

History Major with Topical Emphasis - Bachelor of Arts (BA)

What is a topical emphasis in cultural and social history?

Students in UW-La Crosse History Department's **history major with topical emphasis in cultural and social history** will study the history of cultural and social forces embodied in movements and organizations; art, literature, and film; areas of human experience including apparel, architecture, and culinary practices; and the various commercial media inundating our daily lives. Our students will learn how social and cultural phenomena have historically affected and structured our material and intellectual environment in connection with ethical concerns involving political and economic questions.

In general, the History Department's cultural and social history emphasis will help students develop and make tangible the kinds of relatively intangible skills prospective employers and professional and graduate school admissions committees will value: problem solving, analytical and creative thinking, research skills, the ability to express oneself and one's thoughts clearly and persuasively both verbally and in writing, intercultural communication skills, and the capacity to address immediate concerns with the kind of "big picture" perspective that a historically grounded education provides.

The History Department will particularly encourage students in topical emphases to apply for and undertake internships with organizations and businesses related to individual students' interests, concerns, and plans. Our faculty will work with students, helping to place them in intern positions that will be of genuine value with respect to their intellectual and professional development. Internships along these lines will help students get their "foot in the door" in areas of prospective post-graduation employment and professional development.

What really sets apart the three new topical emphases including cultural and social history is that faculty will work with students to produce portfolios packaging and showcasing the aptitudes and skills they develop over the courses of their undergraduate education. To some, abilities obtained and developed through a traditional liberal education, such as analytical and creative thinking, may seem abstract and without specific content, being notoriously difficult to measure and assess through means such as standardized testing. However, cultural and social history students' portfolios are where their skills, aptitudes, and abilities will become manifestly palpable and concrete.

What is a topical emphasis in public and policy history?

A **topical emphasis in public and policy history** refers to scholarly work that seeks out audiences beyond the classroom and the academic journal. While professional historians may study a vast array of time periods, peoples, and topics, public and policy history is distinct in that it seeks to spread that research to broader audiences, and also to take as its subject of study those attempts to connect history to the people. Public history might include museums and memorials, oral history and landmarks, interpretive signage and educational outreach, heritage and cultural institutions. Policy history could be described as the study of past decision making or government institutions, with an intended audience of present-day representatives from those same groups,

and might include topics or audiences in state legislatures or county government, prisons and courts, government social or environmental agencies, or the like.

What is a topical emphasis in religious studies?

Students in the UWL History Department's **history major with topical emphasis in religious studies** will have an opportunity to study the fascinating phenomenon of religion from a variety of disciplinary perspectives with course offerings in the Departments of History, Philosophy, Sociology and Criminal Justice, Archaeology and Anthropology, and Race, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. The religious studies emphasis challenges students to question common stereotypes about religion and religious people, to become aware of the multiple roles and functions religion plays in human cultural life, and to both critically scrutinize and emphatically understand the rationales that have shaped the wide variety of religious world views, behaviors, and experiences that humans have used in the course of constructing, maintaining, and inhabiting their cultural worlds. In these ways, the religious studies emphasis sharpens students' awareness of and understanding of human cultural diversity and prepares them for responsible global citizenship in a religiously pluralistic world.

Major requirements

(All colleges, excluding teacher certification programs)

40 credits

Code	Title	Credits
Core requirements		
HIS 200	Historiography and Historical Methods	3
HIS 490	History Research Seminar	4
Select nine credits of the following:		9
HIS 210	Survey of the United States	
HIS 220	Survey of Latin American and Latino History	
HIS 230	Survey of Ancient and Medieval Worlds	
HIS 240	Survey of Europe	
HIS 250	Survey of Asia	
HIS 260	Survey of the Middle East	
HIS 280	Survey of the History of Modern Science	
HIS 285	Survey of Modern Africa	
Electives (24 credits total) ¹		
Topical		18
Select 18 credits from one emphasis below, with no more than six of those credits coming from outside the HIS department.		
Regional/world cultural zones		6
Select six credits from any of the regional/world cultural zones listed below.		
Total Credits		40

¹ The 400-level elective HIS courses have the same workload and expectations as 300-level HIS courses, and are open to all juniors, seniors, and sophomores with appropriate preparation.

Topical electives:

Select 18 credits from one emphasis below.

Cultural and social history

Code	Title	Credits
HIS 307	Comic Books and History	
HIS 309	History of U.S. Science and Technology	
HIS 310	Native American History	
HIS 311	Peace and War	
HIS 314	The Holocaust	
HIS 319	Twentieth Century United States	
HIS 324	Civil War and Reconstruction	
HIS 325	America in the Cold War	
HIS 338	Sugar, Coffee, Rubber, Bananas: Commodities in World History	
HIS 364	Gandhi and the World	
HIS 377	U.S. Labor History	
HIS 378	The American West	
HIS 383	Women in South Asia	
HIS 384	The Idea of Asia	
HIS 392	History Through Film	
HIS 397	African Nationalism	
HIS 398	Colonial Africa	
HIS 399	Migration and Empire: 1200-1900	
HIS 406	Topics in Social History	
HIS 407	Government and Society	
HIS 410	British Empire	
HIS 413	Topics in Cultural History	
HIS 450	History Internship/Field Experience	
ENG 301	Foundations for Literary and Cultural Studies	
ENG 348	Studies in Film and Literature	
RGS 373	Gender and Human Rights	
ART 251	Survey of Art History	
ART 301	World Art	

Public and policy history

Code	Title	Credits
HIS 303	Money and Crime	
HIS 317	American Environmental History	
HIS 318	Exhibition Development and Design I	
HIS 319	Twentieth Century United States	
HIS 320	Introduction to Public and Policy History	
HIS 322	Public Education in Wisconsin and America	
HIS 357	Crime and Punishment in America	
HIS 390	Social Justice Informed Public History	
HIS 393	Material Culture	
HIS 407	Government and Society	
HIS 416	History of Wisconsin State and Local Government	
HIS 418	Exhibition Development and Design II	
HIS 450	History Internship/Field Experience	
PUB 210	Contemporary Issues in Government	
PUB 330	Public Policy	
PUB 334	Health Policy	
PUB 338	Environmental Policy	
GEO 305	Geographic Information Systems and Science I	
GEO 405	Geographic Information System and Science II ²	
ENG 307	Writing for Management, Public Relations and the Professions	

ENG 310	Digital Content Writing, Strategy, and Experience Design	
ENG 314	Grant Writing ²	
ENG 327	Publishing in a Digital Age ²	
ENG 335	Introduction to Professional and Technical Writing ²	
ARC 300	Cultural Resources Management ²	

² Technical skills courses: Students are encouraged to complete three credits or more from this subset of courses.

Religious studies

Code	Title	Credits
HIS 326	Modern Christianity	
HIS 327	History of Buddhism	
HIS 328	History of Hinduism	
HIS 329	History of Islam	
HIS 330	History of Religions	
HIS/ARC 331	The Ancient Greek World	
HIS/ARC 332	Ancient Rome and the Mediterranean	
HIS 333	Christianity to 1517	
HIS/ANT/ARC 353	Maya Civilization	
HIS 364	Gandhi and the World	
HIS 401	Japanese Religions	
HIS 415	Religion and Conflict in Modern South Asia	
HIS 450	History Internship/Field Experience	
SOC 315	Religion and Society	
ANT 320	Rites, Rituals and Ceremonies	
SOC 399	Special Topics in Sociology ³	
PHL 310	Metaphysics	
PHL 331	Philosophy of Religion	
PHL 336	International Multicultural Philosophy	
PHL 349	Asian Philosophy	
PHL 360	Zen Buddhism	

³ When appropriately focused.

Total Credits: 18

Regional/world cultural zones electives

Select six credits from any of the following:

Code	Title	Credits
Africa and African Diaspora		
HIS 379	African Environmental History	
HIS 386	Women and Gender in Africa	
HIS 397	African Nationalism	
HIS 398	Colonial Africa	
Asia		
HIS 316	The Vietnam War Era	
HIS 328	History of Hinduism	
HIS 334	Themes in Chinese History	
HIS 335	History of China	
HIS 363	Modern South Asia	
HIS 364	Gandhi and the World	

HIS 382	Imperialism in Asia and the Pacific
HIS 383	Women in South Asia
HIS 384	The Idea of Asia
HIS 394	Modern Japan
HIS 395	Postwar Japan
HIS 401	Japanese Religions
HIS 415	Religion and Conflict in Modern South Asia
Europe	
HIS 311	Peace and War
HIS/ANT 312	Peoples and Cultures of Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union
HIS 314	The Holocaust
HIS/ARC 331	The Ancient Greek World
HIS/ARC 332	Ancient Rome and the Mediterranean
HIS 339	Russia and the Soviet Union
HIS 346	The Middle Ages
HIS 349	Twentieth Century Europe
HIS 351	France and the French Empire: 1750-Present
HIS 352	Germany: 1848-1989
HIS 354	Spain to 1700
HIS 358	French Revolution
HIS 359	Women, Gender and Sexuality in Modern Europe
HIS 373	World War I
HIS 414	Ireland and the World: 1500-present
HIS 420	Global Fascisms
Latin America	
HIS 341	Nineteenth Century Latin America
HIS 342	Twentieth Century Latin America
HIS 344	Latin America: 1450-1830
HIS 345	U.S.-Latin American Relations
HIS 356	History of Mexico
HIS 360	Women, Gender, and Sexuality in Latin America
Middle East	
HIS 329	History of Islam
HIS 361	Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
HIS 362	Human Rights and the Middle East
HIS/ARC 368	History of Babylonian Language and Culture I
HIS/ARC 369	History of Babylonian Language and Culture II
HIS/ARC 374	Ancient Turkey
HIS/ARC 375	Iran before Islam
HIS 389	Women and Gender in the Middle East
HIS/ARC 396	Ancient Syria

Total Credits: 6

Writing portfolio requirement

To be certified for graduation in the history major with topical emphasis, students must submit and have approved a portfolio of professional writing especially geared towards their intended career path. Students must submit writing portfolios by the middle of the semester in which they intend to graduate. Specific deadlines, item requirements, and submission directions are posted on the department website. The list of required material will be different for each of the emphases. The submitted portfolio may include items of coursework completed during the student's undergraduate career, but might also require the production of additional materials. The materials might include a curriculum vitae or résumé, grant applications, a document written for

a public audience, a sample of academic writing, or cover letters for job applications.

Degree requirements

All students must complete the general education, college core, major/minor, and university degree requirements in order to qualify for a degree. The easiest way to track all of these requirements is to refer to the Advisement Report (AR) found in the Student Information System (WINGS) Student Center. All enrolled students have access to the AR.

- General education (<http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/generaleducation/>)
- College core (p. 3)
- Baccalaureate degree requirement (p. 4)

College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities (CASSH/VPA) Bachelor of Arts core requirements

The following conditions apply to one or both Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees:

1. Students majoring in English (writing and rhetoric or literary and cultural studies emphases) or in the department of global cultures and languages must earn a Bachelor of Arts degree. Education majors earn a Bachelor of Science degree; English major: medical professions emphasis majors may earn a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree.
2. Students majoring in other CASSH programs may choose either a B.A. or a B.S. degree.
3. Language courses (ARA, CHI, FRE, GCL, GER, HMG, JPN, RUS, SPA) used to fulfill general education requirement: "Mathematical/logical systems and modern languages" (GE 02, category 2) may also be used to meet the B.A. and B.S. language requirements.
4. All other courses used to meet the requirements below must be in addition to the minimum 42 credits required in the General Education Program.
5. At least one course in the B.A. or B.S. college degree program (core requirements) must be a CASSH designated diversity course.
6. Applicable courses may be found on the CASSH B.A./B.S. Degree Option Course List (<https://www.uwlax.edu/cassh/advising/#tm-what-is-the-cassh-core-should-i-choose-a-bachelor-of-arts-ba-or-a-bachelor-of-science-bs-degree->) or in the Advisement Report (AR) when the degree has been declared.

Courses used to fulfill general education requirements will not apply to core requirements except for language courses (ARA, CHI, FRE, GCL, GER, HMG, JPN, RUS, SPA) that count in the general education requirement: "Mathematical/logical systems and modern languages" (GE 02, category 2).

Declare ONE of the following tracks in the CASSH Academic Services Office in 138 Wimberly:

A. Language track

1. **Native speakers of English** complete:

Code	Title	Credits
Select one of the following:		
ARA 202	Intermediate Arabic II	
CHI 202	Chinese Language and Culture in Action II	
FRE 202	French Language and Cultures in Action II	

GCL 202	Intermediate Languages II
GER 202	German Language and Cultures in Action II
HMG 204	Hmong Heritage Language: Intermediate
HMG 304	Hmong Heritage Language: Advanced
JPN 202	Intermediate Japanese II
RUS 202	Russian Language and Cultures in Action II
SPA 202	Spanish Language and Cultures in Action II
	or SPA 221 Introduction to Spanish for the Health Professions

Non-native speakers of English: provide English proficiency evidence acceptable for admission to UWL as a degree seeking student; or complete ESL 252 or ESL 253, and one additional course from ESL 250, ESL 251, ESL 252, ESL 253 (maximum of four credits from these courses applicable to general education). UWL does not regularly offer these courses, thus transferring in their equivalency(ies) is the likely way to earn credit English as a Second Language coursework. Native English speakers are not eligible to earn credit in ESL courses. Contact the CASSH Dean's Office for eligibility and regulations.

- Two additional courses outside of the student's major in two of the following: humanities, social sciences or fine arts.

B. Humanities track

- One global language course 102 or higher; and
- Two additional courses outside the department of the student's major from two different departments chosen from: communication studies, English, history, philosophy and race, gender, and sexuality studies (see the Advisement Report (AR) for a listing of the approved courses); and
- One additional course in social sciences or fine arts.

C. Fine arts track

- One global language course 102 or higher; and
- Two additional courses outside the department of the student's major from two different departments chosen from: art, music, theatre; and
- One additional course in social sciences or humanities.

In addition to all other College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities core requirements, all students in CASSH must complete a second major, minor, or program option by satisfying one of the following:

- Complete a minor (or second major) outside of the student's major program, consisting of at least 18 credits; or
- Complete an emphasis, program or concentration of at least 18 credits outside the student's major program. General education courses may apply provided they are not being used to fulfill minimum general education requirements; or
- Complete 18 credits in two or more departments or programs (at least 12 credits earned at the 300/400 level). These courses must be outside the student's major department and can be from any college. General education courses may apply provided they are not being used to fulfill minimum general education requirements.

Baccalaureate degree requirements

Candidates for the Bachelor of Arts or the Bachelor of Science degrees must accomplish the following:

- Fulfill the general education requirements.
- Complete at least one ethnic studies (diversity) course.

- Complete the courses prescribed by the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee for the degree desired in the respective school or college.
- Earn a minimum of 120 semester credits with at least a 2.00 cumulative GPA.^{1, 2}
- At least 40 credits must be earned in 300/400 level courses. Transfer courses earned or transferred at the 300/400 level apply to this requirement.
- Complete major and minor requirements with at least a 2.00 GPA^{1, 2} in each major and minor (and concentration or emphasis, if selected).
- A minimum of 30 semester credits in residence at UWL is required for graduation. (See undergraduate resident requirement (<http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/academicpolicies/graduation/#undergraduate-residence-requirement>)).
- Submit an application for graduation via the "Apply for Graduation" link in the WINGS Student Center as soon as the student has registered for his or her final semester or summer term in residence. December and winter intersession graduates should apply by May 1. May and summer graduates should apply by December 1.

¹ Grade point average requirements for some programs will be considerably higher than 2.00. Re-entering students may be required to earn credits in excess of the 120 needed for graduation in any curriculum in order to replace credits earned in courses in which the content has changed substantially in recent years. Each case will be judged on its own merit.

² The grade point average recorded at the time the degree is awarded will not be affected by future enrollment.

No degree will be awarded unless all requirements are fulfilled and recorded within 30 days after the official ending date of each term.

Sample degree plan

Below is a sample degree plan that can be used as a guide to identify courses required to fulfill the major and other requirements needed for degree completion. A student's actual degree plan may differ depending on the course of study selected (second major, minor, etc.). Also, this sample plan assumes readiness for each course and/or major plan, and some courses may not be offered every term. Review the course descriptions or the class timetable (<http://www.uwlax.edu/Records/registration/>) for course offering information.

The sample degree plans represented in this catalog are intended for first-year students entering UWL in the fall term. Students should use the Advisement Report (AR) in WINGS (<https://wings.uwlax.edu>) and work closely with their faculty advisor(s) and college dean's office to ensure declaration and completion of all requirements in a timely manner.

General Education Program

The general education curriculum (Gen Ed) is the common educational experience for all undergraduates at UWL. Sample degree plans include Gen Ed placeholders to ensure completion of the general education requirements. Courses may be rearranged to fit the needs or recommendations of the student's program of study. Gen Ed courses may be taken during winter term (January between the semesters) and summer to reduce the course load during regular terms (fall and spring). Students should consult with their advisor and/or the college academic services director in their college/school for assistance with course and schedule planning. Refer to the general education requirements (<http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/generaleducation/>) for more specific details.

At least 40 credits of the 120 credits required must be earned at the 300/400-level.

Note: New students and transfer students with 15 or fewer credits earned are required to take FYS 100 First-Year Seminar (3 cr.) during one of their first two semesters at UWL.

This sample degree plan does not establish a contractual agreement. It identifies the minimum requirements a student must successfully complete, to qualify for a degree, in a format intended to assist the student in planning their academic career. Actual degree plans may differ.

Year 1		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
HIS 110 (Gen Ed World History)	3 ENG 110 or 112 (Gen Ed Literacy - Written)	3
Gen Ed Self & Society	3 Gen Ed Natural Lab Science	4
CST 110 (Gen Ed Literacy - Oral)	3 HIS Core Course (HIS 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260, 280, or 285)	3
Gen Ed Math	4 Gen Ed Minority Cultures	3
Gen Ed Arts	2-3 FYS 100 (Gen Ed First-Year Seminar)	3
	15	16
Year 2		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
HIS 200	3 HIS Core Course (HIS 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260, 280, or 285)	3
102+ Level Gen Ed/CASSH Core Language ¹	4 Gen Ed Arts	2-3
CASSH Core Course	3 History Topical Emphasis Course ²	3
HIS Core Course (HIS 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260, 280, or 285)	3 Gen Ed Health & Well Being	3
Gen Ed Global Studies	3 Minor Course	3
	16	14
Year 3		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Minor Course	3 CASSH Core Course	3
Gen Ed Humanistic Studies	3 Minor Course	3
History Topical Emphasis Course ²	3 History Topical Emphasis Course ²	3
Regional/World Cultural Zones Course ³	3 Regional/World Cultural Zones Course ³	3
University Elective	3 CASSH Core Course	3
	15	15
Year 4		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
History Topical Emphasis Course ²	3 Minor Course	3
HIS 490	4 History Topical Emphasis Course ²	3
Minor Course	3 History Topical Emphasis Course ²	3
Minor Course	3 CASSH Core Diversity Course	3
University Elective	1 University Elective	3
	14	15

Total Credits: 120

- ² Complete 18 credits from one of the following three emphasis areas (with no more than six of the 18 credits coming from disciplines outside the Department of History): cultural and social history; public and policy history; or religious studies.
- ³ Complete six credits from the following Regional/World Cultural Zones: Africa and African Diaspora, Asia, Europe, Latin America, or Middle East.

A writing portfolio is required.

At least two courses must be designed as writing emphasis.

¹ **CASSH Core Humanities and Fine Arts Tracks** require 102+ level language. **CASSH Core Language Track** requires 202 level language. Students unprepared for 202 level will need to complete prerequisite course work.