



## Areas of Study

### History Program – School of Historical and European Studies

The History Program's major Research Area of Research Strength is in Australian Studies and this enriches its Australian History subject offerings. History subjects also form an important part of several popular new degree courses, especially the Bachelor of Development Studies, the Bachelor of International Relations, and the Bachelor of Arts in Contemporary European Studies.

The History Program's current full-time staff of sixteen are drawn from Australian and overseas universities. A very strong research tradition has developed over the years: current staff having produced over 60 books and 400 chapters and articles in scholarly books and journals. Staff have won or been finalists in book prize awards. In 1990 the School launched a unique documentary series for VCE students - La Trobe Studies in History. Fifteen titles, selling over 30,000 copies in all, have so far been written and published by staff members.

There are currently 2,500 undergraduate enrolments in History at La Trobe, 20 honours students and 40 research postgraduates.

The Program emphasises excellence in teaching at all levels from the first undergraduate year, through its numerous undergraduate subjects, to postgraduate supervision. It aims to produce both well-rounded Humanities graduates who take History subjects, as well as specialists in the discipline of History who proceed to postgraduate work at La Trobe and other universities before themselves contributing to the discipline and the culture and intellectual life of the nation.

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##### THE ANCIENT WORLD

A number of History subjects are offered in the area of the ancient world. In first year 'Ancient Civilisations' looks at Mesopotamia, Egypt, Canaan, Israel, Greece and Rome. Second and third year subjects concentrate on Israel, from its beginnings to the parting of the ways of Judaism and Christianity. Primary texts from Israel and her neighbours are analysed and archaeological data considered in the attempt to reconstruct the history of this important period. Honours and postgraduate studies are also available. The undergraduate subjects can be credited to a major in Religion and Spirituality Studies.

##### AUSTRALIA

Australian history is available at all year levels including a strong postgraduate stream. The subjects taught span both centuries and cover social, political and cultural history. These include the origins and development of colonial society; culture contact; pastoralism, land settlement and environmental impact; Australians at war; themes in 19th and 20th century Aboriginal history; two centuries of Australian gender relations and feminist history; colonial legacies, national myths and Australian nationhood.

##### LATIN AMERICA

La Trobe is the only university in Victoria where students can undertake a program of subjects dealing with Latin America. The two Latin America specialists in History play an active role in the Institute of Latin American Studies founded at La Trobe in 1976 with the financial assistance of the Myer Foundation. The Institute coordinates undergraduate subjects and promotes research and



postgraduate work on Latin America. The History offerings cover both the colonial and pre-conquest (1500-1800) and the national (1800-1990s) periods of Latin American history. At second and third year levels the offerings include Latin America and the Cold War; peasants and revolution in Latin America, Development and Underdevelopment in historical perspective and Latin American popular culture and testimonial literature.

## **EUROPE**

Modern Europe is one of the major areas of strength in the La Trobe History program revealed by La Trobe's leadership of a consortium of universities funded by the European Union to teach and research Europe. Specialities currently include the British Isles, Ireland, Russia, France, but attention is also paid to other parts of Europe. Broad first-year subjects offer an introduction to problems of political, social and intellectual history which are then followed through in later-year subjects which focus on: the transformation of Europe socially and politically in the 19th and 20th centuries; and the development of Russia from the Moscovite period to the Soviet Union. Subjects in this area encompass a range of themes and approaches, and enable students to develop a broad-based understanding of modern European societies and political developments.

## **NORTH AMERICA**

A number of History subjects are offered in the North American area, including the intellectual and cultural history of the United States from the Revolution to the Depression; America's war in Vietnam; the politics and popular culture of the United States from 1945 to the present and the Civil Rights movement and its historical significance. Students may also take a North American Studies major. This consists of the requisite number of subjects chosen from a selected offered in Disciplines across the Faculty, including Art History, Cinema Studies, English, History, Legal Studies, and Politics. North American issues are also covered in some Latin American subjects.

## **RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY STUDIES**

Religion and Spirituality Studies offers an academic study of various religions, from two different perspectives. The first provides an understanding of some of the great religious traditions. Those taught at present are Chinese, Christian, Indian and Jewish. The second perspective is the study of religions and/or spirituality in the context of various disciplinary approaches: historical, philosophical, sociological, literary and linguistic. The staff who teach the area belong to various programs, and their offerings are listed accordingly: i.e. as Anthropology, Asian Studies, English, History, Philosophy or Sociology.

## **WOMEN'S STUDIES AND GENDER RELATIONS**

Some of the special strengths of the La Trobe University History Program are in women's history and the history of gender. Gender studies, of femininity and masculinity, are transforming our understanding of the past. Subjects available cover themes such as: gender and war; gender relations in Australian and British society; gender and work; gender, popular culture and food; and gender, colonialism and postcolonialism. Many of these subjects count towards a major in Gender, Sexuality and Diversity, as well as in History.