The study of history enhances critical thinking and writing skills. It is a creative process in which students learn to use arguments and evidence to communicate a sound historical thesis. It is a liberal arts degree that encourages students to become well rounded, educated people. A degree in history opens up a wide range of career possibilities. Some careers fall within the historical profession, including teaching at the university, college, and high school levels and working in various areas of public and applied history, such as historic preservation, archives, libraries, and museums. For careers in fields as diverse as law, business, government, foreign service, publishing, journalism, and communications, a degree in history lays the foundation in research, analytic, and writing skills upon which later professional training can be built. The Department of History offers a wide variety of courses with emphasis upon regional, topical, chronological, social, military and gender studies.

Students intending to teach History at the secondary level should declare a Social Science Teaching Track major.

**Undergraduate Program:**
The major in History requires completion of 40 semester hours including the American and World History surveys (12 semester hours) and HIST 295 (The Historian's Craft) and HIST 495 (History Seminar). An additional 21 semester hours chosen from among three designated world areas.

The primary mission of the RU History Department is to provide students with historical knowledge and skills, to train undergraduates to research, analyze, synthesize and communicate conclusions about change over time by using the historical method. At the same time we aim to inculcate cultural literacy and provide the knowledge necessary for informed decision making by citizens of the United States, and the world. By deepening their knowledge of the past, historical studies train individuals to better understand the present and to more intelligently shape the future. The RU History Department strives to convey to all our students an understanding of the significant historical actors, events, and cultural values that have shaped the world in which they live.

**B.A. and B.S. Degrees:**
Majors will pursue either a Bachelor of Science or a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. Both require 120 credit hours.

The B.S. option requires selection of 6-8 additional hours of coursework from the department approved list. Coursework must be within the same discipline and selected in consultation with one's adviser.

The Bachelor of Arts option requires six to eight hours in a foreign language or American Sign Language.

The Department of History strongly encourages its majors to consider the Bachelor of Arts option.

**Advising:**
Each major will be assigned an advisor from among the History faculty. Every student is expected to meet with their adviser periodically (at least once each semester) to discuss their overall program of study and to assess their progress toward a degree. These meetings also provide excellent opportunity for discussion of career goals and objectives.

**Additional Majors/Minors:**
Majors are strongly encouraged to complement their study of History with an appropriate minor or second major.

**To apply for admission**
For undergraduate programs contact the Office of Admissions, Box 6903, Radford, VA 24142 or you may apply online. For specific information on admissions and financial aid, see the RU website at www.radford.edu.
Faculties:

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Richard Straw
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Study Abroad Opportunities
The department of History sponsors a study abroad experience in the summer to Scotland/Ireland. In addition, the International Education Center offers many programs on a semester, summer, or academic year basis that can be tailored to fit any student's need. In consultation with the student's academic advisor and the director of the International Education students can take advantage of many programs overseas including study abroad, service/volunteer, and work abroad.

Students can earn academic credit for 3-15 credit hour internships through a local museum, historical society, or public/private/governmental agency.

Extracurricular Experiences
The History Club provides a variety of activities ranging from social gatherings to formal sponsorship of speakers.

The History Department has a chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national Honor Society in History. To apply for membership, the student must have completed 12 credit hours in history with a minimum 3.1 GPA in those courses and a 3.0 GPA in all other courses attempted.

Membership in the Radford University chapter of Pi Gamma Mu, the international Honor Society in the Social Sciences, is open to students who have completed 20 semester hours in any combination of social science courses with a minimum 3.0 GPA in those courses.

Facilities
The Department of History is housed in the Cook International Education Building.

Transfer Opportunities
Students wishing to transfer from the VCCS should complete an Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, or Associate of Arts & Science degree and include courses that will transfer to RU such as HIST 101, 102, 111, 112 in their studies (check the online transfer guide at http://admissions.asp.radford.edu/forms/transferguide.pdf).

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