced work in their area of concentration in either the one-semester History 500: Senior Projects course, or through the two-semester Honors Program in History 501-502.

#### **Transfer of Credit.**

Students seeking to transfer credit toward the major for classes not taken at Oberlin are urged to consult with their advisors and/or the chair of the History Department in advance. A detailed explanation of History Department Transfer Guidelines is available online or from the Department. Students may be eligible to transfer credit toward the History major for a maximum of two courses completed outside of Oberlin College. Normally, the History Department does not accept toward the major credits earned from two-year institutions after a student has declared a major in History.

## History Department Guidelines on Transfer Credit toward the History Major

1. **Before Spring 2010:** Normally, documented Advanced Placement, concurrent enrollment, and International Baccalaureate credit earned by students before matriculation at Oberlin College will be counted toward their history major as follows:

AP European History:	3 credits for score of 4 or 5
AP American History:	4 credits for score of 4 or 5
AP Global History:	3 credits for score of 4 or 5
IB History of the Americas:	3 credits for score of 6 or 7
IB European History:	3 credits for score of 6 or 7
OCEAN/concurrent enrollment American History courses (must be accompanied by a college transcript)	2-4 credits depending on program

**Beginning Spring 2010:** Students with a grade of 4 or 5 on the US History AP examination may receive four hours of social science credit toward graduation, but such credit may not be applied to the major. Students with a grade of 4 or 5 on the European History AP examination or the World History AP examination may receive three hours of social science credit toward graduation, but such credit may not be applied to the major. Students receiving scores of 6 or 7 for IB History of the Americas or IB European History may be eligible to receive three hours of credit toward the History major; to apply for credit, students should bring all IB course materials, especially papers and written work, to the History Department chair for review. Students may not receive credit for both AP and IB courses in overlapping areas. No student may receive credit toward graduation for any combination of more than 2 courses in either the IB or AP programs in History. AP or IB credit is granted only during the first year that a student enrolls at Oberlin College.

Students may also apply for major credit for OCEAN/concurrent enrollment American History courses (must be accompanied by a college transcript) to earn 2-4 credits toward the History Major depending on program.

2. Normally, the History Department does not accept toward the major credits earned from two-year institutions after a student has declared a major in History. Students wishing to appeal must (1) submit a syllabus in advance; (2) provide information on the professional training of the course instructor; and (3) provide work completed for the course for review by the Chair of the History Department.

3. Normally, students not majoring in history are permitted to transfer credits from history courses earned at regularly accredited colleges and universities to fulfill their general credits toward graduation. They may, however, be asked to submit syllabi and work completed for the course, and may be asked to provide information on the professional training of the instructor.

4. Normally, students majoring in History and seeking to receive credit toward the History major at Oberlin for course work done at regularly accredited colleges and universities in the United States and abroad will be granted credit if they (1) receive preliminary approval for transfer of credit; (2) submit a syllabus for the course; (3) provide information on the professional training of the course instructor; (4) provide work completed for the course for review by the Chair of the History Department on their return and (5) earn a grade equivalent to a "C-" or above.

5. Normally, distance learning and internet-based courses will not count toward the major in History. Students wishing to have such work considered for credit must (1) submit a syllabus in advance; (2) provide information on the professional training of the course instructor; and (3) provide work completed for the course for review by the Chair of the History Department.

6. Students majoring in History are reminded that they can apply to the major no more than 12 credits from classes taught by persons not holding regular appointments in the History Department at Oberlin College. Such classes include those by taught persons holding courtesy appointments in the Oberlin College History Department; all AP and IB classes; and all transfer credits. ***Beginning Spring 2010, students majoring in History may, with departmental approval, transfer up to 2 courses of at least 3-credits earned outside Oberlin, and up to 3 courses of at least 3-credits earned at Oberlin from classes taught by persons not holding regular appointment in the History Department.***

7. Students are encouraged to check the list of courses taught outside the History Department that can, as part of their 12 credits of "outside work" be counted toward the major. The Department Secretary maintains this list. ***Beginning Spring 2010, students should check the list of Oberlin courses outside the History Department that can apply to the History major as a part of their 3-course maximum of work that can be applied to the major.***