

BA/BSC HISTORY (JOINT HONS)

This is your Welcome Pack and provides you with an indication of the content of the Programme and the preparation that you can undertake before starting your BA/BSc History Programme.

WELCOME FROM HISTORY AT NORTHAMPTON!

Congratulations on being accepted to study History at the University of Northampton. We're looking forward to welcoming you at the start of the academic year, and have put together this welcome pack to help you to prepare for making the jump from school, college or workplace to university study.

COURSE OVERVIEW

There are a wide range of exciting modules to choose from at the University of Northampton, covering British, European and World History from the fifteenth to the twenty-first century. During your studies you'll be asked to think about the past using the latest methodologies from political, social and cultural history. You'll also integrate diverse forms of primary evidence, ranging from legal, medical, and military records to personal letters and diaries, as well as thinking about what works of fiction and art can reveal about past societies.

READING FOR A HISTORY DEGREE

Reading for a History degree involves doing a lot of independent study, spending time reading primary and secondary sources in books, academic journals, and online. You'll need to spend about 24 hours per week engaging in independent learning to prepare you for the 12 hours of classes you'll be participate in. In class there will be opportunities for you to have your say about what happened in the past and why it mattered, and these are the first steps you'll take on the road to becoming knowledgeable and independent-minded historians.

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

We've put together a list of films and TV programmes for you to watch and places to visit to give you a feel for the periods of History you'll be studying at Northampton – we hope you enjoy them:

- *Girl with a Pearl Earring* (2003) dir. Peter Webber: based on the novel by Tracy Chevalier, this is a fictionalised account of how the 17th-century Dutch artist Johannes Vermeer (Colin Firth) came to paint a portrait of a maidservant (Scarlett Johansen) which would become one of the most famous paintings ever.
- *Silence* (2016) dir. Martin Scorsese: tells the story of two Catholic missionaries (Andrew Garfield and Adam Driver) who travel to Japan in search of their missing mentor (Liam Neeson) in the early 17th century - a time when Catholicism was outlawed and their presence forbidden.

MODULE OPTIONS

The core module taken by all students in their first year of study (level 4) is **HIS1021: Themes and Perspectives in History**, which introduces you to the different theories and methodologies used by historians to explore the past.

In addition JH students take **HIS1003: Early Modern Europe, 1500-1800** and **HIS1008: The Holocaust and its Histories**, as well as modules in their other chosen subject.

COURSE READING LIST

Below is a list of core texts which will be used on the modules available in your first year of study. Copies of all these books are available in the university library, but you may wish to read one or more in advance of arriving at Northampton to prepare you for the topics which you will be studying.

HIS1003: Kings and Confessions in Early Modern Europe

- Beat Kümin (ed.), *The European World 1500-1800* (3rd ed. Routledge, 2018).

HIS1008: The Holocaust and its Histories

- Primo Levi, *If this is a Man* (available in various editions)

HIS1021: Themes and Perspectives in History

- John Tosh, *The Pursuit of History* (6th ed., Routledge, 2015).

ANY QUESTIONS?

There's a lot to look forward to at university, and we hope you find this Welcome Pack useful. If there's any aspect of the History programmes which you'd like to know more about, please contact us and we'll be happy to provide more information.

Best wishes,

The History Team

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