

what is the easiest history class to take in college

what is the easiest history class to take in college is a common question among students aiming to fulfill general education requirements or seeking a manageable course load. History courses vary widely in terms of content, workload, and difficulty, making it essential for students to know which classes offer an easier path without compromising educational value. This article explores the factors that define the easiest history classes, highlights popular options, and provides strategies for selecting a course that aligns well with a student's academic strengths and interests. Understanding the characteristics of less demanding courses can help students balance their schedules effectively while still gaining valuable historical knowledge. Additionally, insights into course formats, grading styles, and professor expectations offer a comprehensive guide to making an informed choice. The following sections break down what to consider and recommend specific history classes generally regarded as more accessible.

- Factors Influencing the Difficulty of History Classes
- Popular Easy History Classes in College
- Strategies for Choosing the Easiest History Course
- Course Format and Instructor Impact on Difficulty
- Tips for Success in Any History Class

Factors Influencing the Difficulty of History Classes

Several factors contribute to the perceived difficulty of history classes in college. Understanding these can help students identify which courses might be easier to handle. Key factors include the volume of reading, writing assignments, exam formats, and the complexity of the historical periods studied. Additionally, the teaching style of the professor, class size, and the availability of supplementary resources influence how challenging a course feels. Courses with heavy emphasis on memorization or critical analysis may be more demanding than those focusing on broader narratives or introductory content.

Reading and Writing Requirements

History classes often require extensive reading assignments, including primary and secondary sources. Classes with lighter reading loads or more accessible materials tend to be easier. Writing requirements also vary; some courses demand lengthy research papers, while others may assign shorter essays or fewer written tasks. Evaluating the balance between these components helps determine course difficulty.

Exam Structure and Grading Criteria

The nature of exams—whether multiple-choice, short answer, essay-based, or open-book—impacts the difficulty level. Courses relying on multiple-choice or open-book exams are generally less stressful. Additionally, grading policies that allow for participation points or extra credit opportunities can ease the overall workload.

Historical Periods and Topics Covered

Courses focusing on well-known or recent historical periods may be more straightforward due to the availability of resources and prior general knowledge. Conversely, classes covering complex or less familiar eras, such as ancient civilizations or specialized topics, might present more challenges.

Popular Easy History Classes in College

While difficulty is subjective, certain history classes are widely considered easier by students based on content accessibility and workload. These courses often serve as general education requirements and provide a broad overview of historical events rather than deep specialization.

World History Survey

World History Survey courses provide a broad overview of global events from ancient times to the modern era. These classes typically require moderate reading and emphasize understanding broad themes rather than detailed memorization. The narrative style and general scope make it a favored option for students seeking an easier history class.

American History to 1877

This introductory course covers the history of the United States from pre-colonial times through the end of Reconstruction. The chronological approach and familiar subject matter often make it more accessible. Assignments usually consist of short essays and exams focusing on major events and figures.

History of Popular Culture

Courses examining the history of popular culture, such as music, film, or sports, tend to be engaging and less demanding academically. They often require less memorization and more critical thinking about cultural trends, which many students find enjoyable and manageable.

Local or Regional History

Studying the history of a specific state or region can be easier due to the narrow focus and relatable content. These classes often involve fewer readings and more discussion-based learning, reducing

the intensity of workload compared to broader history courses.

Strategies for Choosing the Easiest History Course

Selecting the easiest history class involves more than just course titles; students should consider their own interests, academic strengths, and the specific demands of the class. Employing strategic approaches can help in making the best choice.

Review Course Syllabi and Requirements

Examining course syllabi before enrollment provides insight into expected readings, assignments, and exam formats. This information helps students anticipate workload and difficulty, allowing them to choose courses with manageable expectations.

Seek Professor Reviews and Recommendations

Instructor reputation significantly influences course difficulty. Consulting peers or online resources for professor reviews can reveal teaching styles, grading leniency, and workload intensity. Choosing courses taught by approachable and organized professors can ease the learning process.

Balance Interest with Academic Goals

Opting for history classes aligned with personal interests increases engagement and motivation, often reducing perceived difficulty. Balancing enjoyment with degree requirements ensures educational benefit while maintaining an easier workload.

Consider Class Format and Attendance Policies

Classes offering flexible attendance, recorded lectures, or online components may be easier to manage alongside other commitments. Additionally, courses with participation points or group projects can distribute the workload more evenly.

Course Format and Instructor Impact on Difficulty

The structure of a history class and the instructor's approach play critical roles in determining ease of completion. Understanding these elements helps students anticipate challenges and adapt accordingly.

Lecture vs. Discussion-Based Classes

Lecture-based classes often involve less active participation but may require more independent

study. Discussion-based courses demand regular engagement but sometimes have lighter exams and papers. Students should choose the format that best suits their learning style.

Use of Multimedia and Supplementary Materials

Courses incorporating documentaries, podcasts, or interactive media can make learning more engaging and accessible. These materials often simplify complex topics, contributing to a less stressful experience.

Instructor Support and Communication

Professors who provide clear guidelines, timely feedback, and additional help sessions contribute to a more manageable course. Accessibility and responsiveness can significantly reduce student anxiety and improve performance.

Tips for Success in Any History Class

Regardless of the chosen history course, applying effective study habits enhances understanding and reduces difficulty. Employing strategies tailored to history coursework ensures better outcomes.

1. **Stay Consistent with Reading:** Regularly completing assigned readings prevents last-minute cramming and improves retention.
2. **Take Comprehensive Notes:** Organizing notes by themes and timelines aids in exam preparation and essay writing.
3. **Engage in Class Discussions:** Participating actively helps clarify concepts and demonstrates engagement for grading purposes.
4. **Utilize Office Hours:** Seeking clarification from instructors can resolve confusion and reinforce learning.
5. **Form Study Groups:** Collaborative learning encourages different perspectives and shared resources.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is generally considered the easiest history class to take in college?

Many students find introductory courses like 'World History to 1500' or 'Western Civilization' to be

among the easiest history classes because they often cover broad topics with less complex analysis and have more straightforward exams.

Are survey history courses easier than specialized history classes?

Yes, survey history courses that cover broad time periods or regions tend to be easier than specialized classes because they require less in-depth analysis and often focus on general knowledge rather than detailed research.

Does the professor affect how easy a history class is?

Absolutely. The professor's teaching style, grading strictness, and course structure significantly impact the difficulty of a history class. Some professors design classes with lighter workloads and more accessible exams, making the course easier overall.

Are online history classes easier than in-person ones?

Online history classes can be easier for some students due to the flexibility in completing assignments and pacing. However, the difficulty level depends on the course content and instructor rather than the format alone.

How can a student choose the easiest history class to take in college?

Students should review course syllabi, read professor reviews on platforms like RateMyProfessors, consult academic advisors, and consider classes that focus on broad surveys or popular culture history topics, which are often regarded as easier.

Additional Resources

1. "A Little History of the World" by E.H. Gombrich

This book offers a concise and engaging overview of world history, making it accessible and enjoyable for beginners. Written in simple language, it covers major events and themes from ancient times to the 20th century. It's perfect for students looking for an easy-to-understand introduction to history without overwhelming detail.

2. "The History of the Ancient World: From the Earliest Accounts to the Fall of Rome" by Susan Wise Bauer

Bauer's book presents ancient history in a narrative style that reads like a story, which helps students grasp complex events easily. It covers significant civilizations and their contributions in a clear and straightforward manner. The book is ideal for those seeking an approachable history class focusing on ancient times.

3. "A Short History of the United States" by Robert V. Remini

This concise book provides a broad overview of American history with an emphasis on key moments and figures. It is well-suited for students who want a simplified yet comprehensive introduction to U.S. history. Its clear prose and engaging narrative make it a popular choice for easier history

courses.

4. *"World History: Patterns of Civilization" by Burton F. Beers*

This textbook breaks down world history into digestible patterns and themes, helping students understand the flow of historical events without getting bogged down in excessive detail. The organized structure supports easier learning and retention. It's often recommended for introductory history classes designed to be manageable for all students.

5. *"A People's History of the United States" by Howard Zinn*

Zinn's work presents American history from the perspective of everyday people rather than political leaders, making it a fresh and accessible approach. The book's engaging storytelling style helps students connect with historical events on a personal level. It is frequently used in courses aiming for an easier yet thought-provoking history experience.

6. *"The Western Experience" by Mortimer Chambers et al.*

This textbook provides a clear and concise survey of Western civilization, highlighting major developments without overwhelming students. Its balanced approach combines political, cultural, and social history, making it suitable for easy, well-rounded history classes. The text's readability supports students who prefer straightforward material.

7. *"Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies" by Jared Diamond*

Though more thematic than chronological, Diamond's book explains the broad patterns of history in an accessible and interesting way. It explores why some societies advanced faster than others, using clear examples and storytelling. This book is often recommended for students seeking an easy-to-follow yet intellectually stimulating history course.

8. *"The Story of the World: History for the Classical Child" by Susan Wise Bauer*

Originally intended for younger readers, this series simplifies world history into engaging narratives that are easy to follow. It covers ancient to modern history in a way that is both educational and entertaining. College students looking for an especially accessible history overview may find this series helpful.

9. *"History: A Very Short Introduction" by John H. Arnold*

This brief book explores what history is and how it is studied, providing a foundational understanding for beginners. It demystifies historical methods and concepts, making it easier for students to grasp the subject. Ideal for those who want an easy start to history classes with a focus on understanding the discipline itself.

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