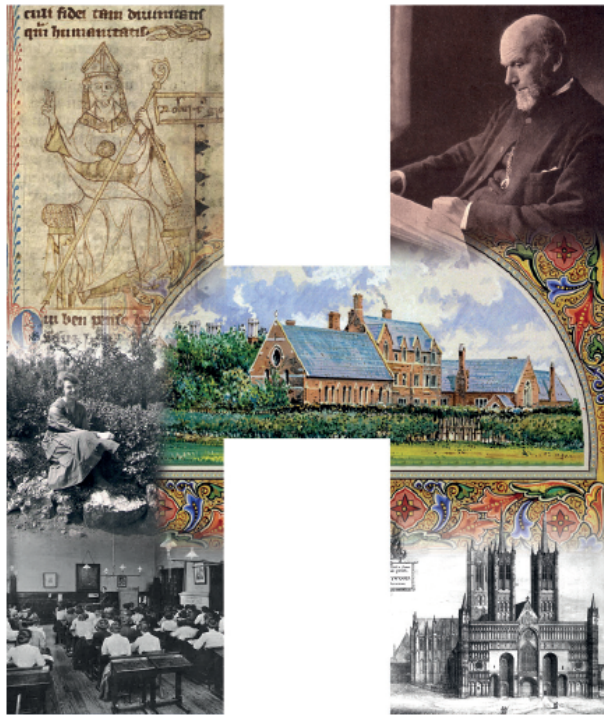


BA (Hons) History

Single and Joint Honours students



“History is neither watchmaking nor cabinet construction. It is an endeavour toward better understanding.”

– Marc Bloch



**BISHOP
GROSSETESTE
UNIVERSITY**

Hello and welcome. The History team here at BGU are eager to meet you and help you to begin your journey.

We are based in the Old School House building on campus (just next to the Library) but will also be available online by email and for online chats before you begin your degree.

History is a great subject because it engages you in a fascinating journey of discovery whilst building up your key analytical and critical thinking skills. As you learn about the past, you increase your understanding of the present and gain the confidence and ability to seize your future.

History is also a demanding subject as, done well, it requires close reading, clear thinking and careful, creative writing. We want you to succeed and we will therefore challenge your existing thoughts and ideas and look forward to helping you learn as well as seeking to learn from you.

Success at university is best achieved through partnership; your contribution to this process is just as important as ours. We will guide, inform and instruct you but it is in your hands to engage with and therefore benefit from this activity.

Students who achieve the highest grades and greatest satisfaction contribute to taught sessions regularly, read widely, question ideas and assumptions, and throw themselves into research and discussion. And we are here to facilitate that.

So, to get you started in advance of your arrival at BGU, below is a brief overview of the modules you will be undertaking in the first (autumn) semester and some key readings for summer attention.

Introducing the History team

Dr W. Jack Rhoden

Programme Leader in undergraduate History

Wilfred.rhoden@bishopg.ac.uk

Dr Claire Hubbard-Hall

Programme Leader in Military History and postgraduate study

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Dr Hazel Kent

Lecturer in History

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Dr Alan Malpass

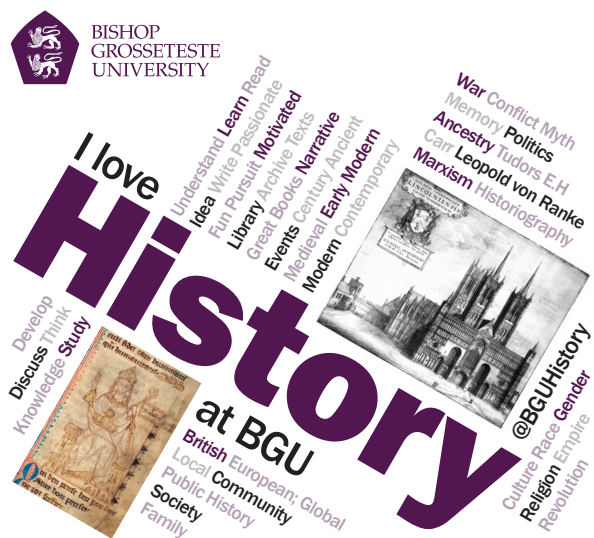
Lecturer in Military History

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Dr Robert von Friedeburg

Reader in History

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HIS401 – Introduction to History: Ideas, Issues and Approaches

Dr Hazel Kent (hazel.kent@bishopg.ac.uk)

(All students: joint and single honours)



Clio, the Muse of History

This module introduces students to the study of history at undergraduate level. Through a series of engaging case studies there will be a focus on some of the key critical and practical skills in history, these will also offer a snapshot of some of the themes covered in subsequent modules. Students will consider key areas of theory and practice covered in subsequent modules in history, such as: the significance of schools of historical thought, key source types and popular interpretative approaches. Such issues will be addressed through a variety of geographical and chronological framings.

The module will engage in consideration of some of the critical intellectual and methodological issues in the discipline of history in academic and applied contexts. Students will be encouraged to develop a range of study skills, including in historiography and research methods, and to express their ideas in written and spoken form through discussion, debate and argument. They will be introduced to the VLE and its use in supporting the study of history. This module is designed to support students' progression through subsequent modules in the subject.

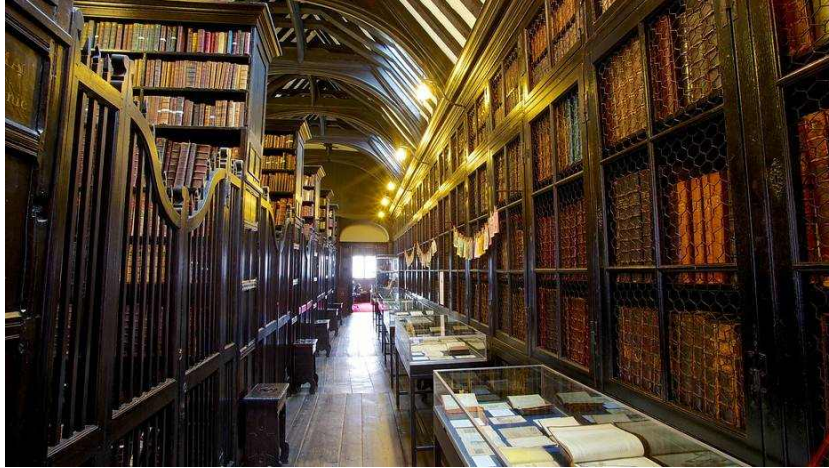
Key preparatory reading:

- ◆ **Arnold, J. (2000). *History: A very short introduction* (Very short introductions). Oxford: Oxford University Press**
- Abbott, M. (ed.) (2009). *History skills: A student's handbook*. Abingdon: Routledge.
- Bloch, M. (1964). *The Historian's Craft: Reflections on the Nature and Uses of History and the Techniques and Methods of Those Who Write It*. Mass Market Paperback.
- Carr, E. H., & Evans, R. J. (2001). *What is history?* (40th Anniversary). Palgrave.

HIS404 – British Libraries, Museums, and Archives: A History of Collection, 1600-2000

Dr W. Jack Rhoden (Wilfred.rhoden@bishopg.ac.uk)

(Single honours students only)



Chetham's Library in Manchester – the oldest public library in the UK

This module introduces the historical origins British libraries, museums and archives from the collections of wealthy individuals in the early modern period to more middle and working-class collections and the ultimate establishment of state-supported national and public institutions from the mid-18th century to the present day. The establishment of the British Museum (and Library) in 1753 will act as a chronological focal point of the module as students will consider its historical significance and legacy.

The module takes a broadly chronological approach to establish the importance of politics, economics and identity (social, cultural and national) as a rationale for the collection and preservation of books, objects and archival documents in Britain.

The module will enhance student knowledge of the general history of library, archive and museum collections, develop their ability to locate and engage with these collections and will help students understand the origin and significance of source materials they encounter across the remainder of their studies.

Key preparatory reading:

- ◆ **Campbell, J., & Pryce, W. (2013). *The Library: A world history*. London: Thames & Hudson**
- Bennett, T. (1995). *The Birth of the Museum: history, theory, politics*. London: Routledge
- Darnton, R. (2009). *The Case for Books: Past, present, and future*. New York, NY: Public Affairs.

HIS405 – The Long Weekend: Britain in the Interwar Years

Dr Hazel Kent (hazel.kent@bishopg.ac.uk)

(Single honours History and Military History students only)



Edward Burra, 'The Band' (1934)

Students taking this module engage in a survey approach to the history of interwar Britain. The module will consider various political, social, cultural and economic perspectives, as well as different interpretations in the historical literature. A particular focus will be the varied experiences of everyday life contrasting unemployment, poverty and depression with higher living standards and the growth of leisure activities.

The shadow of war will be another key theme, both in terms of the domestic legacy of 1914-1918 and the impact of increasing international tensions in the 1930s. Students will engage with a range of source material, including novels, autobiographies, contemporaneous journalism, oral histories, newsreels and film.

Key preparatory reading:

- ◆ Pugh, M. (2009). *We Danced All Night*. London: Vintage.
- Graves, R. & Hodge, A. (1994 reprint). *The long week-end: A social history of Great Britain 1918-1939*. New York: Norton.
- Overy, R. (2010). *The morbid age: Britain and the crisis of civilisation 1919-1939*. London: Penguin.