The Social Science program is an interdisciplinary major administered through the History Department whose faculty act as advisors. The social science disciplines of history, political science, geography, and economics provide for the systematic study of human behavior and relationships across time, cultures, and space. Its broad-based, comparative approach equips students with a wide knowledge base in a variety of subject areas. The teaching licensure for this major gives students the ability and skills needed to teach in each of the disciplines that comprise the program of study.

Interdisciplinary study in the social sciences provides students with the opportunity to engage issues of racial, class, and gender diversity, while equipping them to function effectively in a world that increasingly demands good global citizenship. Graduates in this area demonstrate the ability to understand and engage the world in its many facets, and appreciate fast-paced changes in economics, values, and technology.

Undergraduate Program:
The Social Science program provides teaching licensure at the secondary grade level for students intending to teach in the public schools. Requirements in this option total 45 semester hours distributed as follows: History 21 hours; Political Science 12 hours; Geography 6 hours; Economics 6 hours.

Social Science majors upon graduation will have substantial awareness of social science methodology, content, and research. The major enhances the graduate's reading, writing, and oral skills and the ability to process diverse information into a coherent whole. In particular, the Social Science major will develop an understanding and appreciation of the interconnectedness of the various social science disciplines. Graduates will also have been exposed to a wide diversity of cultures and develop a keen appreciation for the aesthetic and intellectual life.

Teacher Licensure:
In addition to completing requirements in the Social Science major, those intending to teach in the public schools must also complete all specified courses and requirements in the department of Education.

Those intending to acquire teaching certification should make application for admission into the Teacher Education Program during their junior year and must go through Teacher Screening. In preparation for this, students must put together a portfolio for presentation to the review committee.

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. Students pursuing the teaching licensure will also work with members of the College of Education and Human Development.

Additional Majors/Minors:
The Department strongly encourages majors to consider a second major in a complementary field of the social sciences (Political Science, Geography, Economics), and if not a double major, then at least a minor in one or more of those fields.

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.
Faculty:

Sharon Roger Hepburn  
Chair, Professor  
Ph.D., State University of New York, Buffalo  
shepburn@radford.edu

Suzanne Ament  
Associate Professor  
Ph.D., Indiana University  
seament@radford.edu

Brock Cutler  
Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., Univ. of California-Irvine  
bcutler2@radford.edu

Mary Ferrari  
Professor  
Ph.D., College of William & Mary  
mferrari@radford.edu

Kurt Gingrich  
Associate Professor  
Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, Madison  
kgingric@radford.edu

Charles McClellan  
Professor Emeritus  
Ph.D., Michigan State University  
cmcclell@radford.edu

Garth Montgomery  
Associate Professor  
Ph.D., State University of New York, Buffalo  
gmontgom@radford.edu

Johnny Moore  
Professor  
Ph.D., University of Virginia  
jsmoore@radford.edu

Mark Munzinger  
Associate Professor  
Ph.D., University of Kansas  
mmunzinge@radford.edu

Matthew Oyos  
Professor  
Ph.D., Ohio State University  
moyos@radford.edu

J. Greg Ryder  
Special Purpose Faculty  
M.A., Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University  
jryder3@radford.edu

Richard Straw  
Professor  
Ph.D., University of Missouri  
rstraw@radford.edu

Extracurricular Experiences

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. 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.

Study Abroad Opportunities

The department of History often 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 Center 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.

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).