

THINGS I WISH I HAD KNOWN ABOUT CLASSES AND THE HISTORY DEGREE PROGRAM  
AT CSUSB (Hints and a Guide for Success):

- Attend all your classes. Your professors will tell you in class what is important.
- You will need to read! Even if you have limited time, read as much as you can, as it'll make a big difference in your success in classes.
- Get to know your full-time history professors in case you need reference letters or need their help for applications.
- Go to your professors' office hours for help if you need it. They are there to help.
- If there are courses that are offered that you really want to take, try to take them when they are offered. Not all courses are offered every year.
- Be professional when addressing your professors. Address your professors as Dr. \_\_\_ or Prof. \_\_\_ and make sure you sign all your emails. Proofread your messages, because how well they are written is a reflection of your intelligence and abilities.
- Take library tutorials at <https://libguides.csusb.edu/vtutorials> or ask library staff for help with finding/ordering books and articles.
- Go often for advisement with advisors **and** your profs to make sure you are on the right track so that you can make sure you graduate on time.
- Plan to spend more time re-reading, editing, and proofreading your written work. Poor writing reflects negatively on you, and your professors count the quality of your written work along with the quality of the content; in fact, the two are related.
- As most of your history classes are relatively small in size, class discussion is usually a part of how courses are run; push yourself to participate by making comments and asking questions, especially those that show you have reflected on what you have been reading for a given course.
- Your contributions to your classes--written, oral, and visual--should reveal that a thinking (as opposed to a rote regurgitating) person is the force behind them.
- Books for classes are usually available in the bookstore, but you can sometimes find cheaper second-hand books at UBE on University Ave, or on Amazon.com (sometimes for just a \$1). A list of required texts are usually available on the bookstore site and your syllabi.
- Sometimes classes are filled quickly, but you can try emailing a professor to see if they have a waiting list, or attend the first class to see if the professor will sign you in.
- Look out for HIST3950 Topics in History courses that are innovative and new courses offered by faculty that can often count towards one of your requirements. They will be advertised around the SB building and on the website.
- Going to university is like having a full-time job. Dedicate at least 5 hours each week per class for reading and completing assignments.
- It's not enough to simply just take courses, you need to get involved in extracurricular activities as well in order to make yourself competitive for jobs/future applications.
- We have an award-winning history journal, *History in the Making* that is published each Spring. Students can apply to be an editor or submit an article for publication - read old copies online to see the standard that is required for publication.
- Join the CSUSB History Club/Phi Alpha Theta Honors Society for fun activities and good professional experience.
- Give your professors plenty of time (a minimum of 2 weeks) to write letters of reference for you.
- Don't plagiarize! If you are confused about what constitutes plagiarism, check the history website or ask your professor before your assignment is due.
- Try not to take HIST 5840 and HIST 5850 before your final year.
- Try to maintain a high GPA so that your options for further study/employment are left open.
- If you need to hand in a late assignment in person, you can drop it off at SB357 (there's an after hours drop box) and they will date stamp it and put it in your professor's mailbox. But remember, late penalties will most likely apply (and some professors won't accept late assignments).
- Use the SI labs, or Writing Lab (third floor, SB building) for class and writing assistance if you need it.
- The ASI has a student survival guide online for further questions that you may want to consult.
- Have fun, enjoy your classes, and welcome!!!