Haverford College History Department Options for Freshmen:

The History major is organized cumulatively, from the 100-level to the senior thesis, so that students can follow critical questions as they move along the skeins of nation, revolution, colonialism, imperialism, across regions and oceans—refining their ability to ask and develop answers to those questions as they travel through the major and their own time at Haverford. The History Department offers a range of 100-level courses designed to introduce students to the discipline and the faculty. History majors are required to take two introductory courses and it is expected they take at least one in their first year. The options for freshmen available in the Fall ’15 semester include:

111a INTRODUCTION TO WESTERN CIVILIZATION (Enrollment Limit: 25) Lisa Jane Graham TTH 11:30-1pm. This course--designed primarily for freshmen and sophomores--has several objectives this semester: first, as always, to introduce students to the craft and practice of history, to the ways in which historians imagine and [re]present the past; second, to survey the development of the modern European world over the past half-millennium; next, to explore the "languages" [of religion, politics, and science--for example] in which the West has come both to understand and to celebrate its modernity; and, finally, by reconsidering the factors that explain the "rise of the West," to better appreciate how the past influences the present.

114 ORIGINS OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH James Krippner TTh 10-11:30am. A year-long survey of topics in world history from the era of classical empires (Rome, Han China) to the present; with emphasis on the changing relationships among different regions and peoples of the world, and on the geo-politics of point of view in making history and in understanding it.

115 POSTCARDS FROM THE ATLANTIC WORLD Bethel Saler TTH 11:30-1pm. An exploration of the movement of peoples, goods and ideas across the four continents that border the Atlantic basin (Africa, Europe, North America and South America) over the transformative periods of exploration and empire from the fifteenth to the nineteenth centuries.

The Introductory level History courses offered in the Spring ’16 semester are:

111b INTRODUCTION TO WESTERN CIVILIZATION Linda Gerstein
117 MODERN MEDITERRANEAN HISTORY Alexander Kitroeff
118 INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE Darin Hayton

History at Haverford:

The Haverford History Department encourages students to explore the curriculum and master skills in three broad areas of intellectual pursuit: i) evidence ii) experience and iii) epistemology.

i) Students in History approach the study of the past through an immersion in materials and evidence, analysis and interpretation, creativity and imaginative endeavor. Our classes emphasize creativity and conceptual thinking rooted in fact and historical complexity. Primary sources permeate our curriculum. They are gateways to a three-dimensional world, keys to unlock the study of the past. We also focus on individual student creativity, both in the exploration of the curriculum and in student work. Students in History can pursue their own intellectual questions and concerns, ones they develop with faculty through their time at the college. Because of the roles creativity and the creative arts play the department, History at Haverford is a strong home for students with an interest in interdisciplinary studies. Professors in the department work with literature, art, music, architecture,
material objects and languages, analyzing what happens at the intersection between aesthetics and political culture.

ii) Students in History practice history. They engage in the production of historical knowledge. We send students out into the world to work on real projects of their own making. We have internal and external grants to support them in that work. Students learn how to design and execute independent research projects on their own initiative, moving between collective experiences and individual scholarly reflective work. In History, we work seriously with students over the course of the major on writing and revision. Our classes are often writing intensive. We take our craft seriously—the overlap between writing and thinking, form and meaning. That extends through the consistent training students in our major receive in writing and re-vision in its grandest sense.

The curriculum builds cumulatively to train students in skills in writing and analysis from their first year to their last, in concert with their studies abroad and interdisciplinary engagements with other departments. Students in History do rich, complexly imagined and robust work in French, Chinese, Spanish, German, Russian, Greek, and Latin, among others. They learn to critique and confront the culture of which they’re learning the language, to put it in the context of other historical forces, and to illuminate the power relationships inherent in all societies. In History, students do not just think in another language, but across languages. They animate linguistic study through critical scholarly and pragmatic application, emphasizing the foreignness of any culture and the past itself.

iii) History in this department starts from questions. Our classes emphasize deep time, historical debates and the roots of historical problems. History students examine how philosophies, political systems, and social orders are historically contingent. Students gain a sense that there might have been and might still be other outcomes. History is also then a kind of social critique. If every moment in the present is temporary, and what today is modern, tomorrow is “un-modern,” the major encourages students to ask questions about the necessity of the present.

Students in History enter a dialogue between present and past, considering consciously where they stand in the flow of time. Rather than striving for certainty, history is thus often about estrangement. Students study the horizons of opportunity available to people at different times and places, how those horizons shift, and how individuals navigate within those constraints. Through these approaches, the major fundamentally encourages empathy with difference. History teaches humility and the art of listening. It seeks to understand the full dimensions of human actors in the past.

The Haverford History Faculty:

Associate Professor Andrew Friedman - Modern United States international & cultural history
Professor Linda Gerstein - Modern European and Russian cultural, political and social history
Associate Professor Lisa Jane Graham - Early Modern Europe, Enlightenment, power & gender
Associate Professor Darin Hayton - Early Modern Europe, history of science
Associate Professor Alexander Kitroeff - Modern European and Mediterranean social history
Professor James Krippner - Early Modern & Modern Latin American cultural history
Associate Professor Bethel Saler – Antebellum & 18th Century American cultural & gender history
Professor Paul Smith – Early Modern & Modern East Asian & Chinese cultural & social history