

## History Paper Examples

### Topic Examples

The way in which the Cartesian context sets up a problem for both phenomenology and pragmatism, and how that problem is addressed in each tradition.

The concept of space in Aristotle, Kant, and Deleuze, as a basis for understanding issues of corporeality.

Jane Addams notion of “social amelioration” as prefiguring contemporary developments in feminist care ethics.

Sartre's ideas of imagination in light of the contemporary debate about his historical antecedents.

The similarities between Hume's constant conjunction theory of causation and Malbranche's occasionalism.

The concept of recognition in Rousseau, Hegel, and Honneth.

The presence of or lack of an implicit sex/gender distinction in Beauvoir, Wollstonecraft, and Olympe de Gouges.

The status of the self in the ethical work of William James and Michel Foucault.

The influence of David Hume on the character-centered moral theory of William James.

The ethical projects of Levinas and Kierkegaard as understood through their different takes on the story of Abraham.

The differing accounts of dialectic in Schelling and Hegel and ways in which this opens up the subsequent critique of dialectical reason.

### Topic examples showing a relationship between the history paper and the dissertation.

A student intending to do dissertation work in social and political philosophy on globalization and contemporary models of democracy or citizenship, might do a history paper focused on major figures in social and political philosophy such as Hobbes, Locke, or Rousseau.

A student intending to do a dissertation project in ethics with a topic in feminist and continental ethics, for example comparing Beauvoir and Levinas, might do a history paper on Kantian or Aristotelian ethics.

A student who anticipates writing a dissertation in contemporary Latin American philosophies of liberation might do a history paper on Hegel and/or Marx.