

Proposal for a Ph.D. Minor in History

Department of History Indiana University, Indianapolis (IUPUI)

Students in other departments may minor in history by completing, with a grade point average no lower than B (3.0), at least 12 credit hours of course work in history. This course work shall include:

- >> HIST H501, Historical Methodology (4 cr.)
- >> Either a 600-level colloquium (e.g., HIST H620, H650) (4 cr.)
or a 700-level seminar (e.g., HIST H730, H750) (4 cr.)
- >> At least 4 additional credit hours (which may include a maximum of 3 cr. of HIST H575, Graduate Readings in History)

Rationale: There is already an M.A. program in history at IUPUI that involves graduate training in the historiography and research methods of the discipline. Doctoral students in other fields needing a minor subject for their degrees may find history courses relevant to their intellectual interests and career plans, and could thus benefit from having history courses count toward the minor that they have to complete for the Ph.D.

Several years ago a doctoral student in Communication at IU-Bloomington sought permission to complete his doctoral minor in history by taking courses at IUPUI, and we worked out an ad hoc arrangement to accommodate that request. More recently, the new Ph.D. program in Philanthropic Studies listed history as one of the subjects that would be suitable for a doctoral minor in that program, and one student has already expressed interest in pursuing that option. The minor proposed here would thus provide Ph.D. students in other programs and their advisors with clear guidelines about what is expected for a history minor.

The proposal is similar to the Ph.D. minor in history on the Bloomington campus in that it requires 12 credit hours and either a colloquium or seminar (Bloomington specifies a colloquium only). This proposal departs from Bloomington policy in that it requires students to take H501, Historical Methodology. We believe that a student choosing a doctoral minor in history is likely to have a historical dimension to their dissertation, in which case they would benefit from a graduate-level class in historical methods. If a student wants to study a topic that is not covered in the usual graduate curriculum, there is the option of taking 3 credits of directed readings (H575).

For the master's program in history, the department already offers several graduate courses each semester—including those required for this minor. H501 and a seminar are typically offered every spring, and a colloquium is usually offered in the fall. No new resources will be required, since there is generally room in these courses for additional students and we do not anticipate that the number of students pursuing this doctoral minor will be large.

This proposal was approved at a department meeting on March 8, 2005.

Submitted by

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