

Annual Key Assessment Findings and Curricular Improvements

Department of History School of Arts and Sciences M.A. Program in History Ph.D. Program in History

Undergraduate 2015-2016

Senior Thesis (HIST 496) Results:

- A: 3
- A-: 7
- B+: 1
- B: 1
- B-: 1
- C: 1
- F: 3

Total: 17 Students

Curricular Improvements

In Spring 2015, the department re-assessed the undergraduate history major and its requirements. A substantial change was made to the two semesters of junior seminar; this took effect in the Fall semester of 2015. Rather than a requirement differentiated by historical period and structured in a sequence, students are now able to take any two junior seminars. Two of these seminars are offered each semester, and each focuses on a single topic (rather than several topics). Each integrates the development of research skills and the writing of a paper (emphases formerly reserved to the second semester junior seminar). This has facilitated the completion of the requirements by students who are abroad during junior year, and it has improved student research and writing skills.

The department also developed new 100-level courses, which are open only to freshmen and sophomores. These courses are topics-based (as opposed to broad survey courses). Students continued signing up for research apprenticeships with professors in the department, a new program launched in Fall 2015 as a way to promote undergraduate research.