About the Program

History, Social Studies, and Social Science students at Siena Heights experience a variety of classroom and extracurricular learning opportunities. Class size is typically 15-20 students, enabling students to develop effective discussion skills. Students learn from video- and web-based presentations as well as instructor lectures, classroom activities and other learning adventures.

The study of History and the Social Sciences is the study of people and ideas, of events shaped by them and shaping them, and of concurrent conflicts and movements. These two majors are interchangeable, with History using tools from the Social Sciences to examine and interpret the meaning and significance of events, ideas, and movements, and Social Sciences using Historical Cases for political, economic, or geographic analysis in Political Science, Economics or Geography courses.

The Social Studies Education program is designed to parallel Social Science and History with special emphasis on teaching techniques needed by candidates for Education Certification at the elementary and secondary levels.

The study of History and the Social Sciences is also a way of learning how to see issues from different points of view, how to evaluate situations and solve problems from the past and in the present. History is both stories and their analysis to better explain our past and present. Social Studies Education students choose classes from both History and the Social Sciences along with classes from the Education program.

Coursework in History and the Social Sciences has settings defined by era (like present-day U.S. in the World), or by world regions (like Mideast, Europe, Southeast Asia), or by topic (like U.S. Minorities, Intellectual, Economic). Some students choose to earn cooperative credit through supervised internships, museum work, student teaching and other pertinent experiences.

“"We expect our students to be well-rounded. We offer classes in Asian history. We offer classes in Latin American history. We want our students to understand historiography in various regions of the world. . . . One of the major areas that makes us distinctive is we want our students to have hands-on experiences. . . . that gives them a leg up when they are looking for a job in the field.”

— Dr. Julieanna Frost, Assistant Professor of History, Program Chair

Careers

History and the Social Sciences are general degrees emphasizing transferable skills as well as specific curriculum content. The student with a major or minor in History or the Social Sciences is prepared for a broad array of career options as well as having the transitioning skills necessary for success in our rapidly changing 21st century world.
Clubs and Organizations

**Missing Link** is the History/Social Science/Social Studies Education program sponsored student association. The organization facilitates field trips to museums, historical sites and specialized libraries which help supplement classroom experience. Missing Link members also participate in outreach programs like Habitat for Humanity, United Way projects and other collaborative endeavors.

**Mu Lambda** is the History/Social Science/Social Studies Education local Honor Society which recognizes both academic accomplishment and significant involvement in a wide range of community endeavors. Students who meet honors criteria can be nominated to pledge membership status upon completion of 24 semester hours of SHU coursework. Full membership status is reserved for graduating seniors who meet the criteria.

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The Capstone Experience

History and Social Science are research-based studies using transferable skills for living and working and building the future. To complete either a History or Social Science major, students present a senior research project demonstrating both research and content proficiency.

Typical careers chosen by History and Social Science graduates include:

- Archaeologist
- Civil Service (including National Park Service)
- Foreign Service
- Journalist
- Librarian
- Political Leader
- Public Historian (museums, historical theme parks, local history projects)
- Teacher
Bachelor of Arts Degree in History

DEGREE MAJOR

A. Humanities Division Core Requirements - 12 semester hours
1. HUM 201 Heritage of the Humanities 3
2. HUM 240 Heritage of the Humanities II 3
3. _____ Foreign Language 6

B. History Requirements - 36 semester hours
1. HIS 111 World Civilizations since 1500 3
2. HIS 140 World Civilizations before 1500 3
3. HIS 211 U.S. History 3
4. HIS 300 Michigan History 3
5. HIS 305 Historical Cases 3
6. HIS 340 Historiography/Methodology 3
7. HIS 495 Senior Seminar 3
8. HIS ___ Approved Electives 9
   (9 s.h. at 300+ level; 3 s.h. in each European, U.S., and NonWestern/Global)
9. GEO 301 Cultural Geography I 3
10. GEO 302 Cultural Geography II 3

D. Total for Major................................. 48 semester hours

E. Liberal Arts................................. 35-38 semester hours

F. General Electives............................. 34-37 semester hours

G. Total for Degree............................. 120 semester hours

DEGREE MINOR

1. #HIS 111 World Civilizations since 1500 3
2. HIS 140 World Civilizations before 1500 3
3. HIS 211 U.S. History 3
4. HIS ___ Approved Electives 9
   (9 s.h. at 300+ level; 3 s.h. in each European, U.S., and NonWestern/Global)
5. GEO 301 Cultural Geography I 3
6. GEO 302 Cultural Geography II 3

D. Total for Minor................................. 45 semester hours

# May be double counted toward major and Liberal Arts Requirements.

NOTE: Students seeking teacher certification must also complete the appropriate history methods course: either SST 372 (Secondary History Methods) from the Professional Education Sequence or SST 344 (Social Studies in the Elementary Classroom) from the Planned Minor.

MUSEUM STUDIES CERTIFICATE.................................15 hours

Required courses:
HIS220  Museum Studies and Collections 3 hours
PSC345  Public Administration 3 hours
MKT320  Marketing the Arts 3 hours
ENG435  Visual Culture 3 hours
HIS485  Special Topics – Internship 3 hours

Elective courses: (choose one of the following)
HIS211  US History 3 hours
ARH445  History of Photography 3 hours
ARH530  American Art History 3 hours
ART147  Introduction to Graphic Design 3 hours
ART348  Publication Design 3 hours

In the United States alone there are over 8,000 museums with many career opportunities such as collection managers, curators, directors, educators, and exhibit designers. A museum studies certificate would provide students with the practical experience and theoretical background in order to prepare for a career in this growing field. It would give another vocational option to students, especially those majoring in History since over half of the museums in the United States focus on historical interpretation.