WHY STUDY HISTORY AT VU?

Knowledge of the past has always been central to human awareness. History is connected with the search for meaning. It conveys communal memory, creating a sense of personal and group identity by locating individuals in time and space. The study of History offers each of us the chance to understand, even bridge, other cultures. Significantly, History is a humanist discipline, revealing the similarities and differences of human experience.

History at VU is a cross-cultural experience because our students bring with them the cultural richness of their background, whether it be Muslim or Christian, Asian or European. Our classrooms are lively and dynamic places of learning.

Melbourne’s western suburbs constitute a region rich in culture and history – our Learning in the Workplace and Community units provide a window to this world. Exchange programs provide additional learning experiences.

Our History major offers opportunities to sample this diverse human experience. We offer studies in the modern history of Australia, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Russia, and the United States of America. Our aim is to both challenge and excite students as they move through the study of History, beyond their own lives to those of people in other times and other places. We also aim to develop an appreciation of the contributions historians make to an understanding of contemporary society.

History is also offered at honours, masters and doctoral level. The electronic resources available through our Library are comparable to those found elsewhere, complemented by several specialist book collections built over two decades and more.

VOCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

History is an excellent preparation for many careers because it fosters a trained, imaginative and independent mind. Teaching has always been a rewarding career for the History graduate. Public service employment: historians are always in demand with the Australian Heritage Commission, the ABC and by federal and state government departments that cover tourism, archival services, conservation and the environment, urban planning, housing and education. Victorian government agencies, including the State Library, Victoria Museum, and the Public Record Office, also employ History graduates.

STRUCTURE OF THE HISTORY SPECIALISATION

This specialisation is taken as part of a three-year sequence of study in a Bachelor of Arts degree. Students are required to complete SIX (6) units from the list below including the core units. Units may also be taken as electives within other degree programs.

CORE UNITS

AAN1001 World History
ASH1002 World History 2

Other specialisation units – students complete FOUR units
AAN2011 European History 1
ASH2003 Australians at War
AAN2012 European History 2
AAN3011 American History 1
AAN3012 American History 2
ASH2001 History and Memory
ASH2002 Histories of Immigrant Australia
AAN2014 The Making of the Modern Middle East
AAN2011 Cultural History of Tibet
AAN2014 Many Vietnams: War, Culture & Memory
ASP2002 History and Politics of Terrorism
ASP2001 Political Economy of Colonialism and Neocolonialism
ASS2202 Contemporary Africa and Social Change
AHE2212 History of Sport (Semester varies)
AHS0114 Football Studies
AHS1111 Sport History and Culture

WHERE DO I STUDY?

History is based at Footscray Park, and History units are being introduced gradually at St Albans, with American History scheduled from 2010. Other electives will be offered at St Albans from time to time.

CONTACT US

The Coordinator of History is
Professor Phillip Deery,
Phone 03 9919 4597
Email Phillip.Deery@vu.edu.au.

Enquiries may also be made to:
Professor Robert Pascoe
Phone 0418 173 815
Email Robert.Pascoe@vu.edu.au.