



Ghandi once said, “A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history.” Loyola’s history department seeks to do just that. In the pursuit of justice, we guide our students through an exploration of the past and all of its intricacies and nuances. Those higher levels of historical thought can only come through a scholarly search for understanding. In our program, you’ll learn to investigate and analyze the historical movements that have shaped contemporary society. Our graduates use those skills to excel in fields such as education, law, government, business, management, public relations, writing, and research. We’ll give you the tools you’ll need to follow St. Ignatius’ charge to “go forth and set the world on fire.”

This is the place.

Shaped by three centuries of history and imbued with a culture recognized around the world, few places in America offer greater inspiration to those who study the past than New Orleans. Whether it is the city’s nineteenth-century charm or its modern National World War II Museum, here you’ll find something interesting waiting around every corner. Immerse yourself in the city’s thriving arts and cultural scene, and you will discover that it is like nowhere else.

At Loyola, our “small body of determined spirits” is our exceptional, diverse faculty. Their work spans the entire range of historical fields from Asia to Africa, the Atlantic World to Europe, as well as the fields of political, economic, social, intellectual, cultural, and religious history. Our amazing professors have won numerous research, literary, teaching, and service awards, and they’ll challenge you to “alter the course of history.”

Courses

In addition to a core set of courses exploring global history, U.S. history, and historical research methods, you’ll select electives to tailor the program to your interests. Here’s a sample of what you can expect to learn and do:

Saints & Demons in Medieval Europe

The medieval church played a central role influencing the lives of Western Christians. This course examines the depth of that influence, emphasizing forms of religious expression, the church’s role in everyday life, canon law, and lay involvement in the church.

Women in African History

This course examines women in African history from ancient times to present, focusing on religious practices, colonialism, and social class. Students examine the construction of gender, social systems, reproduction, women’s exercise of power, and the attempt to control female bodies.

Oppression and Resistance

This course challenges students to critically evaluate the roles that racism, sexism, and prejudice have played in shaping the modern world. Students compare case studies of slavery, persecution, subjugation, and genocide and explore the violent and nonviolent resistance of marginalized peoples.

Money as Meaning

This course focuses on the relationship between money and other forms of communication, such as writing and printing. It examines the changing roles of various kinds of money across time, from early stone-age exchange systems through the birth of capitalism.