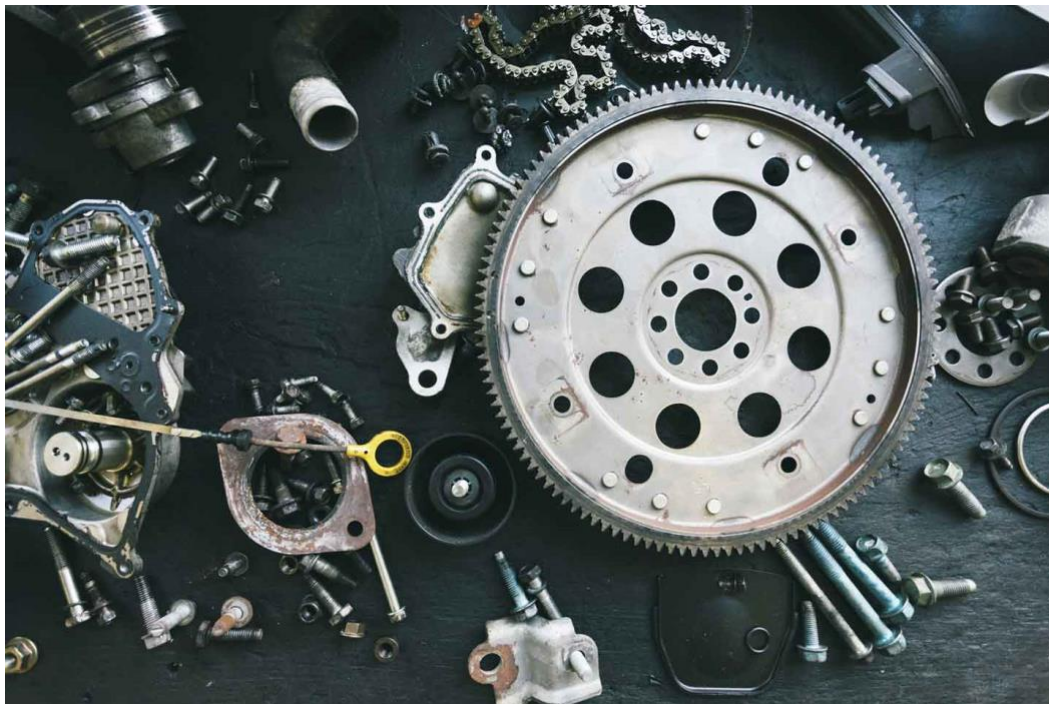


FACULTY MENTOR HANDBOOK

July 2021

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Basic Workings of the Major

1. Every student must take **THREE** courses at the 100 (survey) level. Generally, students come into the program with one or more of these already satisfied (as AP or transfer credits).

2. Every student must take **FOUR** courses in one of the following Thematic Concentrations:

Arts, Ideas & Culture

Empires, Violence & Global Connections

Health, Science & Environmental Change

Law, Politics & Social Justice

Race, Religion, Gender & Sexualities.

The categories are somewhat porous, and most courses count toward at least two different categories. The categories provide an opportunity for students to self-select their intellectual passions and potential interests. The alignment of courses for each concentration is listed directly in [this section](#) of the Undergraduate Bulletin.

3. Every student must take an additional **FOUR** courses (above 100 level) in any area of history of their choosing. These additional courses provide an opportunity to "deepen" a student's knowledge of a particular geographical and/or temporal context (e.g., Europe, Asia, Pre-Modern).

4. "Reading & Writing in History" (301) is the department's methods course. It is generally taken in the student's Junior (3rd) or first-semester Senior (4th) year. While the contents and approach of 301 will vary according to who is teaching, every section focuses on developing the critical reading, writing, and research skillsets necessary to succeed in the "Senior Colloquium" (401). Students must take 301 prior to 401 (never concurrently). 301 satisfies the ESI requirement.

5. "Senior Colloquium" (401) is the department's capstone seminar. Students will produce an original, 15-20 pg. research essay. The seminar satisfies three SBC requirements: WRTD, SPK, and EXP+.

Opportunities for Majors

1. [History Club](#) and its affiliated [Undergraduate History Journal](#).
2. [History Honors Society](#) (Phi Alpha Theta)
3. [Prizes & Awards](#) (generally for Juniors and Seniors)
4. Presentation at the annual [URECA](#) undergraduate research symposium.
5. "Honors Program" (two-semester Independent Study during Senior year; requires establishing a commitment from a faculty sponsor by spring semester of Junior year).
6. [Internships](#) (qualifies for "EXP+" credit only).
7. Joint [BA-MA degree](#). Students apply in the spring semester of Junior year. Students should speak with Roxanne or Director of Graduate Studies for more information.
8. Masters in Teaching (MA) options: [BA-MAT](#) and [MAT](#). Students should review the "Teacher Education" drop-down on the department website and/or communicate with Charlie Backfish (charles.backfish@stonybrook.edu) for more information.

Division of Advising Duties

1. All student questions concerning progress toward completion of the major, applying for transfer credits, and other details should be directed to the Director of Undergraduate Studies.
2. Faculty Mentors are expected to make themselves available for students to discuss their interests and queries about the major and History courses *in general* (e.g., who teaches on what subjects, what is meant by "thematic" history, what career options one might pursue with a degree in History, etc.).

NOTE: Please encourage students to review the Department Website to learn about [Faculty](#) teaching & research interests, [department events](#), upcoming [courses](#) (including Winter/Summer Sessions), [Writing Resources](#) (including Chicago Manual of Style footnote citation), and general information about the major. Most information of relevance to majors can be found under the "Undergraduate" drop-down link.