

BA History

Programme specification

1. Programme details

Item	Information
a) Programme name (incl. pathways):	BA History
b) Programme code(s)	510026D
c) Programme credit value(s)	360 CATS 180 ECTS
d) Programme author(s)	Dr Erica Wald and Prof. Alexander Watson
e) Entry requirements	A-level: CCC BTEC: DMM International Baccalaureate: 27 points overall with three HL subjects at 555 Access: Pass with 45 Level 3 credits including 24 Distinctions and a number of merits/passes in subject-specific modules Scottish Qualifications: CCCC (Higher) or DDD (Advanced Higher) European Baccalaureate: 65% Irish Leaving Certificate: H3 H3 H3 H3
f) Academic year effective from	2026-27

2. Programme Aims & Overview

Aims

This programme aims to provide students with a deep historical perspective on the origins and evolution of contemporary global challenges, thereby equipping them to contextualize current political, social, and cultural phenomena.

Overview

The Goldsmiths BA History programme challenges you to explore the complex forces, decisions, and narratives that have created the modern world. You will learn to navigate the richness and variety of the human experience, mastering the skills required to analyse evidence, deconstruct power structures, and articulate persuasive arguments.

History - the study, analysis and understanding of the past - is today more important today than ever. In a world in which truth itself is contested, having the skills to sift through competing narratives, identify bias and call out falsehoods is key. Understanding past societies fosters emotional intelligence and allows us to

appreciate the diversity and adaptability of human life. Understanding our pasts can help us to shape our futures and, crucially, help us shape those futures intelligently, insightfully, fairly, and with compassion, contributing towards equality, diversity and social justice.

Programme Structure: BA History

In each year (full-time), you will take modules worth 120 credits. Where options are available, choices must take into consideration the need to take 60 credits of modules in each teaching term.

In your First Year, you will take three core modules with fellow BA History and BA History with Politics students giving you a broad insight into modern history and how we research the past: 'Historical Controversies'; 'Power, Emotions and Environment'; 'Global Connections: The Violence and Exchanges that Shaped the Modern World'. Additionally, because skills are such an important part of this programme, you will take the modules 'Reading and Writing History' and 'Academic Skills for the Social Sciences / Humanities'.

In your Second Year, you will take four core modules: 'Communication, Propaganda and Power'; 'Radicalism and Revolution'; 'Race, Bodies and Empire'; and 'Environment, Disease and the Anthropocene'. You will also take the core skills module 'History at Work and the cross-disciplinary 'Goldsmiths Project'.

You will also choose two modules from options provided by the History Department. These optional modules, together worth 30 credits, can be replaced by modules in other disciplines at Goldsmiths.

In your Third Year, you will take the core modules: 'Special Subject Dissertation and 'Researching and Writing: Crafting and Presenting Your Work' along with one History Special Subject topical module at Goldsmiths (60 credits in total). Alternatively, you will take one Special Subject module worth 60 credits from a list of University of London intercollegiate Group III module.

You will also choose 60 credits of modules from a list of History options. Up to 30 credits of optional History modules can be replaced by modules in another discipline in Goldsmiths.

3. External reference

Item	Information
a) FHEQ Level of Award:	6
b) UCAS Code(s):	V101
c) HECoS Code(s):	100302
d) QAA Benchmark group:	History

4. Awards

Item	Information
g) Awarding institution:	Goldsmiths, University of London
h) Teaching institution:	Goldsmiths, University of London
i) Home School:	Global Change
j) School(s) also involved in teaching of the programme:	1. None 2. None 3. None If other, name here:
k) Entry awards:	<input type="checkbox"/> CertHE <input type="checkbox"/> DipHE <input type="checkbox"/> PGCert <input type="checkbox"/> PGDip
l) Interim exit awards:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CertHE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DipHE <input type="checkbox"/> PGCert <input type="checkbox"/> PGDip
m) Final awards:	BA (Hons)

5. Delivery

Item	Information
a) Language of study:	English
b) Valid intake points in year:	<input type="checkbox"/> January <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sept/Oct <input type="checkbox"/> Other If other, specify: N/A
c) Mode of study:	On Campus Indicate the overall balance of teaching modes in the table below.
d) Total hours directed learning/year	160
e) In-person hours	160 100%
f) Online hours	0 0%
g) Pace of study:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part time
h) Duration of programme	Full time: 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> years <input type="checkbox"/> months Part time: 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> years <input type="checkbox"/> months
i) External accreditation:	N/A
j) Apprenticeship Standard:	N/A

6. Programme Learning Outcomes

Also, see the [curriculum map](#) at the end of document.

For UG exit awards, Learning Outcomes must be achieved in the level indicated below:

- CertHE = Level 4
- DipHE = Level 5

Learning outcomes are grouped in categories of:

- **Declarative learning** - knowledge, thinking & facts (D1-3)
- **Functional learning** - application of knowledge, thinking & facts (F1-3)
- **Professional and transferable skills and behaviours** (P1-3)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

Learning Outcome		Level	Graduate Attribute
D1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of core historical methods and analysis of primary evidence (written, oral, and visual sources).	5	Responsible agency
D2	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of history's significance in shaping the contemporary world, and history's current social and cultural role and applications.	6	Political in the personal
D3	Demonstrate broad knowledge and understanding of different historical societies and cultures, and of continuity and change over time	4	Diversity of perspective
F1	Demonstrate developed skills in evaluating evidence, bibliographic searching, systematic reading, critical assessment of primary and secondary sources, and critical use of internet resources.	6	Responsible agency
F2	Demonstrate the ability to engage actively in shared learning in seminar settings and apply skills of oracy, debate and argumentation in group settings	5	Collaboration
F3	Demonstrate the ability to understand and explain a range of perspectives, and the importance of both context and culture in human decision-making and actions	4	Diversity of perspective
P1	Demonstrate the ability to analyse incomplete, biased or conflicting qualitative and quantitative information and arguments, and to present oral and written summaries and reports problematising issues and advancing with clarity arguments for understanding and action.	4	Political in the personal
P2	Demonstrate skills in time-management, taking personal responsibility to meet deadlines and in self-learning.	6	Responsible agency
P3	Demonstrate interpersonal skills, confidence and collaboration or leadership when in a group setting. Awareness of the impact of culture and context, and an ability to acknowledge diverse opinions.	5	Collaboration

7. Programme Structure

For Undergraduate programmes (UG), each level must amount to at least **120 CATS** (60 ECTS).

Postgraduate (PGT) programmes must amount to at least 180 CATS (90ECTS), with exception to interim exit awards.

Compulsory modules must be taken by all students.

Option modules – you must choose one or more of the options available to this programme at this level and point. The option modules available from this list may vary from year to year, depending on student numbers and staff availability. Selection takes place during your studies, not before.

Also, see [curriculum structure grid](#).

Academic year 1 (FT)

Module Name	Code	Credit	Level	Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Global Connections: The Violence and Exchanges that Shaped the Modern World	HT51028A	30	4	Compulsory	1-2	2	N/A
Power, Emotions and Environment	HT51045B	30	4	Compulsory	1-2	2	N/A
Reading and Writing History	HT51030A	15	4	Compulsory	2	2	N/A
Historical Controversies	HT51029A	30	4	Compulsory	1-2	1	N/A
Academic Skills for the Social Sciences / Humanities	AN51021C	15	4	Compulsory	1	1	N/A

Academic year 2 (FT)

Module Name	Module Code	Credit	Level	Module Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Radicalism and Revolution	HT52260B	15	5	Compulsory	1	3	N/A
Communication, Propaganda and Power	HTXXXX	15	5	Compulsory	1	3	N/A
Race, Bodies and Empire	HTXXXX	15	5	Compulsory	1	3	N/A

Module Name	Module Code	Credit	Level	Module Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Environment, Disease and the Anthropocene	HTXXXX	15	5	Compulsory	2	4	N/A
History at Work	HT52122X	15	5	Compulsory	1	3	N/A
Art and Power	HTXXXX	15	5	Option - Shared	2	4	N/A
A History of Violence	HT52263A	15	5	Option - Shared	2	4	N/A
Black and British: A Critical History	HTXXXX	15	5	Option - Shared	2	4	N/A
The Goldsmiths Project	CC52001A	15	5	Compulsory	2	4	N/A
Sex, Drugs and Colonial Control: Race, Vice and Deviance in the British Empire	HTXXXX	15	5	Option - Shared	2	4	N/A
Islam and the West	HTXXXX	15	5	Option - Shared	2	4	N/A

Academic year 3 (FT)

Module Name	Module Code	Credit	Level	Module Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Researching and Writing: Crafting and Presenting Your Work [Special Subject]	HTXXXX	15	6	Compulsory	2	6	N/A
Special Subject Dissertation	HTXXXX	30	6	Compulsory	1-2	6	N/A
Pleasure, Power and the Raj: Leisure, Society and Social Networks in 19th Century India [Special Subject]	HTXXXX	15	6	Option - Shared	1	5	N/A

Module Name	Module Code	Credit	Level	Module Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Global Cold War [Special Subject]	HTXXXX	15	6	Option - Shared	1	5	N/A
Future Histories: Skills for the Twenty-First Century	HTXXXX	15	6	Compulsory	2	6	N/A
Witchcraft, Diabolic Possession and the Occult in Early Modern Europe	HTXXXX	15	5	Option - Shared	2	6	N/A
WARGAMES: Fighting, Narrating and Understanding Modern Battle	HTXXXX	15	6	Option - Shared	1	5	N/A
Workers of the World Unite: Marxism, Modernity and Revolution in the Twentieth Century	HTXXXX	15	5	Option - Shared	2	6	N/A
How Democracy Dies: the Rise of the Nazis and the German Republic, 1918-33	HTXXXX	15	6	Option - Shared	1	5	N/A
From Emancipations to Nations: Histories of Caribbean Decolonisation	HT53260A	15	6	Option - Shared	2	6	N/A
Rebellions in Paradise : Caribbean Emancipations 1791-1914	HTXXXX	15	5	Option - Shared	2	4	N/A
Heresy and the Apocalypse	HTXXXX	15	6	Option - Shared	2	6	N/A

8. Learning, Teaching & Assessment

Learning & Teaching methods

Teaching will be via a range of formats to be as relevant as possible to the topic and learning outcomes. This may be through workshops, practical labs, lectures and seminars. It may have a mix of in-person and online activities, designed to give you the best learning experience and to make the most out of your time on campus. You are expected to attend all your timetabled learning activities.

Specifically, this programme will be taught in the following ways:

Core teaching methods include interactive lectures and in-depth seminars, where students critically discuss primary sources, key theories and debates. The curriculum is structured around a combination of thematic modules, which link historical context with contemporary political challenges, and period-specific courses to build foundational knowledge. The program is designed to cultivate essential 21st century skills such as critical thinking, complex problem-solving, and effective communication through collaborative assignments and reasoned debate. It incorporates practical skills development, such as research design and advanced academic writing, culminating in a final-year, special subject dissertation where you will undertake independent, original research under individual supervision.

Assessment modes and approaches

You will be assessed in a range ways throughout your course. These will be both Formative (for feedback and development), and Summative (required to pass and progress to the next level). Summative assessments are compulsory.

Feedback is a crucial part of your learning and development in this programme. You will receive feedback both on your Formative (work in progress) tasks/assessments, and your Summative (graded) assessments. This feedback will help the assessment to be a part of your learning, not just a test. It may be verbal, written or video based. Please engage with this feedback to improve your future work.

Specifically, this programme will be assessed in the following ways:

You will demonstrate your analytical and research abilities through various forms of written coursework, including traditional and non-traditional essays and more focused reading critiques where you engage deeply with academic sources as well as sat examinations. Oral presentations and debates are used to develop your public speaking and communication skills. Some modules require the creation of portfolios, allowing you to curate a collection of reflective work, practical projects, or case studies that demonstrate continuous learning and skill development.

Assessment diet (number of assessments for compulsory modules)

Mode	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Total
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Coursework	0	6	1	2	0	9
Exam	0	1	1	1	0	3
Live	0	0	1	2	0	3
Portfolio (multi-modal)	0	1	3	3	0	7
Practical / multimedia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Written	0	2	1	1	0	4
TOTAL:	0	10	7	9	0	26
Of which...	Individual:	25	Group:	1		

9. Other information

Item	Information
a) Assessment regulations	https://www.gold.ac.uk/gam/taught-programmes/assessment/
b) Placement opportunities	The programme offers students access to the School's work placement module. In previous years, History and Politics student placements have included: St Paul's Cathedral, the Jewish Museum, the Cinema Museum, the National Maritime Museum, the London Metropolitan Archives, the Bishopsgate Institute, the Museum of London Docklands, and the Wellcome Library and Archive. In addition, HT52122D, History at Work offers relevant employment talks by invited speakers.
c) Programme-specific requirements	N/A
d) Programme specific costs and resources	N/A
e) Employability and potential career opportunities	<p>Employability is core to this degree. The programme is designed to:</p> <p>(1) impart skills applicable to a very wide range of twenty-first century jobs. Students are taught to assess, categorise and analyse information. They learn oral presentation skills; pitching evidence and arguments clearly and engagingly. The programme also imbues advanced literacy; narrative building and developing ideas and arguments across a text fluently and compellingly. Students gain experience in research project management.</p> <p>(2) expose students to the very wide range of ways history is practised in the modern world of work. Through placement in archives or museums and through its unique 'Future Histories' module, the programme introduces students to a range of history-orientated careers: from teaching and publishing to podcasting and computer game design. This programme will give those students who desire it the information, skills and opportunity to start developing professional networks to pursue their historical passion as a career.</p>

10. Academic support

There is a range of support available to you to give you the best possible chance of success in this programme.

Please see your tutors and student portal/VLE for details of what's available and how to access this support.

11. Curriculum map

Programme Learning Outcomes assessed by each module:

Module name	Code	Type	D1	D2	D3	F1	F2	F3	P1	P2	P3
Global Connections: The Violence and Exchanges that Shaped the Modern World	HT51028 A	Compulsory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Power, Emotions and Environment	HT51045 B	Compulsory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reading and Writing History	HT51030 A	Compulsory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historical Controversies	HT51029 A	Compulsory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Academic Skills for the Social Sciences / Humanities	AN51021 C	Compulsory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Radicalism and Revolution	HT52260 B	Compulsory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Communication, Propaganda and Power	HTXXXX	Compulsory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Race, Bodies and Empire	HTXXXX	Compulsory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environment, Disease and the Anthropocene	HTXXXX	Compulsory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
History at Work	HT52122 X	Compulsory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Art and Power	HTXXXX	Option - Shared	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A History of Violence	HT52263 A	Option - Shared	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Black and British: A Critical History	HTXXXX	Option - Shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Heresy and the Apocalypse in Early Modern Europe	HT52XX	Option - Shared	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Module name	Code	Type	D1	D2	D3	F1	F2	F3	P1	P2	P3
Rebellions in Paradise : Caribbean Emancipations 1791-1914	HTXXXX	Option - Shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unchained Uprisings: Becoming and decolonising the Caribbean 1916-2018	HTXXXX	Option - Shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Researching and Writing: Crafting and Presenting Your Work [Special Subject]	HTXXXX	Compulsory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Special Subject Dissertation	HTXXXX	Compulsory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pleasure, Power and the Raj: Leisure, Society and Social Networks in 19th Century India [Special Subject]	HTXXXX	Option - Shared	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Global Cold War [Special Subject]	HTXXXX	Option - Shared	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
WARGAMES: Fighting, Narrating and Understanding Modern Battle	HTXXXX	Option - Shared	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Future Histories: Skills for the Twenty-First Century	HTXXXX	Compulsory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Witchcraft, Diabolic Possession and the Occult in Early Modern Europe	HTXXXX	Option - Shared	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Workers of the World Unite: Marxism, Modernity and Revolution in the Twentieth Century	HTXXXX	Option - Shared	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex, Drugs and Colonial Control: Race, Vice and Deviance in the British Empire	HTXXXX	Option - Shared	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

