

University of Memphis, Department of History

Description of history courses by level

	1000	2000	3000	4000
Scope of course	Broad survey courses of World Civilizations.	Broad survey courses of US and Tennessee history.	More narrow surveys of particular time periods, geographic areas, themes, or topics.	Courses on specialized topics and themes, more limited time periods, or more circumscribed geographic areas.
Expected background in history	Designed for students with little or no background in college-level history. No prerequisites for non-honors sections of these courses.	Same as 1000-level.	Designed for students with some exposure to college-level history (such as a 1000 or 2000-level course), including history majors/minors. No prerequisites for non-honors sections of these courses.	Designed especially for history majors/minors and for students with a strong background in college-level history. No prerequisites for non-honors sections of these courses. Graduate students may enroll in these courses at the 6000-level.
Learning objectives	Introduce students to major historical events, figures, and transitions, as well as to the basic skills of historical interpretation and analysis through the use of primary and/or secondary sources.	Same as 1000-level.	Provide students a deeper understanding of historical events, figures, and transitions, as well as the interpretive writing, thinking, and discussion skills of the historian. These courses teach students to conduct more sophisticated analysis of both primary and secondary sources. They also provide more rigorous instruction in critical and interpretive writing, historical thinking, and the discussion of historical issues and debates.	Like a 3000-level course, but these courses place an even greater emphasis on analysis, interpretation, research skills, writing skills, and the critical evaluation of historical argumentation and methodology. Due to their focus on more specialized topics and higher order thinking skills, they are generally more rigorous and challenging than courses at the 3000-level.
Class size	Classes range in size from approximately 35 to 165 students	Same as 1000-level.	Most classes are capped at approximately 30 students, but a few 3000-level courses are taught in sections with 165 students	Classes are capped at approximately 30 students.

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Instruction	Mixture of lecture, discussion, individual and group activities; some courses are online.	Same as 1000-level.	Same as 1000-level.	Same as 1000-level.
Required reading	Roughly 25-100 pages of reading per week. Many of these courses use a textbook alongside other relatively short readings.	Same as 1000-level.	Roughly 50-200 pages of reading per week. These courses typically require extensive reading in primary and secondary sources, with limited use of text books.	Roughly the same as 3000-level, but some of these courses require more reading, and/or the reading of more challenging texts.
Graded assignments	Usually require a mixture of graded discussion and/or other participation, quizzes, exams, short papers, and/or in-class essays. The writing assignments in these classes often ask students to analyze and explain historical events and figures, interpret primary sources, or otherwise demonstrate comprehension of historical content and a grasp of basic writing and historical thinking skills.	Same as 1000-level.	Usually require a mixture of graded discussion and/or other participation, quizzes, exams, and both short and long writing assignments. Book reviews and in-depth analyses of primary sources are frequent assignments, but some of these courses also require research papers. Assignments are designed to assess students' understanding of historical content and acquisition of more advanced skills in writing, research, argumentation, historical thinking, and interpretation.	Like those of a 3000-level course, but writing assignments generally are more challenging and involve more sophisticated analytical, research, and writing skills. With the exception of 4012, 4014, 4020, and special topics courses, all 4000-level history classes require a substantial writing project that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses multiple sources (can be primary and/or secondary) • Uses sources beyond the course's assigned/required readings • Includes historical analysis