



History

The Passion

Perhaps the most comprehensive of the liberal arts, the discipline of history broadens students' perception and understanding of the contemporary world by studying the past. In addition to developing an informed, critical, and articulate sense of human culture, the study of history also cultivates an appreciation of the diversity of human experience and a true awareness of how past events play a crucial role in shaping the present and the future.

The Program

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

- History 101: Survey of Western Civilization I from the Ancient World to 1550
- History 102: Survey of Western Civilization II OR
- History 112: World Civilization 1500-Present
- History 201: Survey of U.S. History I
- History 202: Survey of U.S. History II

History majors then choose a minimum of six elective upper-level courses from among elective topics such as:

- Roman Empire
- Modern Japan
- Colonial Latin America
- The French Revolution
- Islamic Civilization
- Coming to America
- Reformation Europe
- Pacific Northwest History
- World War II
- Women in Early European 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) United States.

During the second semester of their sophomore year, history majors should enroll in History 301: Historical Methods. This course provides students with an in-depth introduction to the discipline of history and focuses on helping history majors develop a strong foundation in writing, research, and analytical skills that will serve them in upper-division history courses

As seniors, history majors complete the capstone course: History 401: Research Seminar. Designed to build on skills developed in History 301, History 401 provides students with the opportunity to develop and demonstrate their understanding of the historical discipline in course discussions and in the production of a significant research and writing project using primary and secondary sources. Students should discuss with their faculty advisor, as well as the professor teaching a desired History 401, to assure that a specific 401 section will be the best fit for the student. In exceptional cases and with approval of the History Department chair, students may elect to take History 499: Senior Thesis in lieu of History 401.

Students majoring in other fields who have an interest in history may pursue a history minor. The minor consists of 18 credits, including 6 credits in Western Civilization and 12 credits of electives. Students majoring and minoring in history often obtain certification to become 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.

The Potential

A liberal arts education develops a student's writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills, while providing students with a broad background in citizenship and culture. Graduates of Gonzaga's history major typically find employment in fields which value these attributes, including business, education, law, government, journalism, and publishing. A sample of employers for Gonzaga history graduates includes Boeing, Washington Trust Bank, Microsoft, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, the Secret Service, the State of Washington, and a variety of school districts and colleges. Gonzaga's History Department also provides preparation for advanced studies in history, the archival and library sciences, and the professional fields of law and business.

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

- Georgetown University
- Gonzaga University School of Law
- Indiana University
- UCLA
- University of Arizona
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of Oregon
- University of Washington
- Vanderbilt University
- Yale University

Faculty members actively support Gonzaga's chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national honor society for History majors. Many Gonzaga students participate in the Phi Alpha Theta regional conference each spring. There is also History Club for students interested in the subject.

Faculty Contacts and Specialties

Stephen E. Balzarini, Ph.D., Washington State University; military history, modern Britain, and European diplomacy. (balzarini@gonzaga.edu)

Robert Carriker, Ph.D., University of Oklahoma; 19th Century America and Pacific Northwest history. (carriker@gonzaga.edu)

Kevin Chambers, Ph.D., University of California – Santa Barbara; Latin America. (chambersk@gonzaga.edu)

Eric Cunningham, Ph.D., University of Oregon; East Asia, modern Japan. (cunningham@gonzaga.edu)

RáGena DeAragon, Ph.D., University of California-Santa Barbara; Medieval and Early Modern history, European women's history. (dearagon@gonzaga.edu)

Robert Donnelly, Ph.D., Marquette University; 20th Century American history, immigration. (donnelly@gonzaga.edu)

Elizabeth Downey, Ph.D., University of Denver; American diplomacy, 20th Century American history, and frontier women. (downey@calvin.gonzaga.edu)

Andrew Goldman, Ph.D., University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Ancient Greece, Roman Empire, and Archaeology. (goldman@gonzaga.edu)

Michael W. Maher, S.J., Ph.D., University of Minnesota; Renaissance, Reformation, Early Modern Europe, Jesuit

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Theodore Nitz, Ph.D., Washington State University; Modern Europe, Nazi Germany, Islam. (nitz@gonzaga.edu)

Kevin O'Connor, Ph.D., Ohio University; Russia, The Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, Nazi Germany. (oconnork@gonzaga.edu)

Anthony Via, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin; Medieval Europe, Byzantine Empire. (via@gonzaga.edu)

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