Courses in the Department of History are intended to give the student a broad understanding of the evolution of civilizations, peoples, countries, and institutions, and insight into the meaning of this evolution. They are also designed to prepare graduates for many types of employment.

Because history is basic to many fields, the Department's instruction is designed to aid students interested in the humanities, education, law, journalism, scientific and technical disciplines, public service, and business administration. Students in colleges other than the College of Arts and Sciences who wish to pursue the study of history are encouraged to enroll in courses of interest. The Department of History offers a number of courses that satisfy General Education requirements in the humanities, social sciences, diversity and international courses. It participates actively in the Honors Program and offers to its majors the option of pursuing an Honors certificate. The Department of History also participates actively in interdisciplinary programs.

A Bachelor of Arts (BA) in History requires 48 hours in the major and related disciplines, with 36 hours of History courses across U.S., European, and World History, plus 12 hours of upper-division courses in related departments. A History minor requires 18 hours of History, at least twelve of which must be upper-division. GPA of 2.5 in History courses with no HIST grade below "C."