Studying history involves much more than memorizing names, dates and places from the past. It means interpreting the significance of people and events and exploring the underlying causes that have given rise to particular outcomes and how they continue to affect us today. At Illinois Wesleyan, we strive to challenge students and expand their horizons. We believe history prepares students for life and can be an introduction to an unlimited number of exciting and rewarding professional careers.

Why History at Illinois Wesleyan?

• Your degree is enhanced by two required seminar courses: one in theory and writing, and another in historical research.
• You will also take eight additional history courses allowing you to pursue your particular historical interests in depth, concentrating on what you enjoy: a period of time or historical era, an area of the world, or a particular kind of history.
• Your major courses will help you polish your writing and speaking skills through debates, position papers and constant in-class discussion.
• IWU’s flexible curriculum allows you to have a minor or second major in fields such as political science, literature, foreign language, economics, or other fields that interest you.
• Whether or not you opt for a second major or minor, you will have the opportunity to take courses outside your major in areas such as English, foreign language and the fine arts, benefiting from our University-wide emphasis on the liberal arts to develop the interdisciplinary tools and perspective that historians need.

Learning from a Quality Faculty

Learning is enriched at Illinois Wesleyan by the close, personal instruction you’ll receive from our faculty. Our history professors were trained at the best institutions in the United States, and they are eager to share both their learning and their excitement for history with you.

• **Amanda Coles, Visiting Assistant Professor of History**  
  Ph.D. – University of Pennsylvania  
  Teaches a variety of subjects including Latin, Greek History, Roman History, Ancient Historiography, Roman Topography, and Roman Art and Architecture.
I am regularly asked about the value of studying history at Illinois Wesleyan. Although we have trained numerous high school teachers, lawyers, and judges, most Illinois Wesleyan history majors work for corporations and non-profit organizations. Students not only learn to appreciate the past, and thus be better informed about the present; but also, develop the writing and thinking skills necessary to be effective managers. An Illinois Wesleyan history major allows one to scale the heights of practically any endeavor.”

Dr. W. Michael Weis
Chair and Professor of History

Putting Learning into Practice

Graduates of our history program enjoy a number of exciting careers. Many continue specialized study in prestigious graduate programs. Our alumni include many successful lawyers from top Chicago firms, as well as several judges. Indeed, history is a perfect pre-law major. Additionally, several of IWU’s history graduates have become involved in political careers both in Springfield and Washington, D.C. Still others have enjoyed exciting careers in journalism, public relations and corporations, as well as in elementary, secondary and post-secondary education.