

Stanford University

History

“ You cannot understand what is happening today without understanding what came before. ”

Steve Jobs

Informing the present

Studying history doesn't simply teach facts about the past or explain how the modern world emerged from its murky origins. History is about making sense of complex situations in which the relationship between origins and results, and intentions and consequences, is not immediately evident.

History teaches intelligent reading and lucid writing—skills that last a lifetime. Historians learn to write narratives that clearly describe how and why something happened. They also learn to read critically, following arguments and measuring the distance between authors' objectives and the meaning of their texts.



Build a Broad Framework:

Study the past in innovative courses...

- **The Islamic Republics: Politics and Society in Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan**
- **Gendered Innovations in Science, Medicine, Engineering, and Environment**
- **Human Trafficking: Historical, Legal, and Medical Perspectives**

...And learn to work with original documents in Sources and Methods seminars such as *The Circle of Life: Visions of Nature in Modern Science, Religion, Politics, and Culture*. Many students use their new expertise to pursue independent research and complete original projects based on archival material.

A Full Spectrum

In addition to majoring in general history, students can select five interdisciplinary tracks that reach beyond the department:

- **Public History/Public Service**
- **History and the Law**
- **History, Science, and Medicine**
- **History, Literature, and the Arts**
- **Global Affairs and World History**

“The past lives in the present and is enlivened by it, just as the present depends on conversations, disputes, and arguments with the past.”

Norman Naimark, Sakurako and William Fisher Family Director of the Division of International, Comparative and Area Studies
Robert and Florence McDonnell Professor in East European Studies



Research

Beyond the Classroom

Explore your passion for history using the latest data visualization tools to map evidence that would be impossible to grasp without computers.

Mapping the Republic of Letters

Mapping thousands of letters exchanged between intellectuals in the 18th century has allowed researchers to uncover hidden truths about social networks that existed during the Enlightenment.

Spatial History Lab

Scholars use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to understand the past both historically and geographically—focusing on the concepts of time and space.

Stanford **History** shares the top ranking for the best department in the nation, according to the most recent results in *U.S. News & World Report*.

A Successful Future

Critical thinking. Clear analysis. Considered judgment.

History is the disciplined study of the human past, a skill that can be applied to careful consideration of the present and future.

Learn to analyze complex situations that change over time, weigh competing claims, and present logical, evidence-rich arguments.

Read texts and analyze material culture with a critical eye.

Stanford history graduates pursue careers in law, teaching, public service, business, finance, journalism, and government.

Notable Alumni

Chelsea Clinton, Clinton Foundation, NBC correspondent

Gray Davis, Former Governor of California

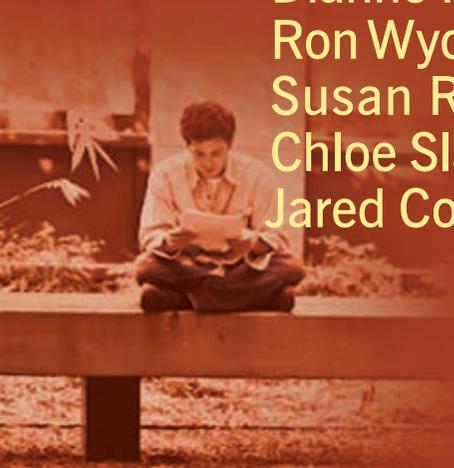
Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Senator from California

Ron Wyden, U.S. Senator from Oregon

Susan Rice, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations

Chloe Sladden, Vice President at Twitter

Jared Cohen, Director of Google Ideas “think/do tank”

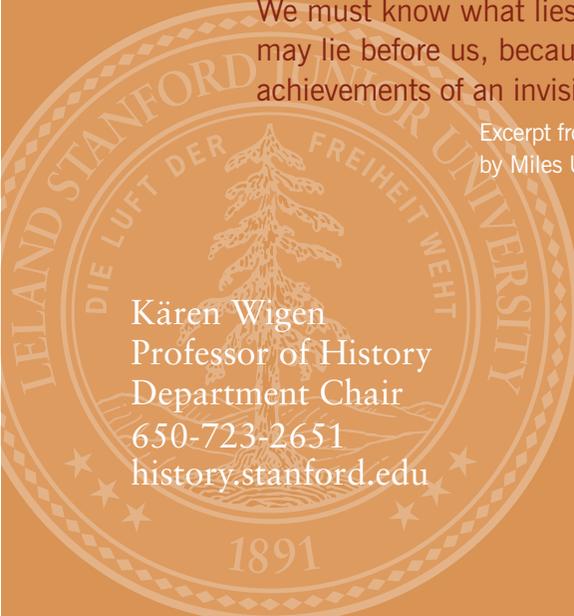


“The means to reason and communicate effectively, skills I learned as a history major, are assets I’ve found useful in every facet of life, even in my current endeavor as a professional athlete. What’s more important, however, is the unique perspective on human experience that the study of history has taught me...”

Chase Beeler, '10, MA '12, center for the St. Louis Rams

“In politics, statesmen employ the lessons of history in deciding between crucial policy options...Before we can achieve, we must know what we have as yet failed to achieve. In defining the cutting edge, we should remember that it has sometimes cut too sharply—eugenics, social Darwinism, and fascism all masqueraded in turn as the new wave of history. We must know what lies behind us as we move toward what may lie before us, because blind groping toward the foggy achievements of an invisible tomorrow will get us nowhere.”

Excerpt from 2012 History commencement address
by Miles Unterreiner, '12, MA '13



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STANFORD UNIVERSITY
School of **Humanities**
& **Sciences**