

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
Bachelor of Arts in History

MISSION STATEMENT

The history department seeks to provide students with a liberal arts education and an understanding of the political, social, economic, and cultural achievements of people throughout the ages and how they have attempted to solve the vital problems of human existence. History and American Studies majors learn accordingly to comprehend the perennial issues confronting human beings living in society, acquiring thereby the knowledge that enables them to become discerning citizens able to make informed, reasoned, and intelligent responses to these problems and to cope with the complex, diverse, and interdependent world of today and the future. They also master research, communication, and critical thinking skills needed to evaluate conflicting evidence and interpretations.

GOALS

Goal 1: Knowledge: The student will demonstrate a depth and breadth of knowledge of the central ideologies, institutions, and facts about European, American, and Asian/African/Latin American histories, and, for American Studies students, an understanding of American culture and society through its major social, economic, and political structures, both in the past and the present.

Goal 2: Skills: The student will critically analyze primary and secondary sources, organize and synthesize historical evidence, and demonstrate effective written and verbal communication skills.

Goal 3: Affective: The student will practice her/his craft with integrity.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Objective 1.1: The student will demonstrate a mastery of the people, basic ideas, and seminal events of history, which include analyses of majority and minority opinions, cultural and sub-cultural communities, and political, economic, and cultural legacies.

Objective 1.2: The student will demonstrate mastery of interdisciplinary inquiry in American Studies.

Objective 2.1: The student will demonstrate the ability to write effectively, which includes the ability to accurately summarize and critically analyze the ideas of others, the ability to identify an author's thesis and supporting arguments, the ability to analyze primary sources and contextualize them into existing secondary literature, and the ability to articulate one's own arguments.

Objective 2.2: The student will demonstrate a mastery of verbal communication skills, which includes the use of such technological forms of communication as may be considered the standards of the profession.

Objective 3.1: The student will acknowledge one's debts to other scholars and respect various scholarly interpretations.

Objective 3.2: The student will assess the diversity of methodologies for scholarly research.