



# History

As perhaps the most comprehensive of the liberal arts, history broadens students' perceptions and understandings of the contemporary world by studying the past. Studying history helps students develop an informed, critical, and articulate sense of human culture. It also cultivates an appreciation for the diversity of human experience and a true awareness of how past events impact the present and the future.

## THE PROGRAM

Gonzaga University's History (HIST) Department offers coursework in U.S., European, Asian, and Latin American history. A **major in History** consists of 33 credits, including the following required lower-division courses, often completed during the freshman and sophomore years:

- HIST 101 - Survey of Western Civilization I
  - HIST 102 - Survey of Western Civilization II
- or
- HIST 112 - World Civilization 1500-Present
  - HIST 201 - Survey of U.S. History I
  - HIST 202 - Survey of U.S. History II

After completing these introductory courses, History majors are required to complete HIST 301-Historical Methods, which is normally taken as students begin their upper-division courses. This course gives students an in-depth introduction to the methods of history as an academic discipline. It focuses on helping History majors develop a strong foundation in writing, research, and analytical skills that they will need to be successful in their upper-division History courses.

To complete the degree requirements, History majors also choose a minimum of 15-18 credits (five or six courses) of **upper-division History electives** from among topics such as:

- Greco-Roman history
- Japanese history
- Latin America
- Islamic civilization
- Modern Europe
- Pacific Northwest
- U.S. history
- Women's history

Four of the six electives must be taken from courses in four specific categories: 1) The Non-Western or Developing Worlds, 2) Pre-Modern Europe, 3) Modern Europe, and 4) the United States.

The final required course for History majors is HIST 401-**Senior Seminar**. This History capstone course is designed as a discussion seminar for History majors. General discussion topics and assignments vary by instructor and term, but every seminar will

develop student understanding of the methods, historiography, and skills of contemporary historical practice. Students will choose a research topic in consultation with their instructor and produce a thesis project using relevant primary and secondary sources. In exceptional cases, students with an honors-level grade point average and approval of the department may elect to take HIST 499-Senior Thesis in lieu of HIST 401.

Students majoring in other fields who have an interest in history may pursue a **History minor**. The 18-credit minor (six courses) has two required courses: Western Civilization I and either Western Civilization II or World Civilization. Students may then complete the History minor with four History elective courses, two of which must be 300-level or above.

Some students majoring and minoring in History choose to obtain **teacher certification** that will allow them to pursue careers as secondary school history teachers. Faculty advisors in the History Department and School of Education assist these students in planning their programs to meet certification requirements.

Many History students study abroad. We offer several opportunities to take classes from Gonzaga professors during the semester or summer in Turkey, Rome, and Florence. We also provide opportunities for internships. An internship provides an invaluable learning experience, an opportunity to explore a potential career field, a chance to learn and teach history beyond the classroom, and a vehicle for gaining hands-on professional skills.

## OUTCOMES

A liberal arts education develops a student's ability to write effectively, speak eloquently, and think critically, while providing students with a broad background in citizenship and culture. Graduates of Gonzaga's History program typically find employment in fields that value these attributes. These include business, education, law, government, journalism, and publishing. A sample of employers for recent Gonzaga History graduates includes:

- Google
- Ronald McDonald House of Charities
- Secret Service
- NextGen Climate

- Fort Nisqually Living History Museum
- a variety of school districts and colleges

Gonzaga's History program also provides preparation for graduate study in history and the archival and library sciences, as well as for careers in museums and public history sites.

Recent graduates have gained admission into the following schools for graduate programs:

- Georgetown University
- Gonzaga University School of Law
- Indiana University
- Marquette University
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of Oregon
- University of Washington School of Law
- Vanderbilt University
- Yale University

Faculty members actively support Gonzaga's chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national honor society for history students. Before applying for membership in the society, students must first complete a minimum of 12 credits in History courses taken at Gonzaga University. Many Gonzaga students participate in the Phi Alpha Theta regional conference each spring.

## THE PEOPLE

The History faculty at Gonzaga University believe in an active approach to the study of the discipline. All members of the Department teach both introductory and upper-division courses. Teaching is the primary concern of the faculty during the academic year, but they also know that to teach something well, one has to do research in the field. Thus, the History Department faculty are active in publishing

scholarly work. GU History professors have published research on organized crime, Jesuits in the West, Native Americans in the Columbia Plateau, Medieval women, the Baltics, and Zen. They have also worked on designating National Historic Sites, leading archeological digs, and translating early Christian texts. They also regularly present scholarship at history conferences and serve as leaders in civic organizations.

## FACULTY CONTACTS & SPECIALTIES

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