

# HISTORY

## Mission Statement

The History Program at Bryant University strives to advance the study and practice of history through teaching, research, and outreach. Through the scholarly and pedagogical enterprise of faculty and students, we seek to enhance knowledge of the human condition in all its diversity by facilitating an historical understanding of human experiences. We endeavor to ensure that all students, both majors and non-majors, acquire exposure to historical perspectives and methods, as well as insight into how these perspectives may be applied to the challenges facing the contemporary world. As faculty, we are teacher/scholars who disseminate knowledge through teaching, publication, conference presentation and engagement with public and private organizations and groups.

## Major in History

Students completing the History major (B.A.) will demonstrate:

- A knowledge of questions historians ask of the past and how they are connected to the challenges facing the contemporary world.
- An understanding of historical methods.
- The ability to communicate clear and persuasive historical arguments supported by appropriate evidence.
- An understanding of how historical forces shape personal, individual experiences, and how those experiences are linked to larger social and political institutions.

Where have we come from? Rich, variegated, and intrinsically exciting, the study of history invites students to a deeper comprehension of human experience through an examination of the institutional, social, political, economic, technological, intellectual, and cultural dimensions of our past. Where are we? Of greater significance, disciplined study of the past encourages the cultivation of “historical thinking” – understanding human identity and social interaction in their historical contexts – so necessary to analyze and evaluate issues of the contemporary world. Where are we going? Of yet greater significance, historical thinking provides the intellectual tools and sophistication to face a rapidly changing and challenging future with measured confidence.

At Bryant, students pursuing a B.A. degree in history receive thorough training in historical studies. Each student acquires skills enabling him or her to read documents or texts in an historical context, to interpret events and understand institutions, to appreciate the diverse cultural and historical experience of Western and non-Western peoples, and to write extensively. Coupled with Bryant’s common core of business training, the command of these skills – all highly valued by the business community – provides students a unique education and training for positions of leadership. Further, the concentration in history gives students excellent preparation for advanced studies at the graduate level in a variety of disciplines, including law, business, public policy, education, and history, among others.

The history major consists of three components:

1. an individually tailored program of instruction, to be created by the student in consultation with a faculty advisor from history;
2. completion of a minimum of 10 courses in history, of which no more than three may be at the 200-level (HIS 273 is required), at least two

must be in U.S. history, and at least two must be in non-U.S. history; and at least two must be at the 400-level (includes HIS 490)

3. completion of the Capstone course (HIS 490), a Seminar in Historical Inquiry. Students are also encouraged to pursue individual Directed Studies courses and to exploit the rich historical resources available in the New England area through internships with the Rhode Island Historical Society, Slater Mills Historic Site, or other area museums and public history institutions).

## Concentration in History

Students in the History concentration will demonstrate:

- A knowledge of questions historians ask of the past and how they are connected to the challenges facing the contemporary world.
- An understanding of historical methods.
- The ability to communicate clear and persuasive historical arguments supported by appropriate evidence.
- An understanding of how historical forces shape personal, individual experiences, and how those experiences are linked to larger social and political institutions.

The history concentration consists of three components:

1. an individually tailored program of instruction, to be created by the student in consultation with a faculty advisor from history
2. completion of a minimum of six courses in history, of which no more than two may be at the 200-level, at least one elective must be at the 400-level, at least two must be in U.S. history, and at least two must be in non-U.S. history
3. completion of the Senior 400-level course, a Seminar in Historical Inquiry

Students are also encouraged to pursue individual Directed Studies courses and to exploit the rich historical resources available in the New England area through internships (e.g. with the Rhode Island Historical Society, Slater Mills Historic Site, or other area museums and public history institutions). This is an 18 credit concentration only. Students must have a primary concentration in the College of Business or a major in the College of Arts and Sciences.

## History Minor

Students completing the History minor will demonstrate:

- A knowledge of questions historians ask of the past and how they are connected to the challenges facing the contemporary world.
- The ability to communicate clear and persuasive historical arguments supported by appropriate evidence.
- An understanding of how historical forces shape personal, individual experiences, and how those experiences are linked to larger social and political institutions.

Students may choose among four tracks of study: United States history, European history, world history, or a specialized course of study. The history minor emphasizes personal resourcefulness, the ethical dimensions of history, and the awareness of diversity and differences in the human experience.

## Major

- Bachelor of Arts with a Major in History (<http://catalog.bryant.edu/undergraduate/collegeofartsandsciences/departmentofhistoryandsocialsciences/history/bahistory>)

## Concentration

- History Concentration (<http://catalog.bryant.edu/undergraduate/collegeofartsandsciences/departmentofhistoryandsocialsciences/history/historyconcentration>)

## Minor

- History Minor (<http://catalog.bryant.edu/undergraduate/collegeofartsandsciences/departmentofhistoryandsocialsciences/history/historyminor>)

## Courses

### HIS 250. Emergence of Europe (1000-1600). 3 Credit Hours.

This course examines the origins and early development of Europe from 1000-1600. Topics include the overall character and decline of feudalism, the rise of national monarchies, urbanism and society during the Renaissance and Reformation. Socioeconomic and cultural history is emphasized.

Session Cycle: Fall  
Yearly Cycle: Annual.

### HIS 252. Europe: 1500 to 1815. 3 Credit Hours.

This course provides a study of the political, intellectual, and social history of early modern Europe from 1500 to 1815, with emphasis on the institution of monarchy and on the reigns of famous kings and queens. Attention will also be given to the major transformations of the age including the scientific, English, and French Revolutions and their effects.

Session Cycle: Fall, Spring  
Yearly Cycle: Annual.

### HIS 261. History of the United States to 1877. 3 Credit Hours.

A basic survey and introduction to the field of American history, this course conveys the political, cultural and economic development of the United States through Reconstruction. It provides an understanding of the foundation of the "American way of life".

Session Cycle: Fall, Spring  
Yearly Cycle: Annual.

### HIS 262. History of the United States Since 1865. 3 Credit Hours.

A history of the American experience from the end of Reconstruction to the present, this course focuses on the Urban-Industrial age, the rise of the United States to world leadership, and the important changes that have occurred in the "American way of life" during the past century.

Session Cycle: Fall, Spring  
Yearly Cycle: Annual.

### HIS 263. American Women's History. 3 Credit Hours.

In this course students survey American women's history from colonial times to the present. The course shows how the major social, political, and economic developments in American history have affected women in the past. Students examine the lives of "ordinary" women, as well as those of leading women thinkers and activists.

Session Cycle: Fall, Spring  
Yearly Cycle: Annual.

### HIS 270. World History to 1500. 3 Credit Hours.

This introductory survey course traces the development of humanity and society from the dawn of history to 1500, and provides insight into the wide spectrum of ideas, institutions, and life practices that different people and cultures around the world have created. Various representations of "civilizations" and "community" are considered.

Session Cycle: Fall, Spring  
Yearly Cycle: Annual.

### HIS 271. World History Since 1500. 3 Credit Hours.

An historical study of the major regions and cultures of the world during the last five centuries, with attention to their connections and interactions and to the development of global trends. Political, economic, social, intellectual, and cultural factors will be considered, and special emphasis will be placed on the emergence and the challenges of the people of the "third world". One theme will be an analysis of the processes of "modernization". This course is cross-listed with GLOB 271.

Session Cycle: Spring  
Yearly Cycle: Annual.

### HIS 272. Introduction to Latin American History. 3 Credit Hours.

This course is a basic survey of Latin American history from before the European invasions to the recent past. The course emphasizes both the diversity of the Latin American experience across time and space and the persistence of certain historical continuities in the region: intense political and cultural conflict, deep social and economic inequality, and longstanding domination by externally-based imperial and neo-imperial powers.

Session Cycle: Fall  
Yearly Cycle: Annual.

### HIS 273. History in the World Today. 3 Credit Hours.

The course requires students to formulate and support coherent arguments about complex historical problems in class discussions, essay exams, and writing projects. It strengthens students' global perspective by encouraging historical analysis of selected current world events and the U.S. relationship to/involvement in those events. By introducing students to historical methods and theory it enables them to understand more deeply one of the key disciplines associated with the humanities. This course is required for history majors and concentrators.

Session Cycle: Fall  
Yearly Cycle: Annual.

### HIS 282. Introduction to American Studies. 3 Credit Hours.

This course introduces students to key themes, concepts, and debates in American Studies. Students use a foundation in American Studies methodology to interpret a range of materials and develop a richer understanding of the United States, its cultures, and its peoples. Objects of study may include literary texts, films, historical documents, music, visual art, and products of popular culture. Specific course topics may vary. This course is cross-listed with LCS 282.

Session Cycle: Varies  
Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 303. French Studies. 3 Credit Hours.**

Biocultural theory posits the co-evolution of genes and culture. Language, culture, and imagination confer survival advantages to humans as a social species and have preserved evolved human complexity. This course takes biocultural approach to the works of French philosophers such as Montaigne, Descartes, Rousseau, Diderot, Voltaire, Saussure, Derrida, Beauvoir, Foucault, and Lacan. Students may take the course more than once, as different iterations. Topics of a given iteration may include humanism, skepticism, dualism, primitivism, language, textualism, indeterminacy, relativism, feminism, constructivism, historicism, and psychoanalysis. Materials and instruction are in English. This course is cross-listed with ML 303.

Prerequisites: 200-level History course

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**HIS 304. Italian Studies. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course focuses on the history, society, politics, culture, and economics of modern Italy and its predecessors on the Italian Peninsula. Students may take the course more than once, as different iterations.

Topics of a given iteration may include humanism, science, philosophy, the Inquisition, fascism, and the Vatican. Materials and instruction are in English. This course is cross-listed with ML 304.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**HIS 351. History of Modern Europe: 1815 to the Present. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course examines the major political, economic and intellectual developments since 1815. It emphasizes the significant events, patterns, and themes in Western history within the context of the modern world.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Fall, Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 354. Trends in Modern Thought. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course offers a selected history of modern and post-modern themes, ideologies and values in Euro-America (Western civilization) since the Renaissance. Special emphasis is placed on analyzing social, political and philosophical questions and writings in context. The thematic focus of the course (e.g., individualism) may change from year to year.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 361. Gender and World War II. 3 Credit Hours.**

Early in 1943, Max Lerner, the well-known author and journalist, writing for the New York newspaper, PM, predicted that "when the classic work on the history of women comes to be written, the biggest force for change in their lives will turn out to have been war." This course explores the question of whether or not World War II served as a major force for change in the lives women, both in the United States and around the globe. The experiences of a broad socio-economic and ethnic cross-section of wartime women are examined. In addition to the United States, areas of the world examined include women in China, France, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, Germany, and/or Italy.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course and sophomore standing

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 362. The United States in the 1960's. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course examines the main contours of political, economic, social, and cultural life during the 1960's. Special areas of focus include: the Civil Rights Movement, the New Left, the Vietnam War, the antiwar movement, the resurgence of conservatism, the demise of the New Deal Coalition, the emerging women's liberation movement, the effect of social and cultural movements on business, and the intersection of artistic and cultural expressions with politics. The relationship of popular mythology and collective memories concerning the 1960's with "objective" historical analysis constitutes another key area of concern.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 364. History of American Technology. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course treats the history of technology in the contexts of American business and social history. Focusing on the 19th and 20th centuries, the course first places technological change within the context of larger developments in American history. From that basis, the course then moves on to deal with the impact of technology in American social institutions, business, and culture.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Fall, Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 365. The United States and World Politics, 1890 to the Present. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course examines the origins and development of the United States as a great world power from the Spanish-American War to the post Cold War era. Focusing on the connections between international and domestic events, the course evaluates the role of the US as a global power over the past century.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 366. Race in America. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course examines major issues in race relations from the perspective of both black and white Americans from the onset of slavery to the present. The course examines the origins and functioning of American slavery, with consideration to the Atlantic slave trade and the role of U.S. slavery within the context of New World slavery; the relationship between European immigrants and African-Americans in terms of the formation of whiteness and the historical meaning of white skin privilege; abolitionism and antislavery; the development and functioning of Jim Crow segregation; 2nd Reconstruction; the civil rights movement; and the significance of race during the post civil rights era. This course is cross-listed with SOC 366, Race in America.

Prerequisites: SOC 251 and 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 367. The History of American Popular Culture. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course explores the historical context of various expressions of American popular culture in a variety of media, including: literature, film, radio, television, music, performance, advertising, style and fashion, food, and the internet. It examines the meaning of popular culture to its audiences and the way those audiences use and transform cultural products as part of their everyday lives. Attention is given to popular culture's relationship to "high culture," to economics and commerce, and to social and political developments including, but not limited to the emergence of working-class culture, the Great Depression, the Cold War and McCarthyism, the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War, and the Women's Liberation Movement.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Winter

Yearly Cycle: Varies.

**HIS 368. Gender and American Culture in the 1950s. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course provides students the opportunity to examine the cultural complexities of the 1950s and to appreciate it as a period of conservatism and restraint as well as a time of notable social change for women. It uses the enormously popular *I Love Lucy* television series (1951-1957) and Betty Friedan's classic work, *The Feminine Mystique* (1963), as well as related readings, to show how many women of the fifties challenged the stereotype of domestic, quiescent, suburban womanhood as they engaged in multifarious and diverse activities that helped pave the way for the social protest movements of the 1960s.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course and Sophomore standing

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 369. U.S. Latin American Relations 1820 to Present. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course examines the history of relations between the United States and the nations of Latin America from the era of the Monroe Doctrine to the present.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**HIS 371. History of Russia. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course provides an historical study of the evolution of Russian society from the Age of Kiev to the present including the era of the tsars and the Soviet period. Special attention is given to the contemporary situation in Russia.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**HIS 372. History of East Asia. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course consists of an historical study of the ideas and institutions of the countries of East Asia with primary focus on developments in China in ancient times and in the modern era since 1800. Contemporary problems are also discussed.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**HIS 373. History of Modern Africa. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course provides background for an analysis of some of the major problems of contemporary African life. Topics include the ancient culture of Africa, the slave trade, colonialism, African nationalism, and current political, economic and social trends in Africa.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**HIS 375. History of Modern Japan. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course provides a survey and examination of Japanese history from its beginnings to the twentieth century, and includes a consideration of political, social, economic, intellectual, and cultural developments. Emphasis is placed on the evolution of Japanese traditions and values and their sources, and also on the history and practices of Japanese business. A major portion of the course will deal with the modern period and Japan's successes and failures as a modern nation.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**HIS 377. Gandhi and Mandela. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course is a study of the ideas and the political careers of two great 20th century national leaders: M.K. Gandhi of India, and Nelson Mandela of South Africa. Attention will also be given to the modern and contemporary history of their respective nations, and especially to the social and political systems which these men tried to change.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 386. History, Law, and the Holocaust. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course will explore in depth the Holocaust and its impact on the development of international law after 1945. Topics will include anti-Semitism, the rise of Hitler, the Final Solution, minority rights, domestic legal actions against perpetrators, the Nuremberg International Military Tribunal, Allied military courts, and subsequent national and international trials of accused Nazi war criminals. The course concludes with an examination of some of the leading post-Nuremberg topics in international human rights law today, including peremptory norms, transitional justice, hate speech prohibitions, and Holocaust denial.

Prerequisites: 200 level history course and sophomore standing

Session Cycle: Varies

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 391. History Internship. 3 Credit Hours.**

Students engage in individually supervised work-study arrangements and learn to apply history theory and principles in their work environment.

Students must work at least ten hours per week on the job, meet periodically with a supervising faculty member, research literature related to the field of the internship, and prepare a substantial report on their internship experience and the studies involved. This course is limited to juniors and seniors and requires the approval of a supervising faculty member and the department chair.

**HIS 410. Understanding Cuba History and Culture. 3 Credit Hours.**

Through selected literature and film, students will explore Cuban historical and cultural influences associated with the island nation, including Spanish colonialism, the independence movement, U.S. neocolonialism, the Cuban Revolution, Cuban society today including U.S. immigration. Readings will include works by both Cuban writers and non-Cuban writers, with all works read in Spanish by students seeking ML SP410 credit, or in English by students seeking History credit. These readings will serve as a base of information prior to an 8-day visit to Cuba over Spring Break. While in country, students will visit a number of museums, performances, and other locations in greater Havana that will bring these themes to life. Once back at Bryant, students will use their observations of daily life and culture to reflect upon all that they have learned through a collaborative research project and presentation. This course is cross-listed with ML SP410.

Prerequisites: 200 level history course and sophomore standing

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 451. The World Since 1945. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course examines major developments in global history since 1945, considering topics such as the capitalist and socialist world-systems, the Cold War, imperialism, and third world independence movements, and the so-called "new world order." Special emphasis is placed on the interaction between Western and non-Western societies.

Prerequisites: 200 level history course

Session Cycle: Fall, Summer

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 452. History of Modern Britain. 3 Credit Hours.**

In this advanced course students trace the history of Great Britain from the Glorious Revolution of 1688 to the present, concentrating on cultural history and utilizing a socio-political perspective. Themes include the development of capitalism, constitutionalism, industrialism and imperialism, and the impact of the British expressions of these forces on modern globalization.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 453. History of Modern Science. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course presents a history of the modern natural sciences from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries, treating the development of modern physics, chemistry, geology, and biology. Students need no special background in science. The course focuses on conceptual problems and the culture of science rather than on the content of science. Examples of special topics include the development of the Newtonian world-view, the challenges of relativity and the quantum, how alchemy led to modern chemistry, why so many early geologists were churchmen, and how Darwinian evolution differed from other nineteenth-century evolutionary theories. The course is geared to the capabilities of students without specialized background in history and science.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 461. History of Contemporary America. 3 Credit Hours.**

An intensive examination of the forces and events that have shaped the recent American past, this course stresses domestic politics, social change, urbanization, civil rights and modern ecological problems.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 463. The United States in the 1970s and 1980s. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course explores the major political, social, cultural, and economic shifts in American life during the 1970s and the 1980s. Special areas of focus include the ascendancy of conservatism, the retreat of liberalism, rising economic inequality, women's and gay liberation, the expanding role of the media in American politics, the veneration of corporate America, and expressions of such in the era's popular (and sometimes unpopular) culture. The relationship of popular history and collective memory of the 1970s and 1980s with "objective" historical analysis constitutes another area of emphasis. For qualified students, this course may be taken as a 500 level graduate content course. Permission of the instructor is required.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Varies

Yearly Cycle: Varies.

**HIS 464. The United States and China 1931 through 1950. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course examines the cultural, political and military dimensions of the complicated wartime alliance between the United States and China during the World War II era. It focuses on the period from the Japanese invasion of Manchuria in September 1931 until early 1950 when the Chinese government seized the U.S. consulate in Beijing after the refusal of the United States to recognize the People's Republic of China. Students explore both primary and secondary sources as they untangle the multifaceted relationship between the United States and China during this critical era. For qualified students, this course may be taken as a 500 level graduate content course. Permission of the instructor is required.

Prerequisites: 200 level history and sophomore standing

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Varies.

**HIS 490. Seminar in Historical Inquiry. 3 Credit Hours.**

For seniors concentrating in History, this seminar provides extensive, practical experience in the craft of historical research and writing. Further, it examines select themes in historiographical and/or philosophical debates concerning history as a special type of knowledge. Requirements include a substantial research paper. Permission of instructor and HIS 273 are required.

Session Cycle: Fall, Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 497. Directed Study in History. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course is an opportunity for students to do independent, in-depth study or research for academic credit. The student works on an individual basis under the direction of a member of the history department. The main requirement of the course is the development of a substantial paper or project. Permission of department chair and faculty member is required.

**HIS ST300. Special Topics in History Race and Slavery in the Atlantic World. 3 Credit Hours.**

A history of race and slavery in the Atlantic World between the 15th and 19th centuries, with a particular emphasis on the economic, social, and cultural impact of the trans-atlantic trade in enslaved Africans (a crucial component of "globalization" during that era) on the development of European-ruled societies in the Americas.

Prerequisites: 200-level History course.

**HIS ST301. Sp.Tp. in His. Patronage and Culture Social and Economic Foundations of Italian Art and Architecture. 3 Credit Hours.**

This special topics course focuses on the role of patronage in producing the cultural heritage of Italian art and architecture. The course furnishes a broad history of Italy along with a more focused treatment of developments in art and architecture during key periods.

Prerequisites: 200-level History course.

**HIS ST302. Special Topics in History The Struggle For Educational Access, Opportunity, and Equity in America. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course will examine the history of American public education beginning with Colonial America, and the evolution of education based on the political, economic, social, and cultural changes regarding a free and equal education for all children. It will focus on the development of public education and the conflicts over class, race, religion, and gender. The second part of the course will highlight the landmark 1954 US Supreme Court ruling in *Brown v Board of Education*. Students will study the effects of the ruling and the legacy the case holds in contemporary America. Throughout the course, the students will examine the changes in education due to social dynamics and conflicts in terms of the struggle for access, opportunity, and equity.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course.

**HIS ST303. Special Topics in History Doing Public History. 3 Credit Hours.**

The course introduces students to the historical origins of public history as an academic discipline. It explores the relationship of public history to local communities, the creation of cultural memory, and the study of history within the academy. These themes will be approached through the prism of institutions such as museums, historical societies, corporations, preservation offices and other cultural resource agencies. Other topics will include educational programming, material culture and exhibit development as well as how to make local historical materials available within historical societies, museums, and manuscript repositories. Each student will work on a public history project at a local Public History institution, contributing a minimum of 25 hours of work.

Prerequisites: HIS 261 or HIS 262 or HIS 282 or LCS 282 and sophomore standing.