

Guide to the Cambridge History degree

Year 1 (Part IA)

Each student studies two Outline papers, one Sources paper, plus Introduction to Historical Thinking.

Outline papers

Studied in supervisions, six per term across two terms

Each student chooses one paper falling mainly before 1750, one paper falling mainly after 1750 from the following list:

- O1 Ancient and Medieval States and Societies over the First Millennium
- O2 The British Isles in the Middle Ages, c. 800 to c. 1500
- O3 Medieval Europe c. 1100-1450
- O4 Early Modern Britain
- O5 Europe in the World, 1450-1780
- O6 The Global Eighteenth Century
- O7 Modern Britain and Ireland, 1750-present
- O8 Modern Europe, 1789-1914
- O9 North America, Central America and the Caribbean, 1775-present
- O10 The 'Global South' from 1750 to the Present Day
- O11 The Twentieth-Century World

Sources papers

Source-based course studied in Faculty classes in the Easter term

Each student chooses one paper, precise range of Sources papers varies from year to year:

- S1 Vindicating Revolution, 1562-1797
- S2 Making and Spending Money in Medieval England
- S5 A Tale of One City: Space and place in eighteenth-century London
- S6 Empire after Napoleon
- S10 Other Voices: Listening to women and people on the margin in early modern England
- S11 Globalization in Nineteenth-century China
- S13 Labours Lost: Working lives across continents
- S14 Film and Propaganda in Nazi Germany
- S16 Travel and Trade in the Medieval World
- S17 Letters in Antiquity
- S18 Children and Childhood in Early Modern England
- S20 Reading Early Modern Asian Empires

Introduction to Historical Thinking

Course about methodology and theory in the discipline of history, taught in College-based classes.

Each student submits one review of an important book by a modern historian, from a choice of two books

Year 2 (Part IB)

Each student studies two Topics papers, one Research Project, plus Historical Thinking Part IB.

Topics papers

Studied in supervisions, eight supervisions in one term.

Each student chooses two papers, precise range of Topics papers varies from year to year:

- T1 History of political thought to c. 1700
- T2 History of political thought from c. 1700-c. 1890
- T3 Ancient empires: culture and power in the ancient Mediterranean
- T4 Inequalities and social change in the ancient Greek and Roman worlds
- T5 Warfare, kingship and society in Anglo-Saxon England
- T6 Conflict, identity and political agency: state formation in medieval Britain and Europe
- T8 Faith, fury and fire: the British Reformations and their discontents
- T9 Nature and knowledge, c. 1500-c. 1800
- T10 The creation of the modern world: a global economic history
- T11 Becoming British? Union and disunion in eighteenth-century Britain
- T12 British worlds, c. 1750-1919
- T13 Empires in World History: regions and themes
- T14 Europe's modern age of violence, 1914-1949
- T15 The United States since World War I
- T16 The Mediterranean world, 1450-1800
- T17 Latin American history

Research Project

Source-based course studied in Faculty classes in the first two terms.

Each student submits a piece of coursework (4,000-5,000 words) making use of primary sources in a subject area of their choice.

Each student chooses one paper, precise range of Research Project papers varies from year to year:

- RP1 Fantastic medieval sources and where to find them
- RP2 Doing early modern microhistory
- RP3 Gender in early modern Britain
- RP4 Labouring lives
- RP5 Themes in American history
- RP6 Contemporary history, politics and public life
- RP7 Music and society from Renaissance to romanticism
- RP8 Themes in modern British and Irish history
- RP9 Women in Cambridge, c. 1900-1950
- RP10 Nations and nationalism
- RP11 Rethinking colonialism
- RP12 Visions of the state in Britain, 1914-1951

Historical Thinking IB

Course about methodology and theory in the discipline of history, taught via lectures and College-based classes.

Examined by a seven-day 'take home' paper. Each student submits one essay (2,000 words) on one of the following subjects:

1. The history of history, and who gets to do it
2. Political history
3. Social history
4. Cultural history
5. Economic history
6. Intellectual history
7. Global history
8. Periodization in history

9. History and the archive
10. History and quantification
11. History and anthropology
12. History and the 'digital humanities'
13. History and archaeology
14. History and biography
15. History and public & popular history
16. History and 'social activism'

Year 3 (Part II)

Each student studies one Special Subject, *either* two Advanced Topics papers *or* one Advanced Topics paper and a dissertation, plus Historical Thinking Part II.

Special Subject

Specialized course taught in Faculty classes focusing on primary sources.

Each student chooses one paper, precise range of Special Subjects varies from year to year:

- A. The age of civil war: political crisis and its consequences at the end of the Roman Republic
- B. Powerful words: how and why women used writing in medieval western Europe (c.1050-c.1250)
- D. Heresy, inquisition and society: southern France c.1150-1300
- E. Diversifying the Italian Renaissance
- F. The Little Lion – Edward III's England, 1327-47
- G. Memory in early modern England
- H. Masculinities and political culture in Britain, 1832-1901
- I. The 1848 Revolutions
- J. Central European Cities
- K. Food and drink in Britain and the wider world, 1550-1800
- L. Segregation and apartheid
- N. The world radio made, c. 1920–c. 1980
- P. (Un)-godly capitalism in colonial Spanish America
- R. Rhetoric and public opinion in the world of Charles Stewart Parnell, 1874-1891

Advanced Topics papers

Specialized papers often with a comparative or thematic element.

Studied in supervisions, between five and eight supervisions in one term.

Precise range of Advanced Topics papers varies from year to year:

- AT3 Order and Disorder: Law and society in the Greek world
- AT4. History of political thought from c. 1700-c. 1890
- AT5. Political philosophy and the history of political thought since c.1890
- AT6. States between states: The history of international political thought from the Roman empire to the early nineteenth century
- AT7. Transformation of the Roman World
- AT8. Popular Culture in the Greco-Roman World
- AT10. Empire's Legacy: the Transformations of Roman Italy, 350 BC to AD 300
- AT11. Early Medicine
- AT12. The Near East in the Age of Justinian and Muhammad, AD527-700
- AT13. Work and workers in the Age of Productivity
- AT14. Material culture in the early modern world
- AT15. The Medieval Globe.

- AT16. The 'rule of law' in early modern Britain: State power, criminal justice, and civil liberties, c.1500–c.1800
- AT17. The politics of knowledge from the late Renaissance to the early Enlightenment
- AT19. The Industrial Revolution
- AT21. Middle Eastern Modernities c. 1850-2011
- AT22. Aspects of Soviet Life
- AT23. The long road to modernisation: Spain since 1808
- AT24. Rethinking Europe from the Mediterranean shores; 1796-1914
- AT25. Central Europe in the Global Twentieth Century
- AT26. Ireland and the Irish since the Famine
- AT28. The history of the Indian sub-continent from the late eighteenth century to the present day
- AT29. Sites of knowledge.
- AT30. Youth in African History

Dissertation

Optional: student can prepare an original piece of historical research (up to 10,000 words).

Dissertation subject needs approval from the History Faculty but can cover any subject falling within the scope of the History degree.

Student receives around 5-7 supervisions, normally in the first term.

Historical Thinking Part II

Course about methodology and theory in the discipline of history, taught via lectures and College-based classes.