

## World Cultures & History, B.A.

Planning for 2005

Students majoring in World Cultures and History will select from either **History** or **Literature** emphasis available during UC Merced's first year.

**History** will prepare students to develop critical intelligence and to foster an awareness of themselves and the world through the study of the past. Students will understand and use the methods by which historians examine societies and cultures. Students will explore history as a field, with a particular focus upon environmental history, the history of science and technology, the history of migration and immigration, and other issues of world, national, state, and local history.

**Literature** will teach students how to interpret texts by applying a variety of critical methods and hone their own interpretive skills through analysis and writing. Students will have the opportunity to study a national literature in depth and to compare literatures.

### Approach

World Cultures and History will give students a chance to build their expertise in history or literature and also to apply their classroom learning to research problems outside the classroom where they can contribute to expanding public knowledge and awareness of cultural issues. Methods of inquiry will come from a variety of humanistic disciplines: weighing evidence, constructing logical arguments, exploring the role of theory in historical analysis and human action, and the analysis and critique of texts.

### Message from Kenji Hakuta

#### Dean of Social Sciences, Humanities, & Arts

This major probes the question, what is human culture? How will knowing about social forces and events of the past help us understand the shape of today's diverse cultures? How can the world's cultures be better understood through creative expression: that is, through both literature and popular culture, through the written text, oral transmission and visual works? World Cultures and History will equip students to be cultural detectives through use of a variety of interpretive tools and techniques. By the intensive study of primary texts and other historical and cultural materials, students will hone their own interpretive skills through extensive writing and other modes of communication. The graduate of World Cultures and History will know their own culture better within the broader context of the nation and the world, and will be able to communicate what they know to many audiences. Students who are interested in gaining a deep understanding of the history and literatures of specific ethnic groups will find this major especially appealing.

### High School Preparation

Recommended as part of or in addition to the A-G subject requirements: <http://www.ucop.edu/doorways>

- English (4 years) including composition and literature electives and available humanities courses such as philosophy, history, and creative writing
- Language other than English (2 years)
- U.S. History/Civics (1 year)
- World History (1 year)

### Transfer Preparation

Recommended as part of and in addition to the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) and UC minimum admission requirements: <http://www.ucop.edu/pathways>

- History sequence (2 semesters) selected from:
  - American History
  - British History
  - World History
- Literature sequence (2 semesters) selected from:
  - American Literature
  - British Literature
  - World Literature
- Language other than English (4 semesters)
- Completion of Community College IGETC

Emphasis courses must work together as a sequence. For example, a student can choose to take a sequence in American History, but not one course in American History and one course in British History.

Students must demonstrate proficiency in a language other than English equivalent to two college years (4 semesters) in that language.

### Please contact:

UC Merced Admissions/Relations with  
Schools and Colleges  
550 E. Shaw Avenue, Suite 105  
Fresno, CA 93710  
(559) 241-7474  
(559) 241-7480 fax  
(866) 270-7301 toll free in California  
<http://www.ucmerced.edu>

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## Service Learning Experience, Research Opportunities, & Internships

Students who choose to participate in UC Merced's Service Learning Initiative can obtain practical experience that complements their formal coursework. Students will gain experience in World Cultures and History by working with student teams that serve non-profit organizations under the direction of a faculty team mentor. Students might work, for example, on researching and developing interpretative information for the public on connection points between the environmental and human histories of Yosemite or Sequoia National Park.

## Careers in World Cultures & History

World Cultures and History students will be well prepared to enter advanced study programs in law, teaching, journalism, library science, diplomacy, and management; and graduate degree programs in their areas of emphasis. Career opportunities will be found in business, government service, non-governmental organizations and non-profit agencies, writing and editing, foreign affairs, museums, and archives. Employers will value the outstanding research, analysis, cross-cultural, written and oral communication abilities that World Cultures and History students will build during their years at UC Merced.

## About Your Professors

Faculty at UC Merced are nationally and internationally recognized researchers in their own fields, and they have also been selected for their excellence as teachers and as mentors.

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## UC Merced's Academic Schools

Campus majors and programs are organized into three academic schools; the **School of Engineering**, the **School of Natural Sciences**, and the **School of Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts**. UC Merced is planning educational experiences designed to prepare well-educated people of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century for the workplace, for advanced education, and for leadership roles in their own communities. Graduates from UC Merced will find themselves better able to navigate and succeed in a complex world.

## College One

College One will be the home of UC Merced's general education program and will introduce students to the major domains of intellectual inquiry and help them build their college-level skills. What does the educated citizen of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century need to know? How will what students learn in UC Merced's classrooms connect with the world outside the University? What does it mean to be part of a research university? Students will be able to answer these questions, and many more, through their participation in College One.

### Special Note for Transfer Students

We encourage you contact us for more information:

Learn how to:

- Meet UC transfer admission requirements
- Prepare for your major
- Complete your IGETC or General Education
- Apply to UC Merced for 2005-06
- Get a Transfer Admission Guarantee to UC Merced

Consult your counselor, transfer center, or a UC Merced representative, for assistance in creating an academic plan for transfer to UC Merced.

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