

HISTORY, CULTURE, AND LAW

Bachelor of Arts

Learn how history and cultural norms shape our legal system

The History, Culture, and Law (HCL) major at Northeastern University is an interdisciplinary program aimed at students who wish to explore the workings of major social issues through the interconnections of law, history, and culture. The objective of this major is to prepare the next generation of intellectuals and practitioners to analyze the diverse ways in which history, culture, and law intersect both domestically and globally.

Our Approach

In this major, students will be critically examining and researching legal processes, legal traditions and norms, human rights, social justice, and the evolution of law-related organizations through a humanistic lens. In doing this, students will be able to explain how historic and cultural developments create, influence, and establish a critical role in reforming legal processes, customs, and codes.

Concentrations

These concentrations allow students in this major to specialize and build their expertise in an area that interests them, and shape their academic experience accordingly. The concentration will consist of 4 courses.

A student in this major will choose one concentration from the six available options:

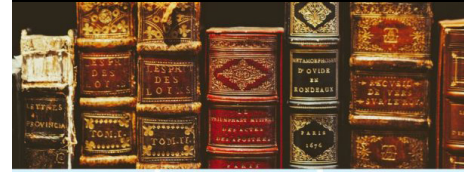
- Africana Studies
- Asian Studies
- Culture and Colonialism
- Digital Humanities
- Gender & Sexuality
- Latino/a, Latin American & Caribbean Studies

Co-op

Through co-op, you will explore different career paths, academic interests, and global challenges related to the History, Culture, and Law major by adapting to different settings, asking new questions, and applying your problem-solving skills in the workplace.

HCL students can engage in co-op placements with:

- Goodwin Procter LLP
- Library of Congress-Kluge Center
- National Alliance on Mental Health
- Massachusetts Attorney General's Office
- Cyber Civil Rights Initiative
- The New England Council
- Ashoka
- Commonwealth Museum and Archives



Featured Courses

- Introduction to Law, Policy, and Society
- Global Human Rights: A Social and Economic Perspective
- Understanding the Modern Supreme Court
- Philosophical Problems of Law and Justice
- Black Community and Social Change
- Gender, Crime, and Justice
- Origins of Today: Historical Roots of Contemporary Issues



HCL has been an amazing look into not only how those three subjects work independently, but also how they work together. Legal precedent is the entire foundation of our supreme court system, so failing to learn history as a student of law is problematic. If you don't understand the history of different cultures, or the cultural history of the subject, you are not getting the full story. None of these subjects can ever be fully understood without the other two."

Victoria Emerson, History, Culture, and Law BA and Politics, Philosophy, and Economics BS '22



Biana Yeager '22

History, Culture, and Law Major
Criminal Justice Minor



Biana landed at Northeastern University after originally beginning her undergraduate education in the U.K. Bianca was inspired to go to law school, but also had a passion for studying history. Then she found the History, Culture, and Law Major at Northeastern.



Biana's major concentration is culture and colonialism, which has allowed for her to revisit her initial studies in philosophy. Her positive experiences with the intensive pre-law courses required in the HCL major reinforced her interest in working in law.



Once she graduates with her HLC degree, Bianca plans to go to law school and focus on immigration policy.

cssh.northeastern.edu/student/biana-yeager

N Northeastern College of Social Sciences and Humanities

As a leader in the Experiential Liberal Arts, Northeastern's College of Social Sciences and Humanities combines experiential learning with the rigorous study of culture, society, policy, and ethics. To explore the past and shape policies for a better tomorrow, we practice humanics: the integration of traditional liberal arts capacities with quantitative tools and new digital proficiencies. In fields ranging from English and economics to philosophy, criminology and public policy, we focus on the key issues of today: how to shape public spheres, how to build resilient and sustainable communities, and how to engage with cultures past and present.

N Northeastern University

Founded in 1898, Northeastern is a global research university and the recognized leader in experience-powered lifelong learning. Our world-renowned experiential approach empowers our students, faculty, alumni, and partners to create impact far beyond the confines of discipline, degree, and campus.

Our locations—in Boston; the Massachusetts communities of Burlington and Nahant; Charlotte, North Carolina; the San Francisco Bay Area; Seattle; London; Toronto; and Vancouver—are nodes in our growing global university system. Through this network, we expand opportunities for flexible, student-centered learning and collaborative, solutions-focused research.

Northeastern's comprehensive array of undergraduate and graduate programs—in on-campus, online, and hybrid formats—lead to degrees through the doctorate in nine colleges and schools. Among these, we offer more than 140 multidisciplinary majors and degrees designed to prepare students for purposeful lives and careers.