



June 2025

History and Economics: History

I am enclosing information about the History and Economics course at Oxford. If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to email me – hannah.smith@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk.

You will see that you have to choose two History papers which you will take in the first year Preliminary Examination course: a period of European and World History, and a historical methods paper.

European and World History will be taught in Hilary Term and the historical methods option will be spread over the first two terms, in fortnightly tutorials or classes. There will also be lectures on each course. A choice of four options is available for European and World History:

370–900: The Transformation of the Ancient World
1000–1300: Medieval Christendom and its Neighbours
1400–1650: Renaissance, Recovery and Reform
1815–1914: Society, Nation and Empire

For historical methods, choose between Approaches to History, Historiography: Tacitus to Weber, and one of the foreign text options (for further details see the introductory reading lists). We strongly encourage you to branch out beyond your school work. We are quite happy that you should do a certain amount that is familiar to you; but you should also have the intellectual challenge of embarking on new periods, which will help you to make the transition to the more open-ended and exploratory style of work expected at undergraduate level.

If you are not sure in which area of history you would like to specialise, then Approaches to History provides an excellent introduction to the methods and theories that historians use. We believe it provides a strong foundation for the other papers you will choose to study. In particular, we recommend the 'Gender' component to the Approaches to History course, which we teach in College during your first term. Studying this can also provide a way for all our First Year historians to get to know one another. If you wish to study the 'Gender' component, please let me know.

If you want to keep open the option of specialising in medieval European history, or in French, German, Italian, Spanish and Latin American, or Russian history, you may consider offering a Foreign Language Text. These papers are designed to be accessible to anyone with an 'A' at GCSE or equivalent in the appropriate language. 'Arabic for Historians' is also available. If you wish to begin or continue to learn a language, the University's Language Centre offers a range of courses that you can take alongside your formal studies, including classes specifically for History students who wish to take a specialist paper that requires knowledge of a particular language.

You will also study a History Optional Subject (which you may choose once you have arrived in Oxford) in Trinity Term, all in weekly tutorials.

The Economics component of your first year consists of a compulsory paper, Introductory Economics. This is designed to give a solid grounding in both micro and macro-economics. Introductory Economics is taught in weekly tutorials in Michaelmas Term and Hilary Term.

I enclose introductory reading lists. If you offer a foreign text, you should ensure that you have read it before coming to Oxford. Please let me know (via the email address above) **by the end of July** which period of European and World History and which historical methods option you would like to offer.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Hannah Smith



Introductory Reading Lists for the History Preliminary Examination

A. History of the British Isles

1. 300-1100

- J. Campbell, ed. *The Anglo-Saxons* (good and well-illustrated)
M. Alexander (trans.), *Beowulf* (Penguin ed., for the flavour of the period)
P. Strafford, *Unification and Conquest*
H. R. Loyn, *Anglo-Saxon England and the Norman Conquest*
C. Brooks, *The Saxon and Norman Kings*

2. 1000-1330

- N. Saul (ed.), *The Oxford Illustrated History of Medieval England* (1997)
D. Carpenter, *The Struggle for Mastery: Britain, 1066-1284* (2004)
R. Bartlett, *England under the Norman and Angevin Kings, 1075-1225* (2000)
M. T. Clanchy, *England and its Rulers, 1066-1272* (2nd edn, 1998)
R. R. Davies, *The First English Empire: Power and Identities in the British Isles, 1093-1343* (2000)

3. 1330-1550

- M. H. Keen, *England in the Later Middle Ages* 2nd edn. (2003)
W. M. Ormrod, *Political Life in Late Medieval England, 1300-1450* (1995)
G. L. Harriss, *Shaping the Nation. England, 1360-1461* (2005)
R. H. Britnell, *Britain and Ireland, 1050-1530: Economy and Society* (2004)
C. Dyer, *Making a Living in the Middle Ages. The People of Britain 850-1520* (2002)

4. 1500-1700

- J. Guy, *Tudor England* (1994)
D. L. Smith, *A History of the Modern British Isles, 1603-1707* (1998)
B. Coward, *The Stuart Age* (1994)
T. Harris, *Restoration. Charles II and his Kingdoms, 1660-1685* (2005)
T. Harris, *Revolution: The Great Crisis of the British Monarchy, 1685-1720* (2006).
M. Kaufmann, *Black Tudors: the Untold Story* (2017)
K. Wrightson, *English Society, 1580-1680* (various editions).

5. 1688-1848

- P. Langford, *The Eighteenth Century: A Very Short Introduction* (2000)
J. Hoppit, *A Land of Liberty? England 1688-1727* (2000)
P. Langford, *A Polite and Commercial People. England 1727-1783* (1989)
B. Hilton, *A Mad, Bad and Dangerous People? 1784-1846* (2006)
P. Fryer, *Staying Power: The History of Black People in Britain* (new ed 2010)
D. Olusoga, *Black and British: A Forgotten History* (2016)
J. Uglow, *In These Times: Living in Britain through Napoleon's Wars 1793-1815* (2014)
A. Vickery, *The Gentleman's Daughter: Women's Lives in Georgian England* (1998)

6. 1830-1951

- P. Cain and A.G. Hopkins, *British Imperialism* (Vol. 1) (1992).
A. Calder, *The People's War* (1968 or any other edn)

P. Fryer, *Staying Power: The History of Black People in Britain* (new ed 2010)
 V. Gatrell, *The Hanging Tree* (1994).
 K. Gleadle, *British Women in the Nineteenth Century* (2001)
 P. Johnson (ed.), *Twentieth Century Britain* (1992)
 D. Kynaston, *Austerity Britain* (2007).
 D. Olusoga, *Black and British: A Forgotten History* (2016)
 L. Raw, *Striking a Light* (2009).
 P. Thane, *Divided Kingdom* (2018).
 E. P. Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class* (1963 or any other edn).
 S. Todd, *The People: the rise and fall of the Working Class* (2014).

B. European and World History

1. The Transformation of the Ancient World, 370-900

P. Brown, *The Rise of Western Christendom*, 2nd edition (2003)
 J. Herrin, *The Formation of Christendom* (1987)
 M. Innes, *Introduction to Early Medieval Europe, 300-900: The Sword, the Plough and the Book* (2007)
 C. Wickham, *The Inheritance of Rome: A History of Europe from 400 to 1000* (2009)

2. Medieval Christendom and its Neighbours, 1000–1300

R. Bartlett, *The Making of Europe. Conquest, Colonization and Cultural Change, 950-1350* (1994)
 P. A. Linehan & J. L. Nelson, eds., *The Medieval World* (2001)
 D. Power, ed., *The Central Middle Ages. Europe 950-1320* (2006)

3. Renaissance, Recovery and Reform, 1400–1650

D. MacCulloch, *Reformation: Europe's House Divided 1490-1700* (2003)
 R. Mackenney, *Sixteenth-Century Europe. Expansion and Conflict* (1993)
 T. Munck, *Seventeenth-Century Europe, 1598–1700* (1990)
 B. Kümin, *The European World 1500-1800: An Introduction to Early Modern European History* (2009)
 U. Rublack, *Reformation Europe* (2005)

4. Society, Nation and Empire, 1815-1914

M. S. Anderson, *The Ascendancy of Europe, 1815-1914* (2nd ed. 1988)
 R. Gildea, *Barricades and Borders: Europe 1800-1914* (2nd ed. 1996)
 E. Hobsbawm, *The Age of Revolution, 1789-1848* (1962)
 E. Hobsbawm, *The Age of Capital, 1848-1875* (1975)
 E. Hobsbawm, *The Age of Empire, 1875-1914* (1987)
 K. Offen, *European Feminisms, 1700-1950* (2000)

C. Approaches to History, Historiography, Foreign Texts

These papers will be taught in lectures and fortnightly tutorials during the first two terms of the first year.

1. Approaches to History

In this paper undergraduates study ways in which the writing of history has been influenced by other disciplines. There will be a choice of themes: anthropology, archaeology, art, economics, gender and sociology. The following books are useful by way of introduction:

M. Bloch, *The Historian's Craft* (1994, or any other edition)

S. Berger, H. Feldner, and K. Passmore, *Writing History: Theory and Practice* (2010 edn)
O. Hufton, *The Prospect Before Her* (1997)
S. Rowbotham, *Promise of a Dream* (2000)
R. Shoemaker and M. Vincent (eds.) *Gender and History in Western Europe* (1997)
A. Sullivan and S. Todd, *Sex and Gender: A Contemporary Reader* (2023)
J. Tosh, *The Pursuit of History* (fifth edition, 2010, or subsequent editions)

2. Historiography: Tacitus to Weber

John Burrow, *A History of Histories* (2007)

3. Foreign Texts

This paper is based on a text or texts in French, German, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Latin or Classical Greek. The options are:

- a) A.de Tocqueville, *L'Ancien Régime et la Révolution* (Gallimard paperback).
- b) F.Meinecke, *Die Deutsche Katastrophe, Betrachtungen Und Erinnerungen* (Brockhaus Verlag, Wiesbaden. 4th ed. 1949) pp. 5-86, and E.Kehr, *Der Primat den Innenpolitik, Gesammelte Aufsätze zur preussisch-deutschen Sozialgeschichte im 19 und 20 Jahrhundert* (Gruyter/Berlin, 1965) pp.87-129 and 149-183.
- c) Machiavelli, *Discorsi*, Book 1.
- d) J. Vicens Vives, *Aproximación a la historia de España* (1960, 2nd ed.).
- e) Leon Trotsky, 1905.
- f) Einhard, *Vita Karoli Magni Imperatoris*, ed. L.Halphen, and Asser, *De Rebus Gestis Aelfredi*, ed. W.H.Stevenson, c.1 to contexitur, cc.10-25, cc.73-81, cc.87-106 (excluding 106B).
- g) *Herodotus* (Oxford Classical Texts, ed. C.Hude) v.26-vi.131.

It is essential to acquire and read the texts themselves in the original language.

You might also be interested in these as fun history reading:

T. C. W. Blanning, *The Triumph of Music: Composers, Musicians, and their Audiences, 1700 to the Present* (2008).
Inga Clendinnen, *Dancing with Strangers* (2007)
Angela Davis, *An Autobiography* (1988)
Natalie Zemon Davis, *The Return of Martin Guerre* (1985)
John Reed, *Ten Days that Shook the World* (1928)
Lyndal Roper, *Witch Craze: Terror and Fantasy in Baroque Germany* (2004)
Selina Todd, *Tastes of Honey: The Making of Shelagh Delaney and a Cultural Revolution* (2019)