HISTORY, BA: POLITICAL HISTORY

The Political History concentration invites students to explore historical and comparative approaches to the organization of political power, state institutions, and experiences of subjecthood, citizenship, and rights. Students will have the opportunity to confront questions about the nature and practices of democracies and non-democracies, the formation and dissolution of political parties, various means of structuring governments and constitutions, and formal political relationships among individuals, communities, and states. While the concentration is centered within the discipline of History, it also welcomes students to take some courses in related fields in the College, thus encouraging interdisciplinary approaches to the field's vital intellectual questions.

The Political History concentration allows students and faculty to explore shared methodological questions and practices that cut across geographical, national, and chronological borders. A student may choose to focus on the political history of a particular nation, empire, or region, and may also examine comparative histories from across the globe. This approach allows students the opportunity to think deeply about how time, place, geography, and context shape differences and similarities in the development and permanence of political regimes and cultures.

For more information: https://www.history.upenn.edu/undergraduate/history-major/concentrations (https://www.history.upenn.edu/undergraduate/history-major/concentrations/)

For information about the General Education requirements, please visit the College of Arts & Sciences Curriculum (https://www.college.upenn.edu/curriculum/) page.

Curriculum

Code	Title	Course Units
College General Education Requirements and Free Elective		
Foundational Approaches + Sectors [1] + Free Electives		20
Major Requirements		**12**
Geographic Distribution		
Select one distinct course in four of the six geographic regions		
United States & Canada: Attribute AHUC (https://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/ahuc/)		
Europe and Australia: Attribute AHEA (https://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/ahea/)		
Africa and the Middle East: Attribute AHAF (https://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/ahaf/)		
Latin America & The Caribbean: Attribute AHLA (https://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/ahla/)		
East Asia and South Asia: Attribute AHES (https://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/ahes/)		
Global Issues: Attribute AHGI (https://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/ahgi/)		
Chronological Distribution		
Select 2 Pre-1800 courses from the following:		
Any course with: Attribute AH18 (https://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/ah18/)		
Seminars		
Select 2 Penn History Seminars from the following:		
HIST 2000-3799		
Or any course with: Attribute AHEM (https://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/ahem/)		
Research Requirement		
Select 1 Course from the following:		
HIST 3000-3799		
HIST 4998	Senior Honors in History	
Political History Concentration		
Select 1 Seminar in Political History		
HIST 2000-2799 with: Attribute AHPO (https://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/ahpo/)		
Select 3 courses (lectures or seminars) in Political History		
Any course with: Attribute AHPO (https://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/ahpo/)		
Select 2 additional courses designated as Political History, Political History-related, or approved by a student's History major advisor from inside or outside the department		
Any course with: Attribute: AHPR (https://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/ahpr/)		
Any course with: Attribute: AHPO (https://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/ahpo/)		
Other Courses for the Major		
Select 4 additional courses from the following:		
HIST 0000-4990		
ANCH 0000-4999		
Total Course Units		**32**

The degree and major requirements displayed are intended as a guide for students entering in the Fall of 2026 and later. Students should consult with their academic program regarding final certifications and requirements for graduation.

Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Course Units
First Year		
Fall		
Fall Courses		4
	Course Units	**4.00**
Spring		
Spring Courses		4
	Course Units	**4.00**
Second Year		
Fall		
Fall Courses		4
	Course Units	**4.00**

Spring		
Spring Courses		4
	Course Units	**4.00**
Third Year		
Fall		
Fall Courses		4
	Course Units	**4.00**
Spring		
Spring Courses		4
	Course Units	**4.00**
Fourth Year		
Fall		
Fall Courses		4
	Course Units	**4.00**
Spring		
Spring Courses		4
	Course Units	**4.00**
	Total Course Units	**32.00**