

History & Political Science

226 McDonald Bldg.
 (435) 652-7881
<http://hps.dixie.edu/>

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Department Chair

Chip McLeod, Ph.D.

Administrative Assistant

Hope Mullins

Dean

Richard Featherstone, Ph.D.

Administrative Specialist

Christine Arlotti

Program Description

The Dixie State University Department of History and Political Science offers a wide variety of courses to develop the following student outcomes: a descriptive knowledge base, scholarly research skills, effective written communication, and critical interpretations of the past and present. Through popular General Education courses like HIST 1700 American Civilization and POLS 1100 American Government, non-majors can fulfill their American Institutions credit required by the state of Utah for graduation. The department provides DSU students with a unique knowledge base and skill set to foster active citizenship and professional opportunities in a variety of fields.

The department is composed of 15 highly-qualified faculty members with a vast array of specialties including: African-American History, American Constitution, American Radicalism, American West, Civil War, Cold War, Early American Republic, Energy Security Strategies, International Law, International Relations, Islam, Latin-American Social Movements, Nazi Germany, Oral History, Popular Culture in East Asia, Transnational History, Utah/Mormon History, and War/Terrorism.

The Dixie State University Department of History and Political Science supervises several baccalaureate degrees. The History Bachelor of Arts degree requires proficiency in a foreign language, which can be fulfilled in a variety of ways. The Bachelor of Science degree requires social sciences coursework beyond the core and electives. Students pursuing teaching careers in secondary education can choose a Bachelor of Arts or Science in Social Sciences Composite Teaching. This unique program prepares students to teach in many areas of the high school curriculum, including: American History, World History, Utah History, Political Science, Psychology, Geography, Economics, and Sociology.

The History Minor option prepares students from a variety of disciplines to contextualize their field of study within the human experience. History Minors are exposed to a variety of perspectives and research methodologies that augment their skills in almost any profession or area of graduate study. Currently we do not offer a Political Science Minor, but plan on developing one in the upcoming future.

Why Study History and Political Science?

The Dixie State University Department of History and Political Science provides students with a critical education which understands movement and change. A critical education understands the contemporary world as a synthesis of the past, and appreciates how the present will project itself into the future. Such an education is the bedrock of active citizenship. If a citizen does not know history it is as if they were born yesterday. The study of History and Political Science is a protective armor against the excessive disinformation of the modern cyberworld and mass media.

In practical terms, the Department of History and Political Science prepares students to pursue advanced study in history, law, international relations, journalism, or numerous other professional fields. Our programs train students to investigate complex problems, identify reliable sources, analyze information, and communicate conclusions in a clear and thoughtful manner through advanced writing skills.

The core of our Department's mission is to assist students in understanding the complexity of the human experience in order to develop their own humanity. The study of the human experience must not end at the classroom door; by studying history, we make individuals of the past human again, and this in turn reconnects us to our own humanity.

Course Prefixes:

- HIST, POLS, SS

Degrees & Minors

- Bachelor of Arts in History (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/history/bachelor_of_arts_in_history)
- Bachelor of Science in History (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/history/bachelor_of_science_in_history)

- Bachelor of Arts/Science in Social Sciences Composite Teaching - Secondary Education Licensure (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/history/bachelor_of_artsscience_in_social_science_composite_teaching)
- Bachelor of Arts/Science in Integrated Studies - History Emphasis (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/interdisciplinaryartsandsciences/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies__history_emphasis)
- Bachelor of Arts/Science in Integrated Studies - Military Science Emphasis (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/interdisciplinaryartsandsciences/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies__military_science_emphasis)
- Minor in History (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/history/minor_in_history)

Career Strategies

Students can enhance learning and career opportunities in a number of ways:

- Select minor and/or elective coursework in a complementary discipline, such as creative or technical writing, history, or multi-cultural communication
- Create a portfolio of writing that demonstrates analytical and creative writing skills
- Engage in opportunities for service-learning or study abroad
- Develop strong public speaking skills
- Develop strong grammar and language skills, including a second language
- Consider graduate school; higher degrees will increase pay and may increase opportunities

Career Opportunities *

Because our programs are centered on learning how to think, especially analysis and synthesis, the opportunities for graduates are limited only by their imaginations and interests. Our graduates frequently work in these fields:

- Law and politics
- Local, state, and federal government
- Secondary and post-secondary education
- Public history and museum work
- Publishing
- Journalism
- Media, television, and film
- Social activism
- Librarian or archivist
- Media
- Labor organizing
- Non-governmental organizations
- Non-profit organizations

Job Outlook / Salary Range *

Since the opportunities are so varied, the job outlook and salary range will depend on each student's particular career path. The job outlook is best for those graduates who can analyze multiple perspectives and conflicting sources of information and then communicate their findings.

* From the Occupational Outlook handbook