

Course Design Guidelines - Historical Studies Designation

History is the study of change over time, and the causes and results of that change. It is not merely the presentation of historical facts or the exploration of things past. In order to qualify for historical studies designation, a course must:

1. Introduce students to the historical method, the process by which one locates, evaluates, and utilizes primary documents and other evidence to reconstruct and understand the past.
2. Provide an understanding of historiography, the study of the way history has been written. Students should understand that historical perspective changes with generations and that historical understandings and perspectives continue to evolve. This ultimately leads to learning how to reconcile multiple and competing perspectives.
3. Offer historical perspective to contextualize contemporary issues, and thus help students appreciate the continuum between past and present in order to understand the complexity and richness of the human experience.
4. Offer a critical assessment of the manner in which humans have politically, socially, and culturally occupied space across time.