Do you enjoy studying different peoples, places, and periods? Do stories from long ago pique your curiosity? Do you wonder why people do what they do?

If so, consider a history major. Our international faculty will teach you how to read, research and write history well—and help you gain skills that will serve you in any profession. History studies human activity and its meaning, exploring different dimensions of human interactions, including politics, economics, religion, culture, and ecology. Sharpen your analytical and critical skills and learn to ask good questions, to understand situations from several vantage points, to cultivate humility, and to understand and appreciate other times, people, and cultures.

SELECTED COURSES

• Foundations of History
• Perspectives on World History
• Modern Middle East, 1800-Present
• Imperialism and Independence
• The Making of Modern Europe, 1914-Present
• Modern and Contemporary Latin America
• Civil War and Reconstruction America
• Reformation Spirituality

CAREER PATHS

• Education
• Government
• Non-profits
• Finance
• Law
• Archival Work
• Marketing
• Management
• Christian Ministry
ALISTER CHAPMAN, PH.D.
Educated in England, he specializes in modern European history

HEATHER KEANEY, PH.D.
Provides historical and cultural contexts for current events in the Middle East

CHANDRA MALLAMPALLI, PH.D.
Examines race, religion and law in Colonial India

MARIANNE ROBINS, PH.D.
A native of France and expert on early modern French history

ALUMNI

After Westmont, Thea Brentlinger ’16 spent three years living and working in Idaho within the hospitality and health care industries. She found herself using many of the organizational and communication skills she developed through her history major and gained further confidence in her abilities to receive, interpret, and transmit information and ideas effectively. Her ongoing love of history has prompted her to pursue graduate school a master’s degree at the University of Utah, where she will study the history of the American West.

Named this spring as the Outstanding Senior in both of his majors, history and Spanish, Gabe Grabowski ’19 is well prepared to take on the exciting opportunities and challenges that lie before him. In fall 2019 he serves as staff assistant on the Westmont in Mexico semester, a program he participated in as a student. Then in March 2020, he will begin a year of teaching English in Argentina under the auspices of a grant from the highly prestigious Fulbright Scholar Program.

Benjamin Peterson ’18 works for California Assembly member Monique Limón as a Field Representative in the 37th District, comprising Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. In this position, Benjamin draws upon the communication and critical-thinking skills he developed through his history major. Benjamin serves as a policy advisor to the Assembly member on issue areas, briefing her on these issues and attending related meetings. Benjamin needs to maintain an updated awareness of state and local issues, be engaged and build relationships with members of the community, and figure out ways to problem solve and make recommendations to the Assembly member.

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