

# History

[www.goshen.edu/history](http://www.goshen.edu/history)

## ***History: Critical engagement with today's world***

Goshen College's history department provides an understanding of global issues with local impact that help you understand the future by examining things such as ethnic conflict, war and peace, poverty, immigration, gender roles, the environment, racism, globalization and the implications of Christian faith in a changing society.

History majors explore economics, political science, sociology and the humanities, and learn communication skills and research skills that can be applied to a wide variety of careers. Hands-on learning opportunities include participation in the model United Nations program, internships with community organizations, special courses such as Archeology in Southwest Colorado or Anabaptist History in Europe, and participation in local churches through Ministry Inquiry Program or the college's unique Service Inquiry Program.

## ***Concentrations within the history major***

Secondary education  
Research skills  
Arts and humanities  
Social sciences  
Pre-law  
Public policy  
International studies

## ***What careers are Goshen history majors pursuing?***

Professors and teachers  
Pastors and church workers  
Business executives  
Lawyers and judges  
Museum curators, archivists and librarians  
Service workers in nonprofit agencies  
International development experts  
Writers, journalists and editors

## ***Marks of quality***

**Faculty scholarship** — All professors hold doctorates, with specialties in European and Anabaptist history; American religious, immigration and ethnic history; African, environmental and oral history; Latin American politics, African American history and law. Faculty are involved in research, recently publishing several books and receiving funding from prestigious grant agencies.

**Goshen College alumni with Ph.D.s** — Goshen ranked in the top 44 schools nationally (tied for 21st place) in the number of alumni who completed Ph.D.s in history during the years 1986-1995 (most recent data from the Franklin and Marshall College/Higher Education Data Sharing Consortium study of all private liberal arts colleges).

**Senior seminar** — History majors complete a significant senior seminar sequence of two courses focusing careful attention on the craft of our discipline and the integration of faith and history, culminating in a major research paper that could be submitted to an academic journal.

**Comparative studies in world history** — Our department offers an innovative and unusual sequence of courses examining world history in a way that recognizes the inter-connectedness of human society.

**Research opportunities for students** — The Mennonite Historical Library, the world's largest collection of Anabaptist-Mennonite literature; Mennonite Church USA Archives, with national and international holdings; *Mennonite Quarterly Review*, a scholarly journal published at GC since 1927; and Mennonite World Conference's Global Mennonite History Project are all connected to the Goshen College campus.

## ***History major***

Course requirements are flexible, allowing you to arrange a concentration of history courses that suits your interests. All majors take the two-part history senior seminar in the fall of their junior year and the spring of their senior year, culminating in a significant research paper, and complete an internship.

## ***History education major***

Typically, history is the primary field for a degree in social studies education. In addition to courses in the history major, you will take concentrations in other social studies areas to become licensed to teach middle school or high school. Your program will include a senior seminar project related to teaching primary sources, extensive fieldwork and student teaching in area schools.

## ***History and investigative skills major***

This major is designed to provide students with library, statistical and field-research skills especially useful for careers in law, business and public administration. In addition to history courses, you will take classes in sociology, statistics and methods of social research, along with history senior seminar and an internship that utilizes research tools.

## ***Minor in Anabaptist-Mennonite studies***

This interdisciplinary minor highlights historic strengths of Goshen College, and may include courses such as Anabaptist/Mennonite History; History of Mennonites in America; Mennonite Literature; Church Music; and War, Peace and Nonresistance.

## ***What our alumni say about Goshen College's history program***

*History provides a highly transferable set of skills and perspectives that enhances your ability to contribute in any job setting and in life in general.*

–Terri L. Enns, 1980, law school faculty

*Perhaps the biggest impact of history classes was on my faith development. Being able to hear stories, discuss issues and form a better understanding of God and the church throughout history and how we got to where we are today has been invaluable.*

–J. Kevin Miller, 1984, communications coordinator

*Solid base upon which to build for many careers in church and public life.*

–Phil Bergey, 1991, Mennonite conference executive

*Historians bring a unique perspective to public debate which is truly needed. All the more valuable is a voice from the faith community and from a person with broader world/cultural experience.*

–E. Jay Shetler, 1974, president/CEO of church-sponsored retirement community

*Take history classes – learn to read, write and think critically. That gives you a perspective and basis for any occupation.*

–Mary L. Beechy-Pfeiffer, 1968, high school teacher

## ***Faculty***

**Lee Roy Berry Jr.**, Ph.D., J.D.; associate professor of political science; B.A., Eastern Mennonite College, 1966; M.A., 1969, Ph.D., 1976, The University of Notre Dame; J.D., Indiana University, 1984.

**Steven M. Nolt**, Ph.D.; associate professor of history; B.A., Goshen College, 1990; M.A.T.S., Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, 1994; M.A., 1996, Ph.D., 1998, The University of Notre Dame.

**John D. Roth**, Ph.D.; professor of history, director of Mennonite Historical Library and editor of *Mennonite Quarterly Review*; B.A., Goshen College, 1981; M.A., 1983, Ph.D., 1989, University of Chicago.

**Jan Bender Shetler**, Ph.D.; associate professor of history; B.A., Goshen College, 1978; M.A., 1993, Ph.D., 1998, University of Florida.