To be adopted:

Proposed Changes to History Major

**PRESENT:**

**History Major**
To receive a B.A. degree in History, students must take 48 units (twelve courses). At least 8 units (two courses) must be at the lower-division level; at least 36 units (nine courses) must be at the upper-division level.

Majors must take:

1. At least one World History course and at least one other lower-division course

2. At least four courses in one of the following areas of concentration, including a seminar (HIST 191 [E-Z]):
   - Ancient and Medieval
   - Europe
   - United States
   - Latin America
   - Asia, Africa, and the Middle East

   The seminar HIST 191 (E-Z) is required and must be taken in the student’s area of concentration.

3. At least four courses in at least three other of the above fields.

Students who choose United States as their area of concentration are strongly advised to take HIST 017A, HIST 017B as preparation for upper-division courses in American history.

Lower-division courses taken elsewhere may be counted toward the lower-division requirement, and advance placement units earned in high school may count toward its fulfillment as well. Please consult with the academic advisors for further details.

**PROPOSED:**

**History Major**

The major requirements for the B.A. degree in History are as follows:

1. Lower-division requirements (12 units)
   a) one world history course
   b) HIST 99W (with at least a grade of “C”)
   c) one elective History course

2. Upper-division requirements (40 units)
   a) Twenty-eight (28) units of upper-division history courses, with at least three courses in one area of concentration from the following fields:
      - Ancient and Medieval
      - Europe
      - United States
      - Latin America
      - Asia, Africa, and the Middle East
   
   b) Twelve (12) units of HIST 197, Research for Undergraduates, with at least one course in the student’s area of concentration.

Students must take at least one course in three fields outside the area of concentration.

[no change]

[no change]
Each History major is urged to consult with the academic advisors for quarterly advising and to meet with the Undergraduate Advisor at least one time each year. Appointments can be made through the academic advisors.

JUSTIFICATION:

The History department is proposing a substantial revision of its undergraduate curriculum for majors that will enable students to better develop the critical reading, thinking and writing skills that will be needed to succeed in History.

The revision contains two major new elements: (1) a sophomore course in historical analysis and writing, HIST 99W; (2) replacement of the existing single senior seminar (HIST 191E-Z) with three History Faculty Seminars (HIST 197). A third element -- a thesis track with an Honors option -- is pending, as we work with the Honors Program during revision of Upper Division Honors.

The new requirement that all majors complete HIST 99W will provide rising juniors with critical reading and analysis skills, as well as an introduction to exemplary history writing, earlier in their careers than is presently the case. Such skills used to be taught in small upper-division courses; however, campus growth without faculty resources no longer allows us to offer small upper-division courses across the board. By taking HIST 99W, we expect that majors will get more out of all upper-division courses, since they will go into them with more sophisticated skills.

The second change replaces our single senior seminar (HIST 191E-Z) with three required History Faculty Seminars (HIST 197). Experience showed us that few students entered HIST 191 with the necessary skills to undertake a major research project. By offering students three slightly larger seminars, organized around faculty research agendas, we hope that cumulative learning will lead to much better outcomes. HIST 192 also deploys research across the curriculum, and makes more effective use of faculty resources. The thesis track under development will allow our best and most committed students to follow their HIST 197 courses with a thesis that will help them in gaining graduate school admission or other professional careers in history.

We have carried out the necessary resource analysis for the new curriculum. We project that we can offer an attractive range of HIST 197 courses every year at an appropriate size, since these will be modestly larger than the current HIST 191, and will also replace some of our current smaller upper division courses.

The changes are designed to better develop the critical reading, thinking, and writing skills that will be needed to succeed in the History major.

APPROVALS:

Effective: Fall 2012
Approved by the faculty of the Department of History: May 24, 2011
Approved by the Executive Committee of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences: September 28, 2011
Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy: October 7, 2011