

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEW HISTORY MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

NOTE: SEE THE NEW HISTORY BA REQUIREMENTS (ADOPTED MAY 2013) FOR DETAILS

What's different about the new requirements compared to old requirements?

The lower-division requirements remain the same, except that the American Institutions requirement in US History, which everyone has to fulfill for graduation (GE Area F1), is now included as part of the major. The core requirements (HIST 99, 100W, and 102) remain the same, except that HIST 102 is now 4 units. The upper-division requirements are changing from nine 3 unit courses in the old major to six 4 unit courses in the new major. The old major (with American Institutions included) was 48 units. The new major is 46 units.

What happened to all the old courses? Are they no longer being offered?

Most upper-division lecture courses are being converted from 3 units to 4 units. Most of them retain the same course title and number. Some numbers and titles have changed. A lot of old courses are being consolidated under the "Advanced Topics" titles in each field (Ancient, Medieval, Modern Europe, World, Latin America, United States). Some courses that no longer appear on the list of BA requirements will now be offered as Advanced Topics courses in future semesters.

What is different about the new 4 unit courses compared to the old 3 unit courses?

The new 4 unit courses are more intensive and students will be expected to do more work outside of class. Different instructors will devise their own course requirements, but typically, students in 4 unit courses will be required to do primary source research projects, or online projects, multimedia documentaries, field trips, presentations, etc., depending on the individual instructor's preference. The new 4 unit courses will meet for the same amount of time and in the same time slots as the old 3 unit courses.

Will the new requirements delay my graduation?

The new major will definitely not delay anyone's graduation; in fact, most students will be able to graduate sooner with the new major because it requires fewer units. In addition, the new major is based on 4 unit courses, which make it possible to reach the minimum number of units required for graduation much more quickly than with the old 3 unit courses. This will help students save money and graduate sooner!

Can I still use the old major requirements?

Yes. Anyone who has been continuously enrolled as a declared History major at SJSU since Spring 2013 (or earlier) may continue using the old major requirements. See the Undergraduate Advisor for help with determining how new 4 unit courses can fulfill old 3 unit requirements. Generally speaking, you will need to take fewer 4 unit courses to fulfill the old major requirements which were based on 3 unit courses.

Who has to use the new major requirements?

All students who begin continuous enrollment as History majors at SJSU in Fall 2013 or later must use the new requirements. Any current majors can choose to use the new requirements as well. See the Undergraduate Advisor for help with determining whether you can graduate faster with the old or new requirements. The new 4 unit courses will probably make it possible to graduate sooner, whether you use the old or new major requirements.

Will courses I have already taken under the old requirements still count toward the new requirements?

Yes. See the Undergraduate Advisor for help with determining how 3 unit courses that you have already completed will help you fulfill the new 4 unit requirements. Generally speaking, 3 unit courses from past years can be used to fulfill 4 unit requirements under the new major, but you might have to take an extra course to make up the difference in units. Even in this case, the new major will require fewer courses than the old major would have required, so you will graduate sooner than you would have under the old major.

What if I have already applied for graduation? Can I still graduate on time?

Yes. See the Undergraduate Advisor for help with determining which new 4 unit courses will fulfill your remaining requirements. You may have to fill out a "Substitution Form" (download from the Registrar's website) if you are not going to take a course that was listed on your major form when you applied for graduation. This is no big deal: see the Undergraduate Advisor for assistance. But it must be done or else you won't graduate!

Which new courses fulfill the old requirements? Which old courses fulfill the new requirements?

You have to see the Undergraduate Advisor to figure this out, whether or not you have applied for graduation already. There will always be some new courses to fulfill old requirements and old courses to fulfill new requirements. Every old course that you have already taken will still "count" toward the new requirements. Every new course that you take will "count" to fulfill any old requirements as well.

Who is the Undergraduate Advisor?

Prof. Gendzel is the Undergraduate Advisor in the Fall and Spring semesters only. During that time, he holds regular drop-in office hours in DMH 137 with no appointment necessary. For summer advising, see Prof. Vasquez, Acting Chair and Acting Undergraduate Advisor, in DMH 134. In Fall 2013, Prof. Gendzel will return as Undergraduate Advisor and Prof. Hill will return as Chair.