Bachelor of Philosophy Sample Plan of Studies  
Major: History

My years here at the university have stimulated a great interest in Modern British history, and while I have undertaken a very serious study of this area in the past three years, I feel that I have allowed my courses in other departments to inform my view of the subject. What my classes have taught me is that history can be studied in any number of ways; I have learned so much more about history through literature, sociology, and even science classes that I could have ever imagined upon entering this university. In fact, the topic I would like to pursue in my thesis was actually sparked by an introductory film class I took last term. What has been most interesting to me has been finding ways to relate my passion for history to other subjects I study.

Of course I have striven to deepen my understanding of modern Western European history (specifically, the British role and experience in modern history) by taking courses on the subject specifically. However, because as a student of history I believe that a country’s history greatly affects its future, I have not limited myself to modern history classes but have taken efforts to study pre-industrial Europe as well in order to see how more recent history was affected by even earlier events. I have attempted to become a well-rounded student by not only studying everything from military history to familial relationships but also by always trying to understand how seemingly different subjects affect each other in a historical perspective.

I have also worked hard to complete a French minor. My study of the French language, literature, and culture, while an attempt to broaden my horizons and to gain knowledge of another language and culture has also served to make my view of British history more complete. Of course the British and French histories are inextricably intertwined, and my understanding of the French language had served to bridge some gaps in their overlapping histories, and by exploring the differences in French culture as compared to that of Britain, I have been encouraged to consider why these two nations, which share so many important events, have taken different paths. Further, by understanding the British-French relationship, I have been given insight into Britain’s relationship to continental Europe as a whole, something which has continually affected British policy and social consciousness.

I have also become extremely interested in religious studies during my academic career. Religion is such a huge part of the human experience that I feel its study is essential to an understanding of any history. It is the intricacies in religion which greatly affect the way nations develop over time, and I believe its significance is impossible to ignore. By attempting to better understand the foundations of western religions, I have in essence furthered my understanding of how religion has functioned as a catalyst throughout British history.

By setting specific goals for myself, I have personally made my studies here at the university challenging. Although I have only undertaken a single major, I have worked very hard to make sure that my foundation of knowledge on that particular subject is as strong as possible. I have taken to reading beyond my classroom assignments and spent this past summer researching and reading history. But it is important to me that I also learn from my courses outside my major as well. I take each and every course seriously and work hard to present my best insight and work in every single meeting. I work very hard to ensure that I take as much as I can from every course and every instructor. I take great pride in my academic achievements, and I believe that my grades are an indication of my work. But my grades are not merely a reflection of assignments completed; they are a manifestation of my passion for learning. I see each class, whether elected or required, as an opportunity to walk away with new knowledge, and my effort to
achieve that goal has made my education thus far demanding, interesting, and rigorous.