

Introduction to History

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Brunel

We're delighted you're thinking about studying at Brunel University London.

Our lecturers have put together the following information to help you prepare for your course. This will give you a snapshot of the materials and reading list you'll be using. You'll get a full breakdown of information before you enrol.

On our website you can also [find out more about your modules](#) and [chat to a current student](#).

If you have any more questions, [please get in touch](#).

We look forward to welcoming you to Brunel.

Sample lecture/coursework questions

1. What is History?
2. Why do new types of and approaches to History develop?
3. Do some types of History offer greater challenges to the historian than others?
4. How do we conduct 'history from below'?
5. Why do empires rise and fall?

Reading list

- Jones, M.A., *The Limits of Liberty: American History, 1607-1992* (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1995, 2nd Edition).
- Thomas, M. *Fight or Flight: Britain, France, and their Roads from Empire* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014).
- Tosh, J., *The Pursuit of History: Aims, Methods and New Directions in the Study of History* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2015, 6th Edition).

Students are also encouraged to expand their methods of preparation by listening to the BBC's History Extra Podcast, available here: [historyextra.com/article-type/podcast/](https://www.bbc.com/historyextra.com/article-type/podcast/)



Websites

- [Tomorrow Never Knows podcast](#)
- [BBC History Extra](#)
- [The Gladstone Diaries](#)
- [History and Classics blog](#)
- [History Hub podcast](#)

Indicative content

Study Themes	Reading
Historiography and Sources	Tosh, Chapter 5
African History	Thomas, Chapters 7-8
British and European History	Thomas, Chapter 1-3
Imperial and Commonwealth History	Thomas, Chapters 1-3
Military History	Jones, Chapters 3, 12, 25
International History	Jones, Chapters 20, 24, 27
Race and Gender History	Tosh, Chapter 10