

## DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

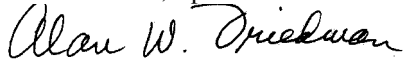
**PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE HISTORY MAJOR IN THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS  
CHAPTER IN THE *UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG 2018-2020***

Dean Randy Diehl in the College of Liberal Arts has filed with the Secretary of the Faculty Council the following proposal to change the History major in the College of Liberal Arts chapter in the *Undergraduate Catalog, 2018-2020*. The Department of History Faculty approved the proposal on February 6, 2017; the College Curriculum Design and Assessment Committee approved it on April 19, 2017, and the Dean and the College faculty approved it on June 5, 2017. The Secretary has classified this proposal as legislation of exclusive interest to one college or school.

The Committee on Undergraduate Degree Program Review recommended approval of the proposal on November 16, 2017, and forwarded it to the Office of the General Faculty. The Faculty Council has the authority to approve this legislation on behalf of the General Faculty. The authority to grant final approval on this legislation resides with the Provost on behalf of the President.

If no objection is filed with the Office of the General Faculty by the date specified below, the legislation will be held to have been approved by the Faculty Council. If an objection is filed within the prescribed period, the legislation will be presented to the Faculty Council at its next meeting. The objection, with reasons, must be signed by a member of the Faculty Council.

To be counted, a protest must be received in the Office of the General Faculty by December 4, 2017.



Alan W. Friedman, Secretary of the General Faculty and Faculty Council  
The University of Texas at Austin

Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and Comparative Literature

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE HISTORY MAJOR IN THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS  
CHAPTER IN THE UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG 2018-2020**

**TYPE OF CHANGE:**     Academic Change/Academic Change  
                                    Degree Program Change (THECB form required)

**PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION:**     Exclusive     General     Major

**1. IF THE ANSWER TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IS YES, THE COLLEGE MUST CONSULT LINDA DICKENS, DIRECTOR OF ACCREDITATION AND ASSESSMENT, TO DETERMINE IF SACSCOC APPROVAL IS REQUIRED.**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • Is this a new degree program?                                  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| • Is this program being deleted?                                 | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| • Does the program offer courses that will be taught off campus? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| • Will courses in this program be delivered electronically?      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**2. EXPLAIN CHANGE TO DEGREE PROGRAM AND GIVE A DETAILED RATIONALE FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL CHANGE:**

**Background and Planning for Changes to the History Major 2018-20:**

Minimal changes have been made to our History major requirements since the early 1960s. The last significant revision was for the 2002-04 catalog when additional geographic and upper-division hours were included in the major. Since then, the History faculty have had periodic discussions about how to improve the History major in order to prepare our students to be well-educated and well-prepared citizens for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Recent initiatives at the University level and by COLA to enhance undergraduate education at UT Austin in combination with intensified assessment resulted in a focused set of discussions over the past two years with the History Department's Curriculum Review Committee and the faculty. In addition, the recent CLASP exercise provided additional guidelines for rethinking how we educate our undergraduates and the rationale behind our major. The History Department's CLASP report details those discussions.

**Overall Rationale:**

In 2016, the History faculty voted to change our degree requirements to enhance:

- core disciplinary skills and undergraduate research for all majors
- more choices for the exploration of a wide range of history topics and periods but with the opportunity to specialize according to individual students' interests
- intellectual breadth in terms of skills (writing, analysis, research, presentation) as well as content (chronological and geographical)
- integration of intellectual breadth and flexible skills that support a wide range of career exploration and development in our classes and programs
- expansion of small class requirements that would encourage students to pursue research projects
- proactive quality control of a UT Austin degree and the value of a residential experience.

The following changes below were voted on and approved by the History faculty. This configuration fits well with the major conceptual issues/challenges for a new History major for 2050 and as outlined in the CLASP report.

**The Key Proposed Changes to the History Major and Rationale:**

**1. Requirement: In Residence Requirement for History Major**

**Change: Raise from eighteen to twenty-one hours in residence for History Major**

**Rationale:** Will require an additional history course in residence at UT Austin. Emphasis on proactive quality control of a UT Austin degree and the value of a residential experience. It seeks to defend pro-

actively the quality of a UT Austin education for History majors through channeling residency and flag courses through the department.

2. **Requirement: United States History Geographic Area**  
**Change: Require three hours of US History in residence:**  
**Rationale:** Increasingly, large numbers of students satisfy University core requirements off campus via high school dual enrollment, AP, and community college courses that do not provide adequate preparation in US History. To ensure quality of knowledge in US History, History majors arriving core-complete, with six hours of US History in transfer or credit by exam, must complete 3 hours of US History in residence. By being in residence, the US History could also fulfill a required Cultural Diversity in the US (CD) flag or could also be upper-division, and would be taught by UT Austin faculty or lecturers.
  
3. **Requirement: New Chronological breadth**  
**Add: Add requirement that at least two courses will focus on the pre-1800 period**  
**Rationale:** This change will ensure historical perspective. Courses will be approved for this area if the majority of the course content deals with a period prior to 1800. Such courses with a chronological breadth marker may also fulfill the appropriate geographic area. Lists of courses that qualify for the pre-1800 marker will be created by faculty and advisors and programmed into audit system.
  
4. **Requirement: Geographic Areas**  
**Add: Add more global breadth**  
**Rationale:** In addition to the US History requirements, the major will require one course in at least four of the following six areas: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, Transnational. Currently there is one list for Latin American, Asia, Africa, Middle East. Each of these areas will be separated and a Transnational Area will be added. All History courses except methods courses will be given a geographic area by faculty, course scheduler, and advisors. Lists will be provided to college and programmed into audit system.
  
5. **Requirement: Historiography Course - Lower division**  
**Add: Add HIS 318W - *Thinking Like a Historian* (was HIS 317N - topic 2)**  
**Rationale:** Our trial run of HIS 317N - topic 2, *Thinking Like a Historian* proved to be a much-needed sophomore level methods experience. By fall 2018, HIS 317N topic 2 will have a stand-alone number HIS 318W. It will continue to have Course Level Independent inquiry and Writing flags. We need more writing flag courses because COLA students now need three. To better focus on disciplinary skills and undergraduate research competency, this course would replace three hours of history in any area. The course will be open to History majors, History minors with remaining seats for non-majors. There will be common essential elements to this capstone that faculty must incorporate into their course but otherwise the content and organization of the seminar will be up to each individual faculty. Whether the class should be freshman, sophomore, or upper-division level sparked much faculty debate and we will continue to consider that question for future catalogs. For now, our goal is to have students take it in their sophomore year with a prerequisite of nine hours of history. The course would not be cross listed and would not count toward geographic or Pre-1800 requirements. The course may be taken only once for credit. Students may check course descriptions for each section during registration.
  
6. **Requirement: HIS 350L/350R Undergraduate Seminar requirement**  
**Remove: HIS 350L/350R will no longer be required for all majors**  
**Rationale:** This seminar has effectively served as a de facto capstone seminar since at least one is required to graduate with a History major. However, until recently, with the introduction of Writing and II flags for this seminar at the course level, the “capstone” quality has been implicit rather than explicit and that must change. In addition, given the application of Writing *and* II flags at the course level (previously 350s had only carried the Substantial Writing Component categorization, the previous incarnation of the Writing flag), some faculty were either not aware that their 350 now carried an II flag or did not wish to include the Independent Inquiry component in their course which is essential for a capstone seminar. The optimal solution is to create a new capstone seminar that is also designated by a

higher course number (HIS 378W) and which will carry Writing and II Flags at the course level. We expect to continue to offer and recommend 350s as upper-division Writing Flag topics seminars, flagged at the course level. Faculty may also apply for an independent inquiry flag on an instructor-level basis. Topics may fulfill the geographic area and/or Pre-1800 requirements. A request to remove the course level II flag from the 350s will take effect for fall 2018.

**7. Requirement: A Capstone Research Seminar**

**Add: HIS 378W Capstone research seminar in History**

**Rationale:** HIS 378W will be a Capstone Course (similar to IRG 378). It implements key elements highlighted by faculty in the spring 2016 survey. It builds on the new commitment to undergraduate research. Majors will take at least two writing flag courses and II flag courses in the department through the methods and capstone requirements. For fall 2018, a standalone capstone course will be created and designated by a high course number HIS 378W. It will carry Writing and II Flags at the course level. There will be common essential elements to this capstone that faculty must incorporate into their course but otherwise the content and organization of the seminar will be up to each individual faculty. Our goal is to have students take it in the junior or senior year with a prerequisite of twelve hours of history. HIS 318W would be strongly recommended but not required. The capstone would not count toward geographic or Pre-1800 requirements, nor will it be cross listed with other departments. Student may check each course description on line for each section during registration. May be taken only once. Will be open to History majors, History minors with some seats for non-majors.

**3. THIS PROPOSAL INVOLVES: (Please check all that apply)**

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Courses in other colleges                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Courses in proposer's college that are frequently taken by students in other colleges  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flags  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Course in the core curriculum                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in course sequencing for an existing program  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Courses that have to be added to the inventory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change in admission requirements (external or internal) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirements not explicit in the catalog language (e.g., lists of acceptable courses maintained by department office) |  |

**4. SCOPE OF PROPOSED CHANGE:**

- a. Does this proposal impact other colleges/schools? Yes  No   
If yes, then how would you do so?
- b. Do you anticipate a net change in the number of students in your college? Yes  No   
If yes, how many more (or fewer) students do you expect?
- c. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from outside of your college taking classes in your college? Yes  No   
If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.
- d. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from your college taking courses in other colleges? Yes  No   
If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.

**If 4 a, b, c, or d was answered with yes, please answer the following questions:**

**If the proposal has potential budgetary impacts for another college/school, such as requiring new sections or a non-negligible increase in the number of seats offered, at least one contact must be at the college-level.**

How many students do you expect to be impacted?

Impacted schools must be contacted and their response(s) included:

Person communicated with:

Date of communication:

Response:

- e. Does this proposal involve changes to the core curriculum or other basic education requirements (42-hour core, signature courses, flags)? No. If yes, explain:

**If yes, Undergraduate Studies must be informed of the proposed changes and their response included:**

Person communicated with:

Date of communication:

Response:

- f. Will this proposal change the number of hours required for degree completion? No.

Note: THECB Semester Credit Hour Change Form required, download from URL:

<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/DocFetch.cfm?DocID=2419&format=doc>

If yes, explain:

## 5. COLLEGE/SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS

Department approval date: February 6, 2017 Department of History Faculty, Jaqueline Jones, Chair,  
Susan Deans-Smith, Associate Chair

College approval date: April 19, 2017 COLA Curriculum Design & Assessment Committee

Dean approval date: June 5, 2017 COLA Faculty and Dean Randy Diehl

## PROPOSED NEW CATALOG TEXT:

### History Major

Thirty semester hours of history, at least fifteen hours of which must be upper-division and twenty-one hours of which must be in-residence, including

[1. ~~At least six semester hours in United States history]~~

[2. ~~At least six semester hours in European history]~~

[3. ~~At least six semester hours in Latin American, African, Asian, or Middle Eastern history]~~

1. HIS 318W - Thinking Like a Historian. Lower-division history methods course

2. At least six semester hours in United States history, of which at least three hours must be completed in residence

3. At least twelve semester hours of history chosen from each of four of the following specific geographic areas: Africa; Asia; Europe; Latin America; Middle East; or Transnational

4. At least six semester hours must be designated as Pre-1800 history

5. HIS 378W Capstone Course in History

[~~At least three hours of non-United States history must be in upper-division coursework. All history majors must take History 350L or 350R as part of their 30 semester hours.~~]