

Mission Statement

The History Department at the City College of New York educates students about the experiences of the past while also reminding them of the ways in which the past continues to shape present and future. We teach history as an interdisciplinary, multicultural, humanistic discipline. Historical studies allow for the development of critical thinking and analytical writing, and we strive to advance our students' abilities in these areas of fundamental importance, areas that define in many ways the meaning of a college liberal arts education. History (the study of the human experience) is a central part of any education. Historical understanding is crucial for the civic and humanist self-awareness that lies at the very heart of the modern ideals of secular higher education and modern citizenship. By encouraging them to become engaged and responsible citizens, the study of history thus prepares students for membership in a diverse and rapidly changing world community.

At City College the History Department contributes in a number of ways to the life of the humanities and the college. Through its courses in World Civilization and United States Society (USSO), the department provides an essential foundation for the college's core curriculum. Building on that foundation, our faculty offers a sequence of introductory, elective, and advanced courses that cover the breadth of the human experience, and that serve as a factual and narrative spine connecting the disparate materials taught across the curriculum. Our offerings are especially strong in U.S., Latin American, Middle Eastern, European, and Asian History, as well as the history of gender and of science and medicine. In all these areas, the faculty's commitment to educating students is complemented by its commitment to research. This commitment is reflected both in individual professors' contributions to scholarship in their respective fields and in their ability to draw on their research in the classroom.

Learning Outcomes

The goal of the History Department is to help students become literate about history and historical methods, as well as to help them develop some of the skills and broader cultural literacy they will need on leaving City College. To that end the History Department aims to foster its students' abilities in the following ways:

Student with a B.A. in History will:

1. develop an understanding and knowledge of major issues, themes, and debates relating to the human experience. Students will grasp that history involves the interpretation of evidence and demonstrate awareness of the relationship between different analytical approaches and different types of evidence.
2. learn to communicate effectively. In particular, they will be familiar with the fundamentals of writing a research paper, and will be able to evaluate the relative worth of different types of primary and secondary source evidence to create, organize, and support in written form a historical thesis or argument. They will complete substantial written work in each and every history course.
3. obtain a thorough knowledge of one historical field on the basis of courses and study in that field (e.g., American History, Latin American History).
4. be prepared for graduate study or for careers in education, law, journalism, or administration.
5. Students majoring in History with a Secondary Education concentration will be prepared for certification to teach in New York City's high schools.

Learning Outcome Grid

(Outcomes are numbered from 1 to 6 as listed below)

1. Identify major historical periods and their key features
2. Demonstrate mastery of one historical field /topic
3. Demonstrate proficiency in historical reasoning and document analysis through short writing assignments
4. Demonstrate proficiency in the analysis, evaluation and synthesis of primary and secondary sources through a major
5. Demonstrate proficiency in oral
6. Demonstrate familiarity with major historical issues, themes, debates

Courses	Learning Outcomes										
	1	2	3	4	5	6					
Early America	X	X		X	X	X					
Era of the American Revolution	X	X		X	X	X					
History of New York City		X	X								
The New Nation			X			X					
Civil War and Reconstruction	X	X		X	X	X					
The Writing of American History			X	X							
The Gilded Age		X		X	X	X					
Protest Movements in US History	X	X	X	X	X	X					