

# History





# What is History?



**The Department of History** at the University of Western Ontario provides a diverse and dynamic environment for undergraduate students. Western's History Department is currently one of the largest in Canada and offers a wide variety of courses. The department emphasizes history topics related to: society and culture, international relations and conflict, business and economy, technology, health, and the environment.

Students are encouraged to become involved in the History Society, which organizes special events for students. *The Mirror*, the department's undergraduate history journal, provides a forum for the publication of outstanding essays. Opportunity exists for students to participate in a joint history conference with a university in the United States and to participate in an exchange program with various universities abroad.

## Undergraduate Programs

- **History – (Honors Specialization, Specialization, Major, Minor)**
- **History and LLB – Law (concurrent)**
- **Latin American Studies (Minor)**

Students choose from courses which offer a focus on Latin American culture, geography, language, politics, and history.

- **International Relations – (Honors Specialization)**

This program is offered jointly by the Departments of History and Political Science. Unique in Canada, Western's program in International Relations is genuinely interdisciplinary, blending history and political science approaches and methods in courses such as International Justice and American Foreign Policy.

## Sample Courses

### *The First World War: A Revolutionary Experience*

The course is intended to provide an examination of selected aspects of the First World War, including its origins and aftermath. Among the themes to be discussed are the alliance system, the experience of battle, conflicts on the home front, social factors, strategic decision-making, command, and the memory of the war.

### *Modern Germany, 1815 to the Present*

This course analyzes the history of modern Germany. It examines the various forms taken by the conflict between liberalism and reaction in the first two-thirds of the 19th century; the changes caused by industrialization; the political, economic, and cultural tensions of the Kaiserreich; the causes and consequences of the First World War; the reasons for the weakness of the Weimar Republic; the nature of Nazi rule; the different ways in which the two post-war German states transformed (or sought to transform) German society; and the challenges facing Germany

in the post-unification era. The course focuses in particular on how the deep divisions in German society influenced political decisions and individual lives, and how these divisions changed over time.

## After Graduation

An undergraduate degree in history provides graduates with analytical, critical thinking, communication and research skills that are desirable and marketable in a variety of jobs.

Graduates work in many environments: legal, government, education, business and industry, communications, archival and museum work, research firms, publishing, media and military.

## Careers of Graduates

- Archivist
- Armed Forces Officer
- Business and Banking
- Curator
- Film or TV Producer
- Foreign or other Government Service
- Journalism
- Human Resources
- Librarian
- Research Analyst
- Historic Site Worker
- Historian
- Policy Analyst or Writer
- Teacher
- Lawyer



*"Law school is all about work ethic. It challenges students to develop an ability to question and debate the current state of the law and to hone research and writing skills. The history program at Western provided me with a strong basis of knowledge which allowed me to feel prepared and able to conquer first-year law school. The rigorous writing standards demanded of me from various professors throughout the history department improved my writing in leaps and bounds. Being asked to stand while speaking in History 298 is a memorable experience that steeled me to the cold-calling process used by so many law professors. Four years at Western flew by, most of which I attribute to the challenging and engaging program which I look back upon with fondness."*

Hanna M Chouest  
Honors Specialization in History

*"Studying history at Western was one of the most positive experiences of my life. It was often challenging and always interesting thanks to brilliant faculty who are truly dedicated to their students. Throughout my experience at Western I was provided with a great deal of support from faculty without ever experiencing demands to shape my interests and studies too closely around the expertise of my instructors. This provided me with the opportunity to combine my interests in history and political science effectively and resulted in my choice to continue my studies at Western as a graduate student."*

Alexander Joseph Turner Del Maestro  
Major in History and Political Science



For more information on the  
**Department of History**, please  
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