



College of Arts and Science

Majors: History Law, History, and Society Economics and History

vu.edu/history

History at Vanderbilt encompasses interests as boundless as the past we all share. Everything has a history --- from ethnic groups and environment, to nation-states and regions of the world, to entertainment, science, and sexuality. Many undergraduates combine their interest in history with economics, foreign language, medicine, music, politics, psychology, or sociology.

In addition to the standard history major, students can choose the Law, History, and Society major (LHS) or the Economics and History major. LHS is designed for those students who are particularly interested in how law and legal regimes worked in the past, and how they are connected to broader social, cultural, and economic patterns. It represents an excellent choice for those interested in careers in law, policy, or government. The dual Economics and History major gives students equal access to two of Vanderbilt's most popular faculties. Students build strong foundations in economic and historical analysis, leveraging both of these skill sets in coursework in an economic history core.

All of our undergraduate majors learn to think with rigor, write with clarity, and analyze complex evidence with confidence. Working with award-winning professors in seminars and lecture courses, they acquire skills critical to career success in the 21st-century global economy, while studying a subject in which they excel.

Recently Offered Courses

History courses are taught as seminars, introductory survey and topics courses, and specialized lecture or discussion courses. Some recent examples: World War II; Famous American Trials; The World of Rome; Sex, Marriage, and the Body in Islamic Law; Modern Latin America; Crime and Punishment in Early Modern Europe; China from Empire to People's Republic; Shakespeare's Histories and History; Capital, Labor, and Democracy in the

United States; History of Medicine; The Scientific Revolution; Poverty, Economy, and Society in Sub-Saharan Africa; India and the Indian Ocean; Race, Rights, and the American Dream; The U.S. and the Cold War.

Honors Program

A three-semester program leads to the Undergraduate Honors Thesis in History and a B.A. with Honors or Highest Honors in History. Qualifying students work with individual professors and through special seminars critique each other's work. Graduates of the program have gone on to successful careers in law, medicine, business, teaching, and university academics. Some recent honors theses include:

Halee Robinson, "For my Children's Sake: Enslaved Women and the Idea of Home in Nineteenth-Century Tennessee." Received highest honors and was awarded the 2019 Dewey Grantham award for best honors thesis.

Robert Yee, "The Economics of Empire: Investor Relations, Dividend Policies, and the Internal Administration of the British East India Company, 1765-1773." Received Highest Honors and the 2017 Dewey Grantham Award. Mr. Yee served as the Editor-in-Chief of the *Vanderbilt Historical Review*.

Danielle Jessup Beaujon, "'Coming Home:' Repatriation the Bouches-du-Rhône, 1962-1970." Awarded Highest Honors and the 2015 Dewey Grantham Award for best honors thesis. Ms. Beaujon won the 2015 Founder's Medal for the College of Arts and Sciences, Vanderbilt's highest undergraduate honor.

Helen Li, "Culture Card: The Beijing Olympics and the Politics of Mega-Events." Awarded Highest Honors and the 2013 Dewey Grantham Award for best honors thesis.

Tyler Bittner, "Exploring Men 'On the Down Low': Race,



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Sexuality, and HIV in the Twenty-First Century” (Highest Honors, 2014)

Jeremy Bloomstone, “Israel’s Expanding Borders: The Transformative Impact of the Six Day War on the American Jewish Community” (Highest Honors, 2014)

Ariel Hill, “Marshalling Chaos: The U.S. and the Coalition in the Persian Gulf War” (Highest Honors, 2014)

Other Special Opportunities

History majors can acquire accreditation in secondary education at Vanderbilt’s nationally distinguished Peabody College. Independent study courses allow time to read and write on a topic of interest with a professor. Numerous study-abroad programs let majors gain an international perspective. An internship program gives degree credit for history-related work experience at local archives, museums, and sites such as the Belle Meade Plantation. History majors often follow their professors to the many interdisciplinary programs where they also teach: American Studies, Asian Studies, European Studies, Jewish Studies, Latin American Studies, and Women’s and Gender Studies.

After Vanderbilt

“I love history, but my parents tell me I can’t make a living at it.” We hear this comment more frequently than any other. The large majority of our majors successfully enter professional schools (business, law, medicine, public policy, social work) and careers in both the public and private sectors. Leaders throughout the United States are intensifying their call for university graduates with the generalist skills and broad horizons necessary to work in a shifting, increasingly global society. History majors at Vanderbilt study change. They understand how a past became a present. They also acquire the intellectual talents to read, write, reason, and speak at levels of accomplishment that make them attractive candidates for professional and managerial careers in the future.

Some recent History majors include:

Wenhao Winston Du (B.A. 2019), Software Engineer, Google

Richard Hamrick (B.A. 2019), Incoming Business Analyst, McKinsey and Company Consulting

Mary Gwin (B.A., 2018), University of Washington School of Medicine

Samuel Jeffrey (B.A. 2016), Fulbright Teaching Award in Vietnam, Harvard Law School

Camille Maginas (B.A. 2012), Surface Warfare Officer, United States Navy

Andrew Barge (B.A. 2009), Head of Sports Broadcast Partnerships, Twitter

Melanie Erb Runge (B.S. 2009; J.D. 2013), Regulatory Research Coordinator, UNC Health Care

Lindsey Rae Galbraith Obenhaus (B.A. 2008), Attorney - Family Law, GoransonBain Ausley, Dallas, Texas

Kyle Wilson (B.S. 2006), Vice President, Antares Capital LP

Faculty

The History faculty sets the standard for teaching excellence at Vanderbilt. In the last decade, many of the department’s faculty have received formal recognition for outstanding achievement in the classroom. All nationally and internationally recognized scholars, 39 full-time History professors are committed to teaching in ways that both challenge and interest undergraduates. The Department has concentrations of faculty who study the ancient, medieval, early modern and modern histories of North America, Europe, Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. Clusters of scholars study legal history, culture, economics, race, gender, medicine, memory, politics and government policy, religion, science and technology, social groups, and urban life. A description of individual faculty members and their teaching and research interests can be found at the department website.

Contact

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