Trouble registering for a history class?

Did you check the crosslisting?
Many times, the history section of a course will fill first. Please review the course schedule to discover if there are crosslisted sections, indicated by the “Same As” or “Meets With” language on the course schedule. If you register for a history course under a crosslisted department (AFR, LAS, EUS, MAS, MES, ANS, AMS, REE, AHC, WGS are all common crosslisting departments for history), the class will count the exact same way for a history major or minor, regardless of which section you register under. The registration system will not automatically check for crosslisted sections for which you might be eligible. Enter crosslisted uniques to see if you qualify!

Do you meet the prerequisite?
Most upper-division history courses have the prerequisite of upper-division standing. We are willing to consider waivers for students in good standing who have completed around 40 hours of total credit, with prior history coursework. For upper-division history writing flag courses, if you have never taken a history course before, we may deny requests to waive the prerequisite or refer you to the professor before granting a waiver. 
HIS 320W and HIS 378W are exceptions. The prerequisite for HIS 320W is 9 hours of history and the prerequisite for HIS 378W is HIS 320W. These prerequisites are strictly enforced.

Does the class show “open; reserved”?
Lower-division US History
If the class is a lower-division US History course offered in Fall 2020 (HIS 314K, 315K, 315L, or 317L) and it displays “open; reserved” during registration, the remaining seats are reserved for new students attending orientation in summer. We will not add students, nor release the reservations, until the Monday before classes start in August, 2020. Please note we often get calls for certain sections of HIS 315K and L when there are still open seats in other sections. Please consider registering for an open section, as there are unlikely to be many seats left in your desired section in August.

Courses required for the history major (HIS 350L, 350R, 320W, 378W)
If the class is required for history majors under one of our catalogs (HIS 350L, 350R, 320W, 378W) the class is reserved for history majors during early registration. We may release seats in these classes as registration progresses, depending on demand. Nearly all seats will be released by the last day of early registration, May 8, 2020, although it is possible we will reserve a few seats in HIS 320W for incoming summer transfer students. All seats should be released by the Monday before classes start in August, 2020. Please note these classes have prerequisites; refer to the first question above for guidance on prerequisites.

Courses with desirable flags
If the class has desirable flags (WR, II, QR), typically we reserve some portion of the seats for history majors. Once the non-majors seats are filled, the class will show as “open; reserved.”
We may release seats in these classes as registration progresses, depending on demand. Most seats will be released by the last day of registration, May 8, 2020. All seats should be released by the Monday before classes start in August, 2020.

**HIS 329U**
This course is part of the UTeach-Natural Sciences program and enrollment is managed by staff in that program. Typically, there are a few seats available to students outside the UTeach program, but once those seats have filled, remaining seats are reserved for UTeach students. If you are interested in the course, or are a UTeach student experiencing difficulty registering, please contact UTeach-Natural Sciences.

**Honors classes**
In Fall 2020, we have two courses (HIS 337N Germany in the 20th Century and HIS 366N British History, Lit, and Politics) which crosslist as upper-division LAH seminars. These seats are reserved for history majors with a 3.5 GPA or above. Reservations are made via email or during advising sessions, on a first-come, first-served basis. Once we have made as many reservations as there are seats in the class, we stop making reservations. The class may appear “open; reserved” on the schedule until all authorized students have registered. Feel free to email us if you are interested in the course to check if seats are available; please note the 3.5 GPA requirement is strictly enforced.

HIS 679HA is the first thesis course in the history departmental honors sequence. Only students who were accepted into the history honors program during the normal application cycle in Fall 2019 are authorized to register.

**Research/conference courses**
HIS 358Q is a supervised research class. You must apply to take the course, with a research topic and the approval of a supervising professor. Please contact a history advisor to initiate the application and receive the form.

**Is the class closed?**
If the class is closed, you cannot register. In most cases, when a class fills, we open a wait list as soon as we notice the class has filled. There are a few exceptions:

- There are ample open seats in a crosslisted section (see the first question above)
- The number of seats in the course is so small it would not justify a waitlist (check for seats in a crosslisted section; see the first question above)
- The class has become overenrolled, so we must reduce the size of the class and we cannot add more students from a waitlist
- The class will be canceled

Please note: in lower-division US History courses it is not unknown that the maximum waitlist size (200 students) is met. When this happens, the class will move from waitlisted to closed. It will show up again as waitlisted when someone drops. This scenario can also happen in small enrollment classes where we keep the size of the waitlist smaller.
Is the class waitlisted?
Get on the waitlist. It is very unusual that we override the order of a waitlist to add students. Your best option for getting the class is getting on the waitlist. Many times, students delay adding to the waitlist to ask an advisor or the instructor for help, which only decreases the likelihood they will be added to the class. (It’s not unusual that several other students were added from the waitlist in the time another student waited to talk to an advisor or the instructor.) Students with true special circumstances who need to be added to courses have a better chance of being added if they have been waiting on the waitlist.
In general, you should look for backup classes for any classes you are waitlisted for, especially if your slot on the waitlist is farther back. Please note that “farther back” in a small writing flag course that only enrolls 25 students could mean being 6th or 7th on the waitlist.

Is the class cancelled?
Sometimes you entered a course into your desired schedule the moment the course schedule went live, but the course was cancelled prior to registration. A cancelled class is not available for registration. Double-check the course schedule.

Should I talk to the professor?
You can, but know that talking to the professor does not guarantee anything. Many if not most history professors defer to the judgement of the advisors, particularly in large enrollment courses. Additionally, faculty members may not always be aware right away about all the factors affecting their course, such as that their course is already full, that the room does not have additional seats available, that seats are reserved for orientation, or that multiple students are already on the waitlist, etc. The history advisors do our very best to assist students with enrollment in our courses and in most cases it is not necessary to contact the faculty for help.

Should I talk to an advisor?
If your questions or specific situation are not addressed in this document, yes, you can email us at history-advisors@utlists.utexas.edu. Please do not email to ask questions already answered in this document, as it will delay response time for everyone. During this time of COVID-19, we ask that you not schedule advising appointments to ask course enrollment questions. Advising appointments should be reserved for students who need substantive academic advising for Summer and Fall 2020 registration.