

History and Political Studies

Please Note:

Highlighting indicates substantive updates for the 2025-2027 academic year. Pagination may differ from the 2025-2027 printed copy of the catalog.

Updates are effective January 1, 2026.

Faculty

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Students in the *History and Political Studies* Department explore the rise and fall of civilizations. Using original and secondary written sources, films, and other documents, and through field trips and summer study programs outside the United States, departmental faculty work with their students in the study of geography, history, and political science.

Scholarship is encouraged and recognized by membership in Phi Alpha Theta, the history honors society, and through debates, lectures, and student and faculty presentations.

Students have access to the Walter C. Utt Center for Adventist History Archives and the Honors Program Common Room. Faculty-student suppers and discussion groups complete the collegial and friendly atmosphere, the hallmark of the department.

Prospective teachers should take a Social Studies major and consult with department teachers about non-departmental courses. Following completion of the Social Studies major each student seeking a California teaching certificate must take the California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET).

Major in History, B.A.

A minimum of 58 hours (31 upper-division hours):

► Required Core Courses (32 hours):

GEOG 210	World Regional Geography	3
HIST 101+102	History of World Civilizations I, II	4+4
HIST 134+135	History of the United States I, II	4+4
HIST 180+181	History Methods IA, IB	1+1
HIST 280	History Methods II	2
HIST 380	History Methods III	2
HIST 421	History Seminar	4
HIST 480,81,82	Senior Thesis I, II, III	1+1+1

Additional courses from HIST or PLSC to be taken to meet remaining requirements. May include a maximum of two of the following cognates:

ARTH 107	History of Asian Art (4)	5-8
ARTH 115-116	History of Western Art I, II (4, 4)	
ARTH 260	History of World Cinema (4)	
ARTH 264	History of Graphic Design (2)	
ARTH 227	History of Photography (4)	
ARTH 278	History of Women Artists (4)	
ARTH 308	History of Asian Art (3)	
ARTH 370	History of Modern Art to 1945 (4)	
ARTH 470	History of Contemporary Art Since 1945(4)	
ARTH 485	Topics in Art History (1-4)	
ENGL 355	Amer. Colonial and Romantic Periods (4)	
ENGL 485	The Classical World (4)	
MUHL 331-32-33	Music History (3, 3, 3)	
RELH 311	World Religions (3)	
RELH 320-321	Christian History I, II (3, 3)	
RELH 360	Adventist Heritage (3)	

History and Political Studies

Major in Political Studies, B.S.

A minimum of 68 hours (41 upper-division hours):

► Required Core Courses (37 hours):

GEOG 210	World Regional Geography	3
HIST 134+135	History of the United States I, II	4+4
HIST 180+181	History Methods IA, IB	1+1
HIST 280	History Methods II	2
HIST 380	History Methods III	2
PLSC 124	Introduction to American Government	4
PLSC 274	Introduction to Political Thought	3
PLSC 328	Critical World Issues	3
PLSC 330	Modern Comparative Government	3
PLSC 485	U.S. Foreign Relations	3
WRIT 310	Advanced Expository Writing	4

Electives (29 hours): 29

Additional upper-division HIST or PLSC courses, or ARCH 494*

At least one of the following options: 3

HIST 480+481+482	Senior Thesis I, II, III (1+1+1)	
PLSC 494	Internship (3)	

At least two of the following courses: 4

HIST 333	Early Modern Europe to 1848 (4)	
HIST 353	U.S. Industrialization (4)	
HIST 375	U.S. and the World since 1945 (4)	

At least two of the following courses: 6

JOUR 434	Media Communication Ethics (3)	
RELB 210	Intro to Biblical Ethics (3)	
RELT 355	Christian Ethics in Society (3)	
RELT 440	Christian Bioethics (3)	

At least three of the following courses: 8-9

BUAD 223	Personal Law (2)	
BUAD 325, 326	Business Law I, II (3+3)	
COMM 426	Argumentation (3)	
COMM 427	Persuasive Communication (3)	

Recommended Cognates:

ECON 261, 265	Macroeconomics, Microeconomics (4+4)	
PSYC 121	General Psychology (4)	
SOCI 121	Intro to Sociology (4)	
SOCI 232	American Social Problems (4)	
SOCI 355	Cultural Diversity (3)	

* Offered during even-year summers in Jordan at the Madaba Plains Project excavation in consortium with La Sierra University. Credits are earned through La Sierra and transferred to PUC.

Major in Social Studies, B.S.

A minimum of 68 hours (29 upper-division hours):

► Required Core Courses (31 hours):

GEOG 210	World Regional Geography	3
HIST 101+102	History of World Civilizations	4+4
HIST 134+135	History of the United States	4+4
HIST 180+181	History Methods IA, IB	1+1
HIST 280	History Methods II	2
HIST 380	History Methods III	2
HIST 480+81+82	Senior Thesis I, II, III	1+1+1
PLSC 328	Critical World Issues	3

► Required Core Electives (37 hours):

Complete at least 37 hours of electives, including at least 21 upper-division hours. Consult your advisor prior to choosing:

At least 22 hours from the following: 22

Additional HIST courses

Any three of the following options: 15

At least 6 hours from ECON courses

At least 3 hours from PLSC courses

At least 6 hours from SOCI courses

Teaching Credential

Students desiring to enter a program of studies leading to a California teaching credential in social science should take the B.S. degree in Social Studies. Students will need to pass the social science portion of the CSET exam one quarter prior to doing full-time student teaching. Students are invited to discuss the program with their major advisor in the History Department.

Those who plan to teach on the secondary level should consult with the credential analyst in the Education Department and should become acquainted with the specific requirements for admission to and successful completion of the Teacher Education Program as outlined in the section entitled "Education" in this catalog.

Minor in History

A minimum of 24 hours (8 upper-division hours)

➤ Required Courses (8 hours):

Complete at least one of the following:		8
HIST 101+102	History of World Civilizations (4+4)	
HIST 134+135	History of the United States (4+4)	

➤ Required Electives (16 hours, 8 upper division):

Complete and additional 16 hours of HIST courses, 8 hours must be upper division. One PLSC course (up to 4 hours) may also be counted.

Minor in Social Studies

A minimum of 23-28 hours (9 upper-division hours)

➤ Required Courses (13-16 hours):

At least one US HIST course	(4)
At least one World History/non-US regional HIST course	(3-4)
At least one US government/politics PLSC course	(3-4)
At least one ECON course	(3-4)

➤ Required Electives (10-12 hours): 10-12

Additional courses from HIST, PLSC, GEOG, ECON, or PSYC.

Minor In Pre-Law

A minimum of 24 hours

➤ Required Courses (9 hours):

BUAD 223	Personal Law	3
BUAD 325	Business Law I	3
PLSC 274	Intro to Political Thought	3

Choose at least one from each of the following categories to complete the remaining 15 hours:

Communication Skills		
COMM 426	Argumentation	3
COMM 427	Persuasive Communication	3
COMM 428	Debate	3
WRIT 310	Advanced Expository Writing	4
Economics		
ECON 261	Macroeconomics	4
ECON 265	Microeconomics	4
Law:		
BUAD 326	Business Law II	3
BUAD 370	Healthcare Law	3
Political Studies		
HIST 375	U.S. and the World since 1945	4
PLSC 124	Introduction to American Government	4
SOWK 232	American Social Problems	4

Geography

LOWER-DIVISION COURSES:

GEOG 210 3 W
World Regional Geography

Regions of the world and their cultural, historical, climatic, and economic similarities or diversities. Emphasis on current developments. Even years.

History

LOWER-DIVISION COURSES:

HIST 101+102 4+4 F, W, S
History of World Civilizations I, II

Major characteristics and developments in world civilizations based on

primary and secondary texts. Also integral: Discussion of history's place in the liberal arts and of the problems of the historical method. Enrollment is limited to freshmen and sophomores.

HIST 134+135 4+4 F, W, S
History of the United States I, II

The United States from colonial beginnings to the present time. The central theme is the growth of American democracy with its implications for government and society, racial and religious minorities, and the emergence of the nation as a world power. Enrollment is limited to freshmen and sophomores.

HIST 180+181 1+1 F, W
History Methods IA, IB

An introduction to the major, the department, its faculty and to the basic writing skills required for the survey courses in World Civilizations and U.S. History. Required for departmental majors during the freshman year.

HIST 220 4 S
Introduction to Ancient History

Ancient civilizations from their emergence to their collapse, with special attention to Greece and Rome and the development of government, philosophy and the arts. Even years.

History and Political Studies

HIST 230 4 S

Introduction to Asian History

Asian civilization from earliest times to the present. Primarily focuses on South Asia with special attention to social, economic, political and intellectual developments. Odd years.

HIST 250 4 S

Introduction to Middle East History

Middle East from the beginning of Islam to the modern era. Topics include the rise of the Islamic religion, the expansion of this religion into an empire, and the present nation-states of the region. Also includes the general geography of the region and the principal religious and cultural tenets of the Islamic world. Odd years.

HIST 280 2 S

History Methods II

Builds on the writing skills established during the freshman seminar series and introduces majors to significant historiographical schools in the field of history. Requires a major research paper based on primary and secondary sources. Prerequisite: HIST 180 or permission of the instructor.

UPPER-DIVISION COURSES:

HIST 320 3 F

Christian History: To 1400

(See also RELH 320.)

Development of the Christian Church to 1400. Emphasis on those social, political, intellectual, and religious pressures that contributed to the formation of Christian doctrines and the establishment of hierarchy and institutions. Detailed examination of significant work by major Christian figures. Even years.

HIST 321 3 W

Christian History Since 1400

(See also RELH 321.)

Developments in the Christian Church from the high Middle Ages to the Protestant Reformation. Emphasis on the major historical, theological, and cultural forces that influenced the medieval church and gave rise to the Protestant Reformation. Examination of the work and writings of various Protestant reformers. Odd years.

HIST 330 4 F

Medieval to Renaissance Europe

From the collapse of the full Roman Empire, through the period Petrarch called “the Dark Ages,” to the period of high civilization during the Renaissance. Christendom’s transformation during these periods are the foundation of modern Europe and continue to influence the world.

HIST 333 4 F

Early Modern Europe to 1848

Europe from 1648 to 1848, with special attention on the Age of Reason, the growth of the bureaucratic state, the impact of the era of revolution, and the trauma and aftermath of the Napoleonic Wars. Odd years.

HIST 348 4 S

Women’s History

A study of the experience of women in the United States from the 17th century to the present. This course considers the impact of political and social events such as slavery, war, and industrialization on women’s lives, legal rights, domestic experience, and access to education, employment, and public life. Odd years.

HIST 352 3-4 Arr

Topics in History

An in-depth study of a chosen topic from world history. Possible topics include: Women’s History, African American History of the US, History of Warfare, Disease in World History, History of Islam. Repeatable for credit under different subtitles.

HIST 353 4 S

U.S. Industrialization

A study of the industrial age in the United States, from the colonial period to the 20th century. This course presents the story of dynamic change in the United States from the standpoint of its technology. Even years.

HIST 357 4 F

Civil War and Reconstruction

Slavery, the nature of the Union and the immediate and permanent effects of the Reconstruction on America. Even years.

HIST 360 3 W, S, Su

Adventist Heritage

(See RELH 360.)

An interdisciplinary exploration of theological and historical issues important to an understanding of the Advent Movement and the ministry of Ellen G. White. Meets the requirement in Prophetic Guidance and Denominational History for Seventh-day Adventist teaching credentials.

HIST 375 4 S

U.S. and the World Since 1945

Major issues and developments in the U.S. and the World since the end of World War II. Includes nationalism and independence movements, the Cold War, globalization, and conflicts around the world. Odd years.

HIST 380 **2 S** **History Methods III**

Refines writing and analytical skills developed in freshman and sophomore seminars. Introduces majors to the professionalization of history and history as a career. Includes conference paper presentations, admission to and preparation for graduate school, and guest lecturers from the field of history. Prerequisites: HIST 180, 280.

HIST 421 **4 Arr** **History Seminar**

Themes in world history. Requires a major research paper. Repeatable for credit under different topics. Possible topics include: Pre-Colonial India, Cultural Modernism, History of Russia, History of the Silk Roads, The US from Colonies to Constitution. Prerequisites: HIST 101, 102, 280.

HIST 450 **4 Su** **History Study Tour**

Summer travel opportunity. Topics vary. Repeatable for credit under different subtitles. Offered in summer quarter when available.

HIST 480+481+482 **1+1+1 F, W, S** **Senior Thesis I, II, III**

First quarter serves as a preparation course for writing the senior thesis and requires the production of a thesis proposal. Second quarter incorporates the writing of the senior thesis. Third quarter consists of a formal thesis presentation to faculty and peers. These quarters must be taken in order and each section must be successfully completed in order to move on to the next term. Prerequisite: HIST 380. Eligible for IP grading.

HIST 495 **1-3 Arr** **Independent Study**

Individual research; open by permission of the department chair to advanced students with an adequate background. Repeatable to a maximum of 3 credits.

Political Science

LOWER-DIVISION COURSES:

PLSC 124 **4 F** **Introduction to American Government**

The development and functioning of the American machinery of government and a study of the political processes, both formal and informal, in which the citizen is involved.

PLSC 274 **3 F, S** **Introduction to Political Thought**

An introduction to the perennial questions and major thinkers in this area of philosophy.

PLSC 275 **3 F** **Political Communication**

Students will examine the intersection of politics and communication; specifically, the interaction of media, politicians, and the constituency. Emphasis will be given to the role of political communication as it is practiced by the mass media, political candidates, policymakers, and the electorate. As a result, students will gain the skills and knowledge they need to help them become effective observers and participants in the public sphere. Odd years.

UPPER-DIVISION COURSES:

PLSC 328 **3 Su** **Critical World Issues**

An important issue is selected by the instructor, discussed in class, and studied as a research topic. May include one or more of the following: the elements of national power, the dynamics of state conflict, national traits and policy patterns, the role of ideologies or moral considerations in the decision-making process, and the relationship between a society's world view and the realities of policy-making. Repeatable for credit under different topics.

PLSC 330 **3 F** **Modern Comparative Government**

Introduction to the different types of government around the world and the concepts behind these variations. Focus on the comparison between the government of the United States and Western Europe. Includes economic development, political institutions and processes, political culture, nations and nationalism, and other selected topics. Odd years.

PLSC 352 **3 Arr** **Topics in Political Studies**

An in-depth study of a chosen social or political topic. Possible topics include: Constitution and Citizenship, Intro to Criminal Justice, Political Ethics, Political Research, Current Debates in US Politics. Repeatable for credit under different subtitles.

PLSC 485 **3 F** **Foreign Relations of the United States**

Episodes selected from the history of American foreign relations to illustrate the development of U.S. foreign policy. Even years.

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PLSC 494 **1-3 F, W, S, Su** **Internship**

Supervised work experience in a political science-related environment. Integration of academic study with workplace experience, including application of theoretical knowledge to real-world situations. Enrollment limited to department majors. Advanced approval of the department is required. May not be taken before the end of the sophomore year. Prerequisites: PLSC 124, 274; RELT 216. Qualifies for IP grading. Graded S/F.

PLSC 495 **1-3 F, W, S** **Independent Study**

Individual research; open only by permission of the department chair to advanced students with an adequate background. Repeatable (max. of 3 credits).