HISTORY

The History degree opens doors to a variety of career possibilities. The History major provides excellent preparation for a career in teaching, law, politics, business, government, journalism, foreign service, curatorship/museum management and many other fields. The student of history acquires not only knowledge but also skills in research, analysis, judgment of evidence and the organization and expression of ideas. These skills and the ability to think analytically and solve problems that a major in History imparts are highly valued qualities in today’s world.

Faculty

THOMAS D. CURRAN, PH.D.
Professor

CHARLOTTE M. GRADIE, PH.D.
Professor

JENNIFER MCLAUGHLIN, M.A.
Instructor

JULIE A. MUJIC, PH.D.
Assistant Professor

JOHN B. RONEY, PH.D.
Professor, Chair

GREGORY VIGGIANO, PH.D.
Associate Professor

Major in History

A major in History requires the completion of 36 credits in History.

REQUIRED COURSES

HI 222 United States History to 1865
HI 223 United States History since 1865
HI 301 Historical Method and Criticism

Select either of two tracks for the capstone:

Senior Thesis Track (3.2+ GPA)

IL 302 Information Literacy for History
HI 397 Senior Thesis Preparation
HI 398 Senior Thesis

Senior Seminar Track

HI 395 Senior Seminar Preparation
HI 396 Senior Seminar
Electives Seven History electives, including at least one in each of the following areas: The Ancient World, Europe, Latin America and East Asia

Minor in History

A minor in History requires the completion of the following 18 credits:

REQUIRED COURSES

HI 222 United States History to 1865
HI 223 United States History since 1865
Electives One elective from each of four areas: The Ancient World, Europe, Latin America and East Asia See also Minors in European Studies, Global Studies and Latin America.

Associate in Arts General Studies

EMPHASIS REQUIREMENTS (18 CREDITS)

HI 222 United States History to 1865
HI 223 United States History since 1865
Electives Four History electives including one in each of the following areas: Ancient,
European, the East Asian and Latin America

Course Descriptions

† Elective Core Course

Note: each course at the 200 level is open to students who have taken HICC 101 or instructor’s permission and each course at the 300 level is open only to students who have had HICC 101 and are in their sophomore year or higher or have permission of the instructor.

HICC 101 The Human Journey: Historical Paths to Civilization
3 CR
HICC101 is part of Sacred Heart University’s Common Core, The Human Journey. Framed by the Common Core’s four fundamental questions of human meaning and value, this course is designed to provide first-year college students with an understanding of the elements of Western Civilization from the ancient world to the end of the Renaissance, including the Catholic intellectual tradition. HICC101 will also provide students with sufficient knowledge of the history and culture of a non-western civilization (China) to allow for meaningful comparison of the two cultures. Primary texts will be used to bring students into close contact with the main thinkers of the period and to show how historians use written records to interpret the past.

HI 202 Europe and the World
3 CR
This course provides an introduction to the historical development of Europe from the Renaissance to the present in the context of world history. Through the study of European colonialism, world wars and capitalist economic expansion, students are presented with the global nature of the history of the West. Does not fulfill requirement as an European elective.

†HI 207 History of Latin America to 1826
3 CR
Examines the Spanish and Portuguese conquest and empire building, culture and society during the colonial age and the disintegration of the empires by 1826.

†HI 208 History of Latin America since 1826
3 CR
Examines the historical development of Latin America beginning with the wars of independence to the end of the 21st century. Topics include Latin America and the world economy, 20th-century revolutions, the emergence of mass politics, the changing role of religion and foreign relations.

†HI 209 The U.S. and Latin America through History
3 CR
Traces the connections between the two regions from the colonial period to the present. Topics covered include political, economic and diplomatic relations, border conflicts, immigration and questions of identity.

†HI 212 Twentieth-Century Latin America
3 CR
An in-depth study of the changes in Latin America during the 20th century. Examines the major issues from the Mexican Revolution of 1910 to the Cuban Revolution of 1959 as well as current problems. Topics include dependency, Marxism, Peronism, neo-liberalism and social and political change in the region.

†HI 214 French Revolution and Napoleon
3 CR
Traces the path of the French Revolution from its origins through each of its political phases from 1789 to 1799. It culminates with the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte, his achievements and failures and the end of the empire in 1815.
†HI 216 Princes to Peasants
3 CR
A survey of European social history from the 14th century to the late 19th century. Emphasis on the household and family, gender, social class and rank, the body and death and material and daily life.

HI 218 Modern France
3 CR
Follows the political, economic and religious developments from 1789 to the 1960s. It examines the last monarchy under Louis Philippe, the rise of democracy by 1848 and numerous political factions and World War I and II, culminating in the person of Charles de Gaulle. Attention is given to continuity and change to understand the character of France.

HI 221 Politics and Society in Colonial America
3 CR
Explores the cultural, social and political history of the British North American colonies from the eve of the first contact of indigenous and colonizing cultures to the American Revolution (roughly 1492–1783).

HI 222 United States History to 1865
3 CR
Examines American development from the period of exploration to the conclusion of the Civil War. Major themes include colonial society, the Revolution, 19th-century expansion and economic growth, slavery and the War for the Union.

HI 223 United States History since 1865
3 CR
Analyzes United States development from Reconstruction to the present, examining major social, political, economic and foreign policy developments and their impact on American life.

HI 224 Freedom in American History
3 CR
Examines the history of freedom in America as a contested ideal. Treatment of blacks in slavery and the political rights of women are among the topics covered.

HI 229 History of Sports in America
3 CR
Examines the development of major spectator sports in America from their fragmentary, localized beginnings to their highly organized and enormously powerful present condition.

HI 230 The Civil War
3 CR
Examines an epic and transformative period in U.S. history from a multidimensional perspective. The clash of arms, military and civilian leaders, lives of ordinary soldiers and civilians, politics and economies of the Union and Confederacy and “new birth of freedom” that ended slavery are reviewed and discussed.

HI 231 The Cold War and American Society
3 CR
Explores the roots and development of the Cold War between the United States and U.S.S.R. (1946–91); its impact on American social, political, economic and cultural values and practices; and some of its long-term consequences for the nation’s society and place in the world.

HI 234 Catholics in American Society
3 CR
This course focuses on the social and cultural history of American Catholics beginning with the earliest contact between native Americans and European colonists to the relationship between Catholics and other religious groups, as well as within American Catholic communities up to the present day.
HI 236 History of the Arab World I: From Muhammad to the Ottoman Empire
3 CR
A study of the rise of Islam and the emergence of the Arabs as a world power. Discussion focuses on the achievements of Muhammad, the institution of the caliphate, Umayyad and Abbasid empires, Crusades and decline of Arab influence in the Near East under the pressure of Turkish expansion.

HI 238 The Modern Arab World
3 CR
This course begins with the breakup of the Ottoman Empire and delineates the rise of the Arab states in recent times.

HI 242 Ancient Greek History
3 CR
This course surveys ancient Greek history from the Late Bronze Age to the outbreak of the Peloponnesian War (1500 BC – 431 BC) and the emergence of the Greek polis, the development of Athenian Democracy, the growth of Athenian Imperialism and the rivalry between Athens.

HI 243 Golden Age of Greece
3 CR
This course examines the development of high culture in archaic and classical Greece; art, literature, philosophy, religion and democracy of Athens from 7th c. to death of Socrates and. Solon, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, the Sophists, Thucydides and Aristophanes. Topics include role of Pericles in Athenian democracy, imperialism, Peloponnesian War.

HI 244 Thucydides and the Peloponnesian War
3 CR
This course is a seminar that examines Peloponnesian War and the brilliant historian who reported it. The class begins ancient Greek history and the institutions of the polis; and discussion of topics connected with the Great War itself, such as Periclean strategy, the plague in Athens, civil war in Corcyra, Pylos affair, Sicilian expedition and oligarchic revolution.

HI 245 Alexander the Great
3 CR
This seminar will examine Macedonian background, accession, military career and historical significance of Philip II’s son Alexander III; analysis of sources and historiographical tradition. Students can form a personal estimate of Alexander based on their understanding of the sources.

HI 246 Roman History: The Republic
3 CR
This course surveys Roman history from the legendary founding of Rome to the death of Julius Caesar (753 BC – 44 BC) and the development of republican political institutions, the nature of Roman Imperialism, Rome’s encounter with Greek culture and the fall of the Republic.

HI 248 Roman Empire and Christianity
3 CR
This course surveys Roman history from death of Julius Caesar to the fall of Roman Empire in the west (44 BC – 476 BC). The class also examines the rise of Christianity and how it went from being a persecuted Jewish sect to the state religion of Rome; and considers the relationship between Paganism and Christianity in late antiquity; as well the reasons for the decline and fall of the western empire.

HI 252 Medieval Europe
3 CR
Topics include Feudalism and Christendom, Islam and the Crusades, the Carolingian Empire and the rise of national states. Important elements include art and architecture, cosmology and alchemy, hierarchy, the rise of the early Renaissance, as well as different types of work and “callings.”
†HI 253 From Rembrandt to Van Gogh
3 CR
This course examines the history of the Low Countries through art and written texts from 1400 to 1850. It also compares and contrasts the development of Flemish and Dutch art and literature and shows how religion played an important part in the formation of early-modern Low-Countries culture.

†HI 254 The Renaissance and Reformation
3 CR
A study of the transition from medieval to modern society through investigation of political, social, economic, religious and cultural factors involved in the change.

†HI 255 Celtic and Irish History
3 CR
This course surveys Celts, from ancient continental European tribes, through Medieval, to modern Ireland. Focus will be on several debates on emotive events, such as Cromwell’s conquest, Irish rebellions, the Famine, independence, culture and identity. Does not fulfill requirement as an European elective.

HI 257 History and Memory in Modern Ireland
3 CR
This course examines collective memory in relation to official history and considers the place of landscape, tourism, poetry and song as it reflects on Irish cultural identity.

†HI 281 Introduction to the Civilization of East Asia
3 CR
An overview of the history of China and Japan from prehistoric times to the late traditional period (approximately 1800). Intended to enhance students’ appreciation of the uniqueness and coherence of these two ancient civilizations.

†HI 283 The History of Modern China to 1920
3 CR
Presents the history of modern China from approximately 1800 to 1920 emphasizing the decay of traditional culture and the Chinese response to the West.

†HI 285 China in Revolution
3 CR
Examines the history of 20th-century China focusing on the rise to power of the Chinese Communist Party and its efforts to transform China into a modern nation.

†HI 287 The Holocaust
3 CR
Explores man’s inhumanity to man as exemplified by the Nazi murder of two-thirds of European Jewry. Historical, psychological, sociological and literary themes; prejudice in general and anti-Semitism in particular are studied and followed by an inquiry into the Nazi years.

†HI 299 Special Topics in History
3 CR
Designates new or occasional courses that may or may not become part of the department’s permanent offerings. Courses capitalize on a timely topic, a faculty member’s particular interest, an experimental alternative to existing courses, etc. Prerequisites established by the department as appropriate for the specific course. Course title is shown on the student’s transcript. Consult the current course schedule for available topics.

†HI 300 The Vietnam War
3 CR
A survey of the war in Vietnam emphasizing the colonial origins of the conflict, United States and Vietnamese strategies and the causes of the American defeat. Does not fulfill requirement as an East Asian elective.
†HI 301 Historical Method and Criticism
3 CR
An introduction to the history of historical thinking and writing, the contemporary field of historical methods and theories and the research tools and skills necessary for the study of history and the writing of papers and essays.

†HI 311 Discovery and Conquest, 1492-1598
3 CR
Examines the major themes of the European expansion beginning in the early Middle Ages to the Portuguese and Spanish conquest and colonization of the Americas and Asia. Topics include European and Indian worldviews, biological and demographic consequences of contact, development of a conquest culture in the Americas and the role of missionaries and conquistadors. Does not fulfill requirement as a Latin American elective.

†HI 322 U.S. Foreign Policy
3 CR
Evolution and expansion of American foreign policy from the Revolutionary period to the present. Analyzes the aims of foreign policy, influences upon it and its impact on the nation’s domestic politics.

†HI 325 African-American History
3 CR
Examines the forced migration of Africans to America, the condition and nature of slavery, abolitionism, emancipation, twilight zone of freedom, growth of civil rights and Black Power movements.

†HI 328 The Immigrant Experience
3 CR
A comparative, historical study of American immigration focusing on motives for immigration, patterns of settlement, adjustment and subsequent generational experience of successive immigrant groups.

†HI 377 The Great Depression and New Deal
3 CR
Examines the origins and impact of the Great Depression and the transformative changes in American society and government created during the New Deal administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

†HI 391 Internship Program
3 or 6 CR
Offers qualified students supervised field experience in an area allied with their own interests. Internships are arranged in advance of the semester they are to be taken. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor

HI 395 Senior Seminar Preparation
3 CR
This course prepared students for their capstone paper in the Senior Seminar by examining the historiography of a particular topic in depth and becoming acquainted with the problems and issues.

HI 396 Senior Seminar
3 CR
This course is for Seniors who have taken HI 395 Senior Seminar Preparation and continue to give seminars on their capstone topic and complete a major paper.

HI 397 Senior Thesis Preparation
2 CR
This course is designed for students to begin working on their Senior Thesis projects (HI 398). Prerequisites: HI 301 and IL 302 (1 CR)

HI 398 Senior Thesis
3 CR
Students are exposed to the experience of researching, writing and defending a major historical project. Permits students to learn, on a one-to-one basis with a project director, the importance of critical analysis and writing within the discipline of history.