# HISTORY, MINOR

## Structure of the Curriculum

History courses are generally divided into two main categories: seminars and lecture courses. There are different levels of difficulty within each category.

Seminars in History are generally capped at 15 students and tend to be reading and writing intensive. Many seminars have a research component. Faculty rarely lecture in seminars, so students should expect to participate regularly. In the History Department, seminars range from freshman seminars at the 100-level to capstone courses at the 400-level. 200-level seminars fall in between in terms of their level of difficulty.

### 100-level Seminars

The 150 Freshman Seminars are required of all incoming first-year students. Freshmen are given priority for these classes, although other students may take them if there is space. These classes delve deeply into a relatively narrow topic, so students can discuss, interpret, and write about that topic intensively. Freshman seminars can be on a broad range of topics in any department at the College, and topics vary by semester. Freshmen who think they may become history majors are urged to take a freshman seminar in History (HIST 150 First-Year Seminar), although not taking one in history does not preclude majoring in history.

### 200-level seminars

The 200 designation is reserved for intermediate seminars that are somewhat more difficult than freshman seminars. Some are special topics courses offered by visiting instructors.

### 400-level seminars

400-level seminars are small courses that involve intensive reading, writing, discussion, and often research.

HIST 490C Senior Colloquium/HIST 491C Senior Colloquium ("Capstone Seminar"). In these intensive colloquia, students produce a substantial paper and grapple with evidentiary and historiographical issues at a sophisticated level. These courses are open to all students with some background in the subject-matter of the course. Majors are required to take at least one HIST 490C Senior Colloquium/HIST 491C Senior Colloquium, and must receive a C or better in it. These courses are excellent preparation for writing a senior honors thesis, and majors are urged to consider taking one in their junior year. The "Capstone Seminar" meets both the major writing and the major computing requirement. Topics vary by semester.

Lecture courses in History are generally capped at 35. The one major exception is Global History, which is much larger and has discussion sections led by graduate teaching assistants. Lecture courses range from introductory surveys to demanding 300-level courses. Lecture courses may involve class discussions.

### 100-level lectures

These are introductory surveys that acquaint students with a broad geographic area over an extended chronological period. They assume little or no prior knowledge of the topic covered, and aim to build a foundation for future study. Students who are new to the study of history at the college level should start here. Students who expect to take upper-level courses in a new area are encouraged to take the 100-level survey that covers that region first.

### 200-level lectures

These are intermediate lecture courses designed for students with some background in history, either through AP courses or lower level survey courses taken at the College. Many are geographically or topically narrower than the introductory surveys.

HIST 299 History Courses Taken Abroad is the designation for history courses taken abroad and approved for William and Mary history credit.

### 300-level lectures

These are advanced lecture courses. They assume prior familiarity with the basics of the subject, assign larger quantities of more challenging readings, and expect a greater degree of intellectual sophistication and compositional expertise on students' part. 300-level courses generally pay serious attention to primary sources and to historiographical issues (that is, debates among historians in the field).

HIST 301 The Historian's Craft ("The Historian's Craft") is designed for history majors or for students who intend to be history majors. Ideally, they will take this class either in the semester in which they declare their history major, or in the following term. The class will familiarize students with historiographical schools and with the idea of history as a discipline while also covering the arts and techniques of historical writing. It will typically require a final paper demonstrating the use of reason, evidence, compositional skills, and scholarly apparatus.

## The National Institute of American History and Democracy

The National Institute of American History and Democracy (NIAHD) is a partnership between the College of William and Mary and The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. It is dedicated to the study of the American past, material culture, and museums. The NIAHD sponsors the Williamsburg Collegiate Program in Early American History, Material Culture, and Museum Studies. This is a certificate program, combining museum internships, material culture field schools, and coursework at the College of William and Mary. It is open to any degreeseeking student in good standing in any discipline at the College of William and Mary. The NIAHD sponsors special courses in History, American Studies, and Anthropology, many taught by experts from The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in such fields as Historical Archaeology, Public History, and Vernacular Architectural History. Students officially enrolled in the Collegiate Program have priority in registering for these special courses, but they are open to any William and Mary students on a space-available basis. The National Institute of American History and Democracy also sponsors the William and Mary Pre-Collegiate Summer Program in Early American History for high school students. More information is available on all NIAHD Programs at http://www.wm.edu/niahd.

# Core Requirements
# Required Credit Hours: 18

A minor in history requires 18 semester credits in history, at least six hours of which must be taken at the 200-level and above. A minimum of 9 of the 18 credits needed for a minor in history must be earned at William and Mary, and no more than six of the remaining 9 semester credits may be derived from Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Cambridge A-Levels, or other non-W&M pre-collegiate programs.