

History and Anthropology
Interdisciplinary Studies Proposal
Katie Scott (230683) | Class of 2013

From an early age, I have known that I want to teach. I spent countless hours of my childhood dreaming of my future classroom and planning what I was going to teach my students. My courses in Education at Hendrix have taught me skills that will be instrumental in making these dreams a reality, as the minor in Education (and teaching license) that I am working towards obtaining from Hendrix will enable me to have a career as a teacher. In addition to the courses I have taken and plan to take from the Education department, I also need to complete courses that will grant me the knowledge necessary to teach the subject that I would like to teach, secondary Social Studies.

The nature of Social Studies requires an interdisciplinary approach when teaching it, and therefore it also requires an interdisciplinary approach when studying it. I have taken courses from two areas of the Social Sciences area that I believe connect well together and would be extremely beneficial in teaching secondary Social Studies. These two disciplines are History and Anthropology and the reason they both go so well together is because they strive to tell the stories of people and events around the world. The historical approach is to look at the cause and effect of major happenings, and the ways these events affected (and continue to affect) the world. In Anthropology, the cultures and societies of people are studied through the viewpoints of their beliefs, customs, and traditions, all of which give explanation to how perceptions of global events affect not only the people, but also the traditions and cultures that are carried on.

Teaching Social Studies requires an understanding of not only the cause and effects of major historical events, but the ways people and cultures have been impacted, and continue to be, shaped by these events. Through combining History and Anthropology, I will gain critical knowledge in understanding how the beliefs, customs, and traditions of people are affected by major events in history, and how these changes affect the relations between cultures on a global scale.

Courses and Rationale

The History and Anthropology major I am proposing will go along with courses I am already working on in the Education department and will allow me to obtain an Arkansas teacher license and Education minor. The courses come from the History and Anthropology departments, and are detailed and divided as follows.

Major Requirements

HIST 170 Contemporary Europe (completed Spring 2010)
HIST 225 Medieval Europe (completed Fall 2010)

HIST 244 Modern China (planned for Spring 2012)
HIST 290 African American History to 1865 (planned for Fall 2011)
HIST 325 Africa and the Americas (currently enrolled)
HIST 360 Vietnam and the 60's (planned for Fall 2012)
ANTH 100 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (currently enrolled)
ANTH 200 Buried Cities and Lost Tribes (currently enrolled)
ANTH 310 Anthropology and Education (completed Fall 2010)
ANTH 312 Identity, Heritage, and Place (planned for Spring 2012)
ANTH 300 Ethnographic Methods (planned for Spring 2012)
*EDUC 4xx Curriculum Development (planned for Fall 2012)
*Senior Capstone

Rationale

HIST 170 Contemporary Europe and HIST 225 Medieval Europe: Europe has been a key player in a number of important events around the globe. In Medieval Europe, crises and reaction to events such as the Plague and famine were discussed which compliment the theme of the major to find out the effect of key events on people in history. Contemporary Europe, on the other hand, focused on modern events in which Europe played a key role. An emphasis of this course was the global relationship between many European countries and the world, focusing on the formation of coalitions and treaties that had significant impacts on the world.

HIST 244 Modern China: Similarly to Contemporary Europe, Modern China focuses on the recent global relations of China. Since China is such an important global influence, the knowledge presented in this class will help me in teaching.

HIST 290 African American History to 1865 and HIST 360 Vietnam and the 60's: These American history courses will give me a different perspective on key events in our nation's history. Both courses examine critical events in American History such as the Civil War and the Vietnam War while also looking at the effects and influences of these events on American people and culture.

HIST 325 Africa and the Americas: In this course the relationship between the Americas was examined through the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Several topics discussed in the course were the re-workings of African culture in the new world as well as the continued effect of the slave trade on Africa.

ANTH 100 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology: In this class, emphasis was placed on understanding why different cultures have arisen in history. Topics included were religion, family values, and subsistence techniques, with discussion focusing on how differing ideals are supported by diverse ways of life.

ANTH 200 Buried Cities and Lost Tribes: This course connected Anthropology to History through studying the material culture left in a variety of sites around the world. Through studying this material culture, the impact of historical events and conditions on societies of the past could easily be discussed.

ANTH 310 Anthropology and Education: This course connected current educational concerns with Anthropological theory and practices. One of the main objectives of this class was to identify ways to improve education and the school experience for students, something that will be greatly beneficial in my future teaching endeavors.

ANTH 312 Identity, Heritage, and Place: This archaeological Anthropology course will be very insightful into the meaning of place for people, and how this understanding affects the traditions and beliefs of those people.

ANTH 300 Ethnographic Methods: This methods course will allow me to further study Anthropology through research. By taking this course and studying Anthropology through research and the methods involved in the discipline, I will expand my knowledge of the discipline as a whole, something that will benefit me greatly as I incorporate Anthropological aspects into my teaching.

EDUC 4xx Curriculum Development: This course, which will serve as my Senior Capstone, will allow me to take the knowledge I have gained with each History and Anthropology course and actually present how knowledge of both disciplines will benefit my future teaching, through the re-development of curriculum.

The history courses that have been selected for this major will give me the knowledge necessary to successfully teach this subject. The Anthropology courses examine how and why cultures are formed and changed, which I believe is directly related to historical events. In the selected Anthropology courses, which are a combination of cultural Anthropology and Archaeology, I will gain the insight to determine the creation and transformation of important traditions and beliefs of societies around the world. Along with the selected classes, several projects will be of great benefit in my learning of just how important an interdisciplinary approach to teaching social studies will be. One of the most beneficial projects that I can look upon for guidance is the *Funds of Knowledge Project* by Norma González, Luis C. Moll, and Cathy Amanti, which shows the importance of taking students' cultural background into account when developing curriculum and teaching methods.

* In addition to the proposed major, I will also be obtaining my teaching license (and a subsequent minor) in Education from Hendrix. The courses I will be taking through the Education department include:

EDUC 110 History of Education and Effective Teaching Methods (completed Fall 2009)

EDUC 220 Educational Psychology (completed Fall 2009)

HIST 270 Arkansas History (planned for Fall 2011)

EDUC 360 Inclusive Adolescent Education, 7-12, with Lab (planned for Fall 2011)

EDUC 390 Cultural Geography (planned for Spring 2012)

EDUC 435 Methods in the Secondary School: Social Studies (planned for Fall 2012)

EDUC 460 Introduction to Student Teaching, Secondary, 7-12 (planned for Spring 2013)

EDUC 461 Student Teaching, Secondary, 7-12 (three credits) (planned for Spring 2013)

Signature Approval of the Major

Dr. James Jennings (Education and History)

(Committee Chair):  _____

Dr. Anne Goldberg (Anthropology)

(Committee Member):  _____

Dr. Allison Shutt (History)

(Committee Member):  _____