

PROGRAM CHANGES
WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

Submission Date: 9/12/2012

College: S&BS

Department: History

Program Title: History (BA), History Teaching (BA)

Check all that apply:

- New course(s) required for major, minor, emphasis, or concentration.
- Modified course(s) required for major, minor, emphasis, or concentration.
- Credit hour change(s) required for major, minor, emphasis, or concentration.
- Credit hour change(s) for a course which is required for the major, minor, emphasis, or concentration.
- Attribute change(s) for any course.
- Program name change.
- Deletion of required course(s).
- Other changes (specify) _____

JUSTIFICATION:

We are replacing HIST 3000 (Investigating History) with HIST 4985 (Historical Research and Methods). HIST 3000 was an SI and Historical Methods course and a prerequisite for 4990. HIST 4985 will be our new Historical Methods course and the new prerequisite course for 4990.

HIST 3000 (SI)(Investigating History) was created to fulfill a dual role: it served the department as an historical methodology course and was also a Scientific Inquiry course allowing History Majors and Minors to take a History course for SI credit. As such, the course was designed academically to focus on meeting university SI curriculum standards while also teaching students about the craft of History.

In 2007, recognizing the need to better prepare students for HIST 4990 (the capstone Senior Seminar course) the Department of History made HIST 3000 (SI) a prerequisite of HIST 4990 and developed new guidelines for the course in an effort to focus more specifically on preparation for HIST 4990 while still meeting Scientific Inquiry requirements.

There are two key academic reasons why we need to develop a new 4000-level Methods course: (1) HIST 3000 (SI) as a prerequisite for 4990 no longer meets department needs pedagogically, and (2) as a 3000-level course, the HIST 3000 prerequisite for 4990 has proved to be problematic -- students only view it as another upper-division course rather than an introduction to the Capstone. This negates the impact of the course being a prerequisite.

One pedagogical reason to design our Historical Methods as a new 4000-level course is because of the "death" of Scientific Inquiry for new History Majors. HIST 4985 is specifically designed only to prepare History students for 4990 with no reference to previous SI standards. An emphasis will be placed in particular on research and citation methods, analyzing and evaluating sources, evaluating and creating arguments, and -- most significantly -- crafting a working proposal and bibliography for their Senior Thesis in 4990.

As a 3000-level course, the department has had difficulty with students who take their 4990 prerequisite course too early, not understanding that it is intended to "piggy-back" onto their capstone. This is clearly a problem directly related to the course number itself: students see it only as another upper-division credit course rather than as stepping-stone to Senior Seminar. This seemingly minor psychological distinction has serious pedagogical implications. As a consequence of students taking the class too soon in their program (sometimes two years or more before they take 4990), students are often ill-prepared for the rigors of the course because they have had very few (if any) upper-division courses before taking 3000. Another issue with Majors taking 3000 too soon in their programs is that they often forget their research topics or choose another one and have to start from scratch again in 4990. This effectively means that students place themselves in a position to do 30 weeks worth of work in 15. This has the effect of negating the purpose of the 3000 prerequisite altogether. Changing the course number from 3000 to 4985 will inhibit students from taking the course too soon, allowing them to receive the full benefits of the course as a prerequisite. As a result, our Majors will be

better prepared for 4990 and will be able to write a better quality Senior Thesis -- therefore the academic/ pedagogical objectives of 4985 and 4990 will both be met as intended.

Copy the present program from the current catalog and add the required changes (exactly as you wish them to appear in the catalog). Use ~~strikeout~~ when deleting items in the program and **highlight** when adding items. If multiple changes are being proposed, please provide a summary.

for the History BA:

Language Courses Required to fulfill the BA (12 credit hours)

6 credit hours of foreign language

and the following language arts courses

- ~~HIST 3000 – Investigating History (3)~~
- **HIST 4985 – Historical Research and Methods (3)**
- HIST 4990 - Senior Seminar (3) *

Note:

** Should be taken during senior year. ~~HIST 3000~~ HIST 4985 is a prerequisite to HIST 4990.*

for the History Teaching BA:

Language Courses Required to fulfill the BA (12 credit hours)

6 credit hours of foreign language

and the following language arts courses

- ~~HIST 3000 – Investigating History (3)~~ **HIST 4985 – Historical Research and Methods (3)**
- HIST 4990 - Senior Seminar (3) *

Note:

** Should be taken during senior year. ~~HIST 3000~~ HIST 4985 is a prerequisite to HIST 4990.*

Submit the original to the Faculty Senate Office, MC 1033, and an electronic copy to kbrown4 @weber.edu

INFORMATION PAGE

Did this program change receive unanimous approval within the Department? YES If not, what are the major concerns raised by the opponents?

Explain any effects this program change will have on program requirements or enrollments in other departments including the Bachelor of Integrated Studies Program. In the case of similar offerings or affected programs, **you should include letters from the departments in question stating their support or opposition to the proposed program.**

There are no other departments on campus that offer a course in Historical Research Methods. Only the Department of History offers such a course. Only the department of History has a 4985 course number for a Research Methods course. Other departments at WSU offer methodology courses, but none of them are in the field of History. This course is discipline-specific (as are methodology courses in general). HIST 4985 will have no impact on other departments on campus with regard to program requirements or enrollments. If non-History students enroll in 4985 for credit, they will be under the same obligation to seek approval from their Major or Minor as they would taking any course outside their Major or Minor.

Indicate the number of credit hours for course work within the program. (Do not include credit hours for General Education, Diversity, or other courses unless those courses fulfill requirements within the proposed program.) 120

Indicate the number of credit hours for course work within the current program. (Do not include credit hours for General Education, Diversity, or other courses unless those courses fulfill requirements within the current program.) 120