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History (Ancient and Modern) Course Information Sheet for entry in 2025

The Ancient and Modern History course enables students to study Afroeurasian history from the Bronze Age Mediterranean, through the Greco-Roman period, late antiquity, the middle ages and the early modern period, right up to British, European and World history in the present day. Fruitful comparisons between societies abound, and the methods by which we study them are mutually illuminating. You do not need to have a qualification in Latin or Greek to do this course and can learn either from scratch if you want to while here.

The extraordinary range of choices (more than 90 options) for this course reflects the breadth of interests of those who teach here. The Oxford Classics and History Faculties are world-famous for teaching and research. The people who will teach you here will often be leading researchers in their field, with lecturers encouraged to put on new courses which reflect their own interests.

Oxford also possesses exceptional library provision for History in:

- the [Bodleian Library](#)
- the [History Faculty Library](#)
- the [Bodleian Art, Archaeology and Ancient World Library](#) and the [Weston Library's](#) special collections
- as well as a dedicated Classics Centre.

A typical week

During the first year, you will be expected to:

- attend around four lectures each week
- participate in regular meetings with tutors to discuss work
- conduct independent research
- and write at least one essay a week.

In the second and third years you will have the opportunity to choose from an enormous variety of lectures. Your regular tutorials will be supplemented by faculty classes where you will discuss work with a larger number of students. The third-year thesis will give you the opportunity to engage in a piece of independent research.

Generally, students are very much in charge of their own timetable throughout their courses.

Tutorials are usually 2-4 students and a tutor. Class sizes may vary depending on the options you choose. There would usually be no more than around 12 students.

Most tutorials, classes, and lectures are delivered by staff who are tutors in their subject. Many are world-leading experts with years of experience in teaching and research. Some teaching may also be delivered by postgraduate students who are studying at doctoral level.

Visit our [Academic Year](#) page to find out more about how our teaching year is structured.

Course structure

YEAR 1	
<p>COURSES</p> <p>Four courses are taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One period of <i>either</i> Greek <i>or</i> Roman history • One of the periods of European/world history offered • The world of Homer and Hesiod; <i>or</i> Augustan Rome; <i>or</i> one of the History optional subjects • A text-based paper on Herodotus; <i>or</i> Sallust; <i>or</i> Approaches to history; <i>or</i> Historiography: Tacitus to Weber from the History syllabus <i>or</i> a Greek/Latin language paper 	<p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>First University examinations: four timed written exams</p>
YEARS 2 and 3	
<p>COURSES</p> <p>Six courses are taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A period of Greek or Roman history • A period of European/world history <i>or</i> one of the periods of the history of the British Isles • A choice of further subjects including work on primary sources, textual or archaeological (at least one of the further or the special subjects must be ancient) from the History syllabus; <i>or</i> an ancient further subject, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Athenian democracy in the classical age ○ Politics, society and culture from Nero to Hadrian ○ Religions in the Greek and Roman world c31 BC–AD 312 ○ The Greeks and the Mediterranean world 950–500 BC ○ Art under the Roman Empire AD 14–337 ○ The Hellenistic world: societies and cultures, c300 BC–100 BC ○ The Achaemenid Empire, 550-330 BC • Special subjects (at least one of the further or the special subjects must be ancient) including work on primary sources, textual or archaeological. A choice of about 30 special subjects from the History syllabus <i>or</i> an ancient special subject, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Alexander the Great and his early successors ○ Cicero: politics and thought in the late Republic 	<p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>Final University examinations: six timed written exams and one thesis; <i>or</i> five timed written exams, one extended essay and one thesis; optional additional language paper.</p>

YEARS 2 and 3

- The Greek city in the Roman world from Dio Chrysostom to John Chrysostom
 - Disciplines of history
 - Thesis
 - Optional Greek/Latin language paper

The University will seek to deliver this course in accordance with the description set out above. However, there may be situations in which it is desirable or necessary for the University to make changes in course provision, either before or after registration. For further information, please see the University's [Terms and Conditions](#).

Fees

These annual fees are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2025.

Information about how much fees and other costs may increase is set out in the University's Terms and Conditions.

Please note that while the University sets out its annual fees as a single figure, this is a combined figure for both your University and college fees. More information is provided in your [Terms and Conditions](#).

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home (UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£9,535
Overseas (including most EU students – see Note below)	£41,130

Note: Irish nationals living in the UK or Ireland, EU, other EEA, and Swiss nationals who have been granted settled or pre-settled status in the UK under the EU settlement scheme are eligible for 'Home fee' status and student loan support, subject to meeting residency requirements. We will contact you directly if we need further information from you to determine your fee status.

Please refer to the [Undergraduate fee status](#) pages for more information.

Living costs

Living costs for the academic year starting in 2025 are estimated to be between £1,425 and £2,035 for each month you are in Oxford. Our academic year is made up of three eight-week terms, so you would not usually need to be in Oxford for much more than six months of the year but may wish to budget over a nine-month period to ensure you also have sufficient funds during the holidays to meet essential costs. For further details please visit our [living costs webpage](#).

Living costs breakdown

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£330	£515	£2,970	£4,635
Accommodation (including utilities)	£790	£955	£7,110	£8,595
Personal items	£200	£335	£1,800	£3,015
Social activities	£45	£100	£405	£900
Study costs	£40	£90	£360	£810
Other	£20	£40	£180	£360
Total	£1,425	£2,035	£12,825	£18,315

In order to provide these likely living costs (which are rounded to the nearest £5), the University and the Oxford SU conducted a living costs survey to complement existing student expenditure data from a variety of sources, including the UK government's Student Income and Expenditure Survey and the National Union of Students (NUS).

The current economic climate and high national rate of inflation make it very hard to estimate potential changes to the cost of living over the next few years. When planning your finances for any future years of study in Oxford beyond 2025-26, it is suggested that you allow for potential increases in living expenses of around 4% each year – although this rate may vary depending on the national economic situation.

Additional Fees and Charges Information for History (Ancient and Modern)

There are no compulsory costs for this course beyond the fees shown above and your living costs.