Proposed Changes to the Joint Major in Economics and History, February 2013

I am proposing some important changes to the Joint Major in Economics and History (hereafter “Joint Major”), changes that are indicated with strikeouts and red-letter text in the accompanying text (see below). The rationale for these changes is as follows:

A. Changes to the History portion of the Joint Major:

(1) History 200W is intended to be an introductory course to the History major, and as such should be taken by the end of the junior year. This provision brings the Joint Major into alignment with the requirements for the History major.

(2) History 200W is a prerequisite for the capstone courses under the History major; this change brings the Joint Major in Economics and History into alignment with the requirements for the History major. The “Note” is added to clear up a problem identified in both the History Major and the Joint Major in Economics and History, dealing with a situation in which an honors student completes the first semester of the senior-year honors sequence but does not continue in the program. It allows the Director of the Honors Program in History (which also administers the Honors Program in the Joint Major) to award capstone credit to students in that situation.

One technical change to this section eliminates a page reference, since nowadays the catalog is mainly read online.

(3) We propose to eliminate the distinction between History courses numbered above and below 142 and simply require four electives beyond History 200W and the capstone. The distinction is confusing and raises difficult administrative questions concerning AP credit for History courses. This provision brings the Joint Major into alignment with the requirements for the History major.

In addition, we propose to add a number of courses offered outside the History Department and eligible for credit in the History major but not currently eligible for credit in the Joint Major. This provision brings the Joint Major into alignment with the requirements for the History major.

B. Changes to the Honors Program:

The new language here is simply technical, clarifying the fact that honors courses satisfy the capstone requirement for the Joint Major. This proposal was submitted earlier this fall with the requisite department approvals, but is included here for CEP convenience.

Respectfully submitted
David L. Carlton, Program Coordinator
Economics and History
The joint major in economics and history makes an important contribution to liberal education at Vanderbilt by helping students understand the origins and organization of modern society. It also provides a unique preparation for careers in business, the professions, and other fields by combining all the analytical tools of the regular economics major with history’s emphasis on clear and effective writing and on developing skills in gathering, assessing, and synthesizing information.

The program consists of 45 credit hours of course work: 9 credit hours in an economic history core, and an additional 18 credit hours in economics and 18 in history. Students declare their major through the Department of History office.

Note: All students must have at least one semester of calculus; two are strongly recommended for the economics component. Calculus is a prerequisite for ECON 150, 155, 231, and 232, which are required for the major. It is also a prerequisite for all economics courses numbered above 250.

Course work for the major is distributed as follows:

Economic History Core (9 credit hours)
Three of the following courses, one of which must be an economics course numbered above 250:

HIST 160, HIST 165, HIST 166, HIST 286a, HIST 288a, HIST 288b, HIST 288W, ECON 226, ECON 262, ECON 266, ECON 271.

Note: ECON 231 is a prerequisite for ECON 262, 266 and 271.

Economics (18 credit hours)
ECON 100, 101, 150 or 155, 231, 232; one economics ECON course numbered above 250 not included in the economic history core.

Note: The following course sequences may be substituted for ECON 150 or 155:
(1) MATH 218, 218L, and 219 or
(2) MATH 218, 218L, and ECON 253. ECON 253 will also count as an elective.

History (18 credit hours)
No more than 3 credit hours of AP or IB credit in history courses may count toward this total. Two courses numbered 142 or below; HIST 200W, HIST 295 or a course from Option 3 on page 120 in the history pages for a capstone alternative; two electives above 142 and not included in the economic history core (note that 169 is NOT accepted as an elective for the major).
(1) History 200W; must be taken by the end of the junior year.

(2) History 295, or a course from Option 3 as listed in the History major description for a capstone option (prerequisite: History 200W), or History 298a-b (available only to students in the honors program) Note: At the discretion of the Director of Honors and the Director of Undergraduate Studies in History, a student who has taken 298a but does not take 298b may be considered to have fulfilled the capstone requirement for the major.

(3) Four other history courses not included in the economic history core (note that 169 is NOT accepted as an elective for the major). These two electives may also include any of the following: AADS 102, 201, 205, 221, 265; ASIA 230; Classical Studies CLAS 207, 208, 209, 212, 213, 223, 224; EUS 201, 220, Divinity DIV 2750, 3217; HOD 1150; Jewish Studies JS 115F.09, 120, 122, 123, 124, 156, 158, 222, 234, 245, 252, 256, 257; Philosophy PHIL 210; RLST 206.

Honors Program (9 more credit hours)
Students apply to the Honors Program in History in the first semester of the junior year. 54 credit hours: students will take the four-course honors sequence, HIST 297, 298a–298b, 299. Because HIST 298a-b satisfies the capstone requirement, honors students will not be required to take HIST 295, though they may enroll for 295 as an elective. Students will write an interdisciplinary thesis under the direction of an adviser from each department.
Economics and History
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The program consists of 45 credit hours of course work: 9 credit hours in an economic history core, and an additional 18 credit hours in economics and 18 in history. Students declare their major through the Department of History office.

Note: All students must have at least one semester of calculus; two are strongly recommended for the economics component. Calculus is a prerequisite for ECON 150, 155, 231, and 232, which are required for the major. It is also a prerequisite for all economics courses numbered above 250.

Course work for the major is distributed as follows:

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Three of the following courses, one of which must be an economics course numbered above 250:

HIST 160, 165, 166, 286a, 288a, 288b, 288W, ECON 226, 262, 266, 271.

Note: ECON 231 is a prerequisite for ECON 262, 266 and 271.

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ECON 100, 101, 150 or 155, 231, 232; one ECON course numbered above 250 not included in the economic history core.

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Studies in History, a student who has taken 298a but does not take 298b may be considered to have fulfilled the capstone requirement for the major.

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David and Michael,

Good news: The results of our vote on the changes proposed by the History Department are below: 21 yes; 0 no; (plus some grumbling about why we’re voting).

Bill

21 yes
0 no

ET

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Michael,
The history dept voted yesterday on the proposed changes to the Econ-Hist Major: 24 in favor, none opposed, and with no abstentions.

Best, Jim