

History

Degree Type

Major

Program Mission

The History program at Bethany College trains students to think critically about the past and to analyze the ways in which historical events and processes deeply inform our present and illuminate possibilities for the future. It provides students with vital context for recognizing their place in a world of rich cultural diversity and change. Through classes in European, United States and World history, Bethany History majors study the world-changing military, political and diplomatic events of the past, the great economic and cultural developments that transformed human existence, and the art and ideas that fundamentally altered how humans see and think about the world around them.

Program Goals

1. The program will instruct students on how to analyze and evaluate primary and secondary historical sources.
2. The program will provide students with opportunities to locate primary and secondary historical sources and use them as evidence in support of a clearly stated, defensible thesis, in a style appropriate to the conventions of the historical discipline.
3. The program will prepare students to identify and discuss some of the key themes and major issues of broad periods in U.S., European and World history and demonstrate an understanding of change over time.
4. The program will train students to distinguish between various approaches to the study of history and to discuss their major practitioners.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will analyze and evaluate primary and secondary historical sources.
2. Students will locate primary and secondary historical sources and use them as evidence in support of a clearly stated, defensible thesis, in a style appropriate to the conventions of the historical discipline.
3. Students will identify and discuss some of the key themes and major issues of broad periods in U.S., European and World history and demonstrate an understanding of change over time.
4. Students will be able to distinguish between various approaches to the study of history and to discuss their major practitioners.

Introductory Surveys

Twelve credits in introductory surveys of American and world history, including

Item #	Title	Credits
HIST 101	World Civilizations I	3
HIST 102	World Civilizations II	3
HIST 151	U.S. History I	3
HIST 152	U.S. History II	3

Historiography

HIST 377: Theory and Practice of History

Item #	Title	Credits
HIST 377	Theory and Practice of History	3

History Electives

18 additional credits of history coursework including three hours of U.S. History, three hours of European history, and three credits in world history or the history of regions outside of the U.S. and Europe.

The remaining nine credits can be taken in any field of history.

Three of these credits may come from the listed religious studies courses (RELS 229, 231, 301, 305, or 311).

Item #	Title	Credits
HIST 210	The Age of Extremes: The Twentieth-Century World	3
HIST 225	West Virginia History, Government, Geography	2
HIST 230	History Role-Playing Games: Dilemmas of Diversity, Democracy, and Nationhood	3
HIST 297	Special Studies in History 2 or 3	
HIST 311	The Age of Transition: 1300-1600	3
HIST 312	The Age of Absolutism: 1600-1789	3
HIST 313	The Age of Revolution and Nationalism: 1789-1914	3
HIST 314	The Age of Uncertainty: 1914-Present	3
HIST 317	Modern Europe, 1789-Present	
HIST 324	Russia Under the Tsars: 1500-1918	3
HIST 325	Post Tsarist Russia: From Lenin to Putin	3
HIST 327	British History	3
HIST 328	History of Mexico	3
HIST 329	Islamic Civilization	3
HIST 330	Modern China	3
HIST 331	Modern Japan	3
HIST 332	Japanese History and Culture in Film	3
HIST 233	The Making of the Islamic World: 610-1258	3
HIST 234	The Modern Middle East	3
HIST 351	The Early Republic, 1789-1848	3
HIST 352	The Crisis of the Republic, 1848-1877	3
HIST 354	America in the Era of the World Wars, 1914-1945	3
HIST 355	Contemporary U.S. History, 1945-present	3
HIST 400-409	Seminar in American History	2-4
HIST 401	Constitutional Law	3
HIST 410	Weapons and Warfare	4
HIST 410-419	Seminar in European History	2-4
HIST 420-429	Seminar in Non-Western History	2-4
HIST 487-488	Independent Study	2-4
RELS 229	Christianity	3
RELS 231	Judaism	3
RELS 301	Poetry, Prophecy, and (Poly)theism: A Critical Analysis of the Hebrew Bible	3
RELS 305	Archaeology of the Ancient Near East	3
RELS 311	Studies in the Gospels	3

Additional Courses

Also required are either:

Item #	Title	Credits
	POLS 110 or 112	3
	INTD 251, 252, or 253	3

Capstones

HIST 490: Senior Project (2-4 credits) and HIST 495: Comprehensive Exams

Item #	Title	Credits
HIST 490	Senior Project	2-4
HIST 495	Comprehensive Exams	

Students planning to attend graduate or professional schools should anticipate possible requirements in the areas of world languages, statistics, accounting, and computer technology.

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