Minor Specification

Academic Year 2018-19
MO13 - History

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the minor and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

### Overview of Minor

1. **Brief outline of the minor**
   The History Minor provides you with the opportunity to work with a wide range of primary sources and historiography to study modules covering the Space Age to Masada, and ranging from Europe to Israel, America, Pakistan and Iran. It will allow you to develop your subject specific skills and knowledge while also developing advanced skills in critical thinking, as well as the ability to communicate your ideas effectively and concisely.

2. **Learning and teaching**
   We use a wide variety of teaching methods but the balance changes over the course of the programme. At Level One (year 1) we make more use of lectures and short seminars so allowing you to become familiar with this style of teaching. This allows students who are unfamiliar with the subject, or who only have limited experience of it, to gain the necessary experience in a supportive environment. At Level Two we offer two types of option module – the 30 credits modules are designed to provide you with the opportunity to engage with large topics. Frequently this is done by studying a long period of time or looking over a wide sweep geographically. In contrast, the 15 credit modules are intended to offer you the chance to do more detailed work on primary sources and to engage in more detailed discussion, so preparing you for the Special Subject in Level 3. By Level 3 there are no lectures and all modules are taught using two hour seminars which focus on in-depth analysis of primary sources, discussions about events and themes and reviews of historiography. By Level 3 the aim is for the seminars to be
student-led, so giving you a chance to gain more confidence in your skills, whether these relate to research, the ability to shape an argument or to present it to others verbally or on paper.

3 Assessment
We use a wide variety of assessment methods which allow you, and the staff, to assess your knowledge and understanding of specific historical periods and debates, along with subject specific skills such as the analysis of primary sources and transferable, and generic skills including undertaking targeted research, writing concise, well-argued essays and giving a clear, well-structured presentation. Some pieces of assessment will result in informal feedback that you can use to assess your progress and help you find ways to make your work stronger. Other assessment will contribute towards your final mark. Written or verbal feedback is available to students on all types of assessment. Methods of assessment include:

- Essays
- Exams
- Individual and group presentations
- Documentary commentaries
- Dissertation

Educational Aims of the Minor

The aims of the minor are to:

- provide you with an understanding of the central theoretical and methodological issues involved in the study of History
- develop your knowledge and understanding of selected periods of History, and of themes within these periods
- enhance your ability to reflect on the nature of History: how it has developed over time, and its place in modern culture
- develop your capacity to undertake independent research into aspects of History, using appropriate sources and methodologies
- enable you to develop your skills in written and oral communication, the use of primary source material, teamwork, and problem-solving.

Learning Outcomes for the Minor

Knowledge and Understanding

Having successfully completed this minor you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- the different ways in which the human past can be approached and constructed by historians;
- the different ways in which images and interpretations of the human past are produced and consumed within our own and other societies;
- the relationship between historical sources, evidence, argument and interpretation;
Teaching and Learning Methods
- lectures, and lecture elements, will be used in the first and second year where required to provide you with a broad orientation to periods, debates and themes;
- tutor-led seminars will be used through the programme to facilitate in-depth discussion of key developments, themes and debates;
- student-led seminars will feature progressively in the programme, and particularly in your third year special subject, as students develop greater knowledge and authority and the mutual confidence that allows you to learn from one another;
- group activities - most notably the second-year group project – will allow you to develop and share knowledge and understanding with your peers outside a seminar room setting;
- study visits take place in the first-year core module, History and Historians, and on many other modules throughout the programme, in order to deepen your understanding of the past and its representation through engagements with landscapes, buildings, exhibits and other material forms of evidence;
- office hours and individual tutorials offer you the opportunity to develop your historical knowledge and understanding through one-to-one discussions with module tutors;
- independent study is embedded in all stages of the programme, culminating in the third-year dissertation, encouraging you to develop your own specialized expertise in particular events, debates and themes.

Assessment methods
- short commentaries of up to 1,000 words are used in first-year modules to assess and provide early feedback on your comprehension of primary sources and/or key conceptual terms;
- individual essays are used throughout the programme to assess your knowledge and understanding of key events, approaches, themes and debates;
- On the second-year Group Project you will also be assessed on presentation and public communication skills, and on jointly authored essays
- a documentary commentary (‘gobbet’) section of the exam for the second-year 15 credit options assesses your ability to evaluate primary sources and helps prepare you for the longer gobbet exam in year 3
- a documentary commentary (‘gobbet’) exam in the third-year ‘special subject’ assesses your comprehension of historical context, particularly the circumstances in which such documents were produced and read or consumed;
- the third-year dissertation assesses your attainment of an authoritative grasp of a research topic, including an understanding of the relevant historiographical and theoretical literature, historical context, key developments and chronology; unseen examinations are used throughout the programme to test your understanding of key historical questions and debates and your grasp of the evidence required to resolve them.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills
Having successfully completed this minor you will be able to:

- articulate and reflect on a body of historical knowledge;
- interrogate and contextualise historical evidence;
- grasp and apply historical terminology and method;
- evaluate historical controversies and formulate your own independent views with respect to them;
- structure a historical argument with appropriate evidential support;
- develop a major historical research project, drawing upon appropriate primary source materials and the relevant historiographical and theoretical literature.

**Teaching and Learning Methods**

- lectures will provide you with instructive examples of how to compass a body of historical knowledge, structure a historical argument, interrogate and contextualise historical evidence, deploy key historical terms and evaluate historical controversies;
- tutor-led seminars
- individual study – for class preparation, assessed work and exam revision – will foster an understanding of how historians think and write ‘historically’: how they engage with a historical controversy, identify a source base, deploy theory where relevant and structure an argument in sympathy with the evidence;
- the second-year group project will offer you the opportunity to develop a significant research project in collaboration with your peers, under tutorial supervision;
- office hours and individual tutorials offer an occasion to discuss questions of method, resource, structure and argument one-to-one with your tutors.

**Assessment methods**

- short commentaries are used in first year modules, and again in the second-year 15 credit option module exam and the third-year ‘gobbets’ exercise, to assess your ability to interrogate and contextualize historical evidence
- essays are used throughout the curriculum to assess your ability to identify relevant source materials, compass a body of historical knowledge, negotiate historical controversy, deploy historical terminology and structure an argument from evidence;
- the group and individual essays, along with the presentation and public outcome, for the group project assess your ability to develop a significant and coherent research project, drawing upon primary source materials where appropriate, related to a topic of substantial scholarly and popular interest;
- the third-year dissertation tests your ability to develop and deliver a major project of individual historical research, informed by historiographical and, where relevant, theoretical debates, rooted in sound methodology and argued from the primary evidence;
- unseen examinations are used throughout the curriculum to assess your ability to articulate and reflect upon a body of historical knowledge, critically discuss historiographical debates and structure a historical argument in sympathy with the evidence.

**Transferable and Generic Skills**

Having successfully completed this minor you will be able to:
• communicate ideas and arguments in a variety of written formats;
• communicate ideas and arguments orally and in the context of formal presentations;
• identify, select and draw upon a wide variety of useful and relevant materials in the development of a research project;
• manage individual and group research projects to timely completion;
• demonstrate interpersonal skills whilst working with others in the investigation of problems, and in the presentation of arguments and evidence;
• demonstrate self-confidence and self-awareness both in collaborative activities and independent study;
• identify and constructively reflect upon your own intellectual strengths and weaknesses.

Teaching and Learning Methods

• at all stages of the curriculum, your skills in written communication will be enhanced through formal and informal feedback on written assessments, with an ‘essay surgery’ element also built into the first-year ‘Key Concepts in History’ module;
• your skills in oral communication will be developed through seminar discussions and non-assessed individual and group presentations throughout the curriculum, and in assessed group presentations in History and Historians and the second-year group project;
• in tutorial meetings and office-hours, and through feedback, tutors will provide guidance about methods of research and project management;
• seminar discussions throughout the curriculum, will provide an opportunity for you to enhance your interpersonal skills
• through reflective exercises in the group project and more generally through one-to-one meetings with tutors and academic advisors, you will be encouraged to reflect upon your intellectual strengths and weaknesses.

Assessment methods

• all forms of written assessment – commentaries, essays, exams and dissertations – will test your skills in written communication;
• your skills in oral communication will be assessed in group presentations in History and Historians and in the second-year group project;
• your ability to design and investigate a discrete research project, and manage it to completion, will be tested in 2,000 word first- and second-year essays, in 3,000 and 4,000 word third-year essays and the third-year dissertation;
• your ability to reflect upon your own intellectual strengths and weaknesses will be assessed in the group project individual reflective essay.

Structure of Minor

1 Typical content

The History minor offers you the chance to take modules (or units of study) covering a very broad chronological and geographical spread as well as engaging with a variety of different historical approaches. For example, we teach courses on the Caribbean, Jewish history, Iranian history, and modern India and Pakistan as well as a breadth of subjects stretching from the Old Testament, the Roman Empire, the medieval worlds of England and continental Europe, the
Tudors and the Habsburgs, to the modern histories of the Holocaust, the Space Age or Northern Ireland, to name a few. You may wish to specialise in one type of historical period or approach; or you may wish to diversify, choosing a mixture of periods and places. Modules engage with primary sources at all levels (each year) and you will develop your skills as you progress through the Minor.

2 Special Features of the programme
N/A

3 Details of the minor

The minor in History is undertaken at three levels, each corresponding to one year of full-time study, excluding year abroad study. The programme is divided into modules. Each module has a value of 15 CATS points (or 7.5 ECTS points). However, please note that History has a combination of single (worth 15 credits) and double modules (worth 30 credits) in years one and two and only double modules in year three, so please take this into account when making your module choices. Students must take one module at Level 1, two modules at Level 2 and two modules at Level 3 (75 CATS points in total).

The programme is very flexible. All modules are optional for students on the History minor programme, and with the exception of the second half of the third year special subjects, none of the modules have pre-requisites. With special subject modules, all those on offer in semester 1 have no pre-requisites. However, it is not possible to take the second part, offered in semester 2, unless you have taken part one. For example, you cannot take HIST3102 World War into Cold War (part2) without taking HIST3101 World War into Cold War (part1).

Our teaching is research-led at all levels. This means that the modules on offer will vary from year to year depending on which staff interests and availability. The following is an indicative list of the modules on offer:

**SEMESTER 2**

**Year 1**
- HIST 1020 The French Revolution
- HIST 1029 American Slavery
- HIST 1008 A Tudor Revolution in Government?
- HIST 1074 Agincourt
- HIST 1085 German Jews in Great Britain
- HIST 1089 American Slavery
- HIST 1094 Henry VIII: Reputation and Reality
- HIST 1102 End of the World
- HIST 1134 Murder of Edward II
- HIST 1153 Alexander the Great and His Legacy
- HIST 1158 Liberté, Egalité, Beyoncé: Women's History in Modern Britain
- HIST 1164 Consuls, Dictators & Emperors
- HIST 1175 Castles
- HIST 1177 Modern China
Year 2

HIST 2071   Celebrity, Media and Mass Culture, Britain 1888-1952
HIST2075  Creating an Imperial Image: Augustus
HIST2076   The First British Empire
HIST 2082   Nelson Mandela: A South African life
HIST 2091   Underworlds: A cultural history of urban nightlife in the
HIST 2094   Wellington and the war against Napoleon
HIST 2097   Napoleon and his legend
HIST 2100   Retail Therapy: A journey through the cultural history
HIST 2108   The Making of Modern India
HIST2103   Self-inflicted – extreme violence, politics
HIST 2109   Ancient Greeks at War
HIST2226   Transatlantic Slavery and its Abolition
HIST2227   Science on the Street
HIST2222   Ragtime

Year 3

HIST 3054   The Third Reich 1
HIST 3060   The Holocaust 1
HIST3107   1947 Partition
HIST 3116   Between Private Memory and Public History
HIST 3132   Conflict, Transformation and Resurgence in Asia: 1800 to the
HIST3142   Passions and Profits
HIST3170   Rome and Jerusalem
HIST3171   The Crisis of the Habsburg Empire
HIST 3187   The Bible and History
HIST3188   War and Society
HIST3214   Revolution in Modern Iran
HIST3229   Sweet Charity
HIST3236   Ethiopia

4   Progression Requirements
The programme of which this minor comprises a part follows the University’s regulations for
Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Undergraduate and Integrated Masters
Programmes as set out in the University Calendar:  http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/

In order to qualify for the minor, students must pass all modules that make up the minor. There
is no provision for students to be referred in a minor module solely for the purpose of qualifying
for the minor.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the minor
and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and
demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More
detailed information can be found on the minor website at (give URL).
Revision History

1. Written 2 September 2013
2. Modules and revised programme template updated November 2015
3. Module information updated November 2016
4. Module information updated March 2017
5. Module information updated April 2018