

# MAJOR

# BACHELOR OF ARTS IN GLOBAL HISTORY

## DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

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[www.jjay.cuny.edu/departement-history](http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/departement-history)

## MAJOR ADVISORS

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See all major requirements at: [www.jjay.cuny.edu/global-history-major-resources](http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/global-history-major-resources)

## WHAT WILL YOU LEARN IN THIS MAJOR?

Global History majors are uniquely prepared to face the challenges of the 21st century. In our exciting and challenging program, you will develop the **knowledge and skills** to understand your place in the world, the questions and problems we face, and the ideas and forces that **shape our lives today**. Our courses cover a wide range of world regions, time periods, and special topics, and you have the freedom to **focus on what you care about**. But we won't just teach you about the past: we'll also train you to be a historian—to speak effectively, write persuasively, and conduct original research. Writer James Baldwin once said, “People are trapped in history, and history is trapped in them.” Come find out why history matters, to you, today.

The Global History major prepares you for a **wide range of jobs**, and it is an ideal foundation for careers in public service, education, and the law. We have a strong track record in helping our students achieve their goals: **our alumni** have entered graduate programs at places like Columbia, Cornell, Fordham, Northeastern, Caldozo, Hunter, and Queens. Won fellowships with Teach for America and the New York Teaching Fellows; and obtained jobs and internships with the National Archives, El Museo del Barrio, the Mayor's Office of Immigrants Affairs, and the NYPD.

### IN THIS MAJOR YOU WILL ■■■

**Read** historical documents that bring the voices of the past to life.

**Uncover** the hidden meanings of museum objects, oral histories, and artifacts of popular culture.

**Research** historical questions that are interesting and relevant to you.

**Discuss** the world we live in, the ideas that shape it, and the impact of the past on the present.

**Sharpen** your written and oral communication skills.

### FIRST COURSES IN THE MAJOR ■■■

**HIS 203:** The Ancient World

**HIS 204:** The Medieval World

**HIS 205:** The Modern World

**HIS 210:** Doing History

*“The Global History major does more than get you into law or grad school. It brings you face to face with the world and the human experience.”*

— Marcos Arvelo  
John Jay College Global History B.A. 2011  
Queens College M.A. 2016

*“My courses in Global History gave me the skills I needed to get into and do well in grad school. Thank you!”*

— Aida Muskaj

John Jay College, 2007  
Columbia University, 2011

## WHAT CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS WILL YOU DEVELOP IN THIS MAJOR?

- Summarize, analyze, compare, evaluate, interpret and synthesize ideas.
- Present ideas verbally and in writing, interpret evidence, shape information into specific points and arguments.
- Design projects, solve problems; conduct research.

## WHAT MINOR MIGHT BE A GOOD COMPLEMENT TO THIS MAJOR?

- Economics
- Gender Studies
- Human Rights

For more information about minors, go to:

[www.jjay.cuny.edu/minors](http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/minors)

## WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL THIS MAJOR OFFER YOU?

- A comprehensive advising and mentoring support system, to help you plan your studies and prepare for a career.
- Many different workshops and special events related to a variety of career paths.
- A senior thesis in which you design and complete an original research project related to your interests.
- The chance to develop your public speaking abilities in a supportive environment.
- The option of combining your history major with one of our two accelerated degree programs, the BA/MA in History and Human Rights, and the BA/Social Studies Teaching Certification.

The Global History major emphasizes critical writing and thinking skills that are in high demand in every profession. It is a particularly good foundation for careers in education, public service, journalism, and law, but history majors can be found in most fields that require effective communication, evidence-based analysis, and a nuanced understanding of the wider world and its complexities. The Global History major is very versatile and gives you many different career options.

## WE CAN HELP YOU PREPARE FOR THE FOLLOWING CAREER PATHWAYS:

- **Education:** Global and US history are part of the curriculum in all New York City high schools. A number of our majors are now teaching in the public schools, and the alumni of CUNY's graduate programs in education have great job placement records. We can help you through the process of fulfilling your education requirements and applying to graduate programs in education, and we have personal contacts with various local MsEd programs. We also offer an accelerated pathway to the social studies teaching certification program in partnership with Queens College.
- **Public Service:** Consider serving your community by working in local government or a city agency, putting your research and writing skills to use. We can help you get the internship that will start you on this path. Many majors are now working as social workers, mental health counselors, advocates for immigrant rights, and community/non-profit administrators here in NYC.
- **Law:** The American Bar Association says that a History major is “traditional preparation for law school.” In fact, Supreme Court Justices Sotomayor, Kagan, and Roberts all majored in history. Why? Because history gives you the theoretical tools, research and writing skills, and “broad understanding of history” that the ABA says you need to succeed in the legal profession. Many of our past majors are now in law school.