

History Course Descriptions: Fall 2025

Course Title: Premodern World History

Course Number: HIST 1010.01 & HIST 1010.02

Section Days/Times: MW 1:45-3:25pm & MW 3:40-5:20pm

Instructor: Professor Mark Anderson

Course Description:

This course will trace the development of human civilizations from the origins of urban societies in the 5th millennium BCE through the eve of globalization and the beginning of the modern period in the 15th century CE. In it, we will focus on the increasing complexity of social interaction and regional interconnections, paying particular attention to developments in communication technology and comparative patterns of social formation.

COURSE TITLE: America and the Atlantic World, 1450-1850

COURSE NUMBER: 1301-01 and 1301-02

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: MW -01: 11:50am-1:30pm; MW -02: 1:45-3:25

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Kevin McDonald

CORE AREA: EHAP

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The events and processes initiated by the voyage of Columbus in 1492 transformed his contemporary world and fundamentally shaped the world we live in today. This course explores the development of the American colonies from an Atlantic world perspective, examining the circulation of people, goods, ideas, and even plants and germs, between the Old World of Europe and Africa, and the New World of the Americas, created as a consequence of the Columbian encounter. It focuses on America and the Atlantic World through the experiences of the men and women who inhabited it from the mid-fifteenth through mid-nineteenth centuries. The Atlantic Ocean itself functions as frontier, a zone of interaction, and as a powerful connector between profoundly differing cultures. The consequences of this process of cultural conflict and exchange will be the main focus of this course, and the results for Europeans, Africans, and Native Americans were uneven and often tragic. Students will explore varying methods and motivations of colonization, including the search for commodities, and comparative successes and failures. Major themes of the course will include the development of new societies and cultures; the development of various imperial systems and revolutions; the transatlantic slave trade and abolition movements; and especially, native encounters, resistance, struggle, and survival in an increasingly hostile imperial world.

Course Title: Science, Nature & Society

Course No. & Section: HIST 1900 (01)

Section Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:45-3:25pm

Instructor: Professor Carla Bittel

Core Area: History Analysis and Perspectives (EHAP)

Course Description:

This lower-division core course examines the history of European and North American societies and cultures through the lens of science and nature from the sixteenth century to the present. It traces the history of ideas about science and nature in relation to broader social, cultural, economic and political changes, demonstrating the inseparability of science and social context. It also follows the cross-

cultural and trans-oceanic proliferation and exchange of ideas, natural objects, and disease via exploration, colonialism, and imperialism. In the process, it examines nature as a historical locus of knowledge, power, and politics. Ultimately, students will understand the history of nature to become active and critical consumers of science, medicine, and technology today.

COURSE TITLE: Seminar in American History

COURSE NUMBER: HIST 2450.01

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: Tuesday & Thursday 1:45 p.m.-3:25 p.m.

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Constance Chen

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This seminar will introduce students to the study and writing of history, including historical methodologies and analysis, by examining the Gilded Age and Progressive Era within a global context. The 1870s to the 1920s marked a watershed moment in U.S. history with rapid industrialization and mechanization, urbanization, rise in consumerism, changing demographics, and Americans' evolving ideas concerning their place in the international community. This course will situate the development of U.S. culture and society within global networks, highlighting the migration of ideas, peoples, and goods to address the manifold impacts of transnational exchanges. Throughout the semester, we will work together to unpack scholarly writings in addition to critically analyzing primary sources such as political cartoons, government documents, magazine advertisements, newspaper accounts, recipes, personal letters, and oral histories to engage with topics regarding U.S. imperialist projects, immigrant food culture, international labor movements, construction of racial and gender ideologies, exclusionism and nationalism, hybrid art productions, political realignments, and decolonization campaigns, among others.

COURSE TITLE:

Other Europes

COURSE NUMBER:

HIST 3210-01 (CRN 40453) / JWST 3998-04 (CRN 42545)

WHEN & WHERE:

Mondays & Wednesdays 11:50am – 1:30pm, UHall 3324

INSTRUCTOR:

Elizabeth A. Drummond

CORE:

Interdisciplinary Connections (IINC)

HISTORY CONCENTRATIONS:

Public & Applied History (HPAH); Race, Gender, and Culture (HRGC)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The discipline of history has long been intertwined with European nation- and empire-building projects, resting on an assumption that Europe is a white and Christian space and often emphasizing so-called “great men” as actors in history. How does our understanding of European history change if we center the experiences of people often relegated to the margins? What “other Europes” are out there that need examining (e.g., a Black Europe, a Jewish Europe, a queer Europe, a disabled Europe, a Muslim Europe)? Other Europes will center the experiences of often marginalized groups in European history, marginalized both in history itself and in many history courses. Employing an interdisciplinary, transnational, and intersectional analytical framework to “flip the script” on European history, we will look at race to examine the experiences of people of African, Asian, and Middle Eastern descent in Europe, both migrants and their European-born descendants; at religion to examine the experiences of Jews, Muslims, and other non-Christians; at gender and sexuality to examine the experiences of queer and trans

Europeans, as well as of women and men who did not conform to gender ideals; at disability to examine the experiences of the disabled and those deemed medically “abnormal”; and at frontiers to look at European history from its geographical frontiers, both from the colonies and from the borderlands and peripheries of Europe. We will examine historical dynamics such as Blackness, migration, queer experiences, and disability throughout Europe, including both comparative analyses and discussions of how some of these dynamics transcend the borders of the nation-state (e.g., experiences of anti-Black racism and antisemitism). The chronological focus will be on the modern period, from the mid-nineteenth century to the present, including contemporary debates about Black Lives Matter, antisemitism, Islamophobia, homosexuality, ableism, and more.

COURSE TITLE: Latin American Revolutions & Film

COURSE NUMBER: 3704

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: Wednesdays 6:10pm-9:30pm

INSTRUCTORS: Margarita Ochoa (History) and Glenn Gebhard (SFTV)

CORE AREA: IINC

HISTORY CONCENTRATIONS: Race, Gender, and Culture; Law, Politics, and Society

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Moving pictures have long marveled Latin Americans. In what was most certainly the first demonstration of “moving pictures” south of the Rio Bravo, the Lumiere brothers showed then Mexican President Porfirio Díaz films in Chapultepec Castle in 1896. As moving picture technology spread throughout the world, including Latin America, it radically altered how individuals and groups in the region perceived of themselves and were represented by others. Film (and later television) has been a source of enjoyment, a powerful propaganda tool, a medium of artistic expression, and driving force of national identity. Through film, this course analyzes point of view as well as thematic and stylistic issues in propaganda related to two of modern Latin America’s most significant social movements: The Mexican Revolution of 1910 and the Cuban Revolution of 1959. While films will be a central component to our understanding of the representation of the region’s history, historical scholarship and archival sources will serve as the basis for reconstructing and discussing the historical context of the people, land, upheaval, and ideals depicted in film. By the end of the course, students should have a firm grasp of the methodological tools of film and history to critically approach written and pictorial depictions of nineteenth through present-day Latin America and its people.

COURSE TITLE: Global History of Food

COURSE NUMBER: HIST 4050.01

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: Tuesday & Thursday 3:40 p.m.-5:20 p.m.

INSTRUCTOR:

Professor Constance Chen

HISTORY CONCENTRATIONS: Global Economies, Encounters, and Exchange & Race, Gender, and Culture

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Using interdisciplinary methodologies, this upper division will explore the ways in which food has the power to both shape and reflect cultural, socioeconomic, religious, and political realities within a transnational context. During the course of the semester, we will critically analyze topics such as food rituals and notions of civility, colonialism and the globalization of trade, immigrant communities and the

development of food culture, gender and the political economy of food, industrial farming and the ethics of agribusiness, fair trade and labor issues, and the construction of national identities through culinary traditions, among others.

Course Title: Ancient Rome

Course Number: HIST 4105.01

Section Days/Times: M 6-9:20pm

Instructor: Professor Mark Anderson

Course Description:

This course will trace the development of the city of Rome from its origins in the eighth century BCE through the end of the Roman Republic in 31 BCE. In it, we will focus on the evolution of Roman social values and legal practices as well as the military expansion of the Romans throughout Italy and across the Mediterranean.

Course Title: History of California

Course No. & Section: Hist 4412 01

Section Times: MW 1:45-3:25 PM

Instructor: Dr. Nicolas G. Rosenthal

History Concentration: Race, Gender, & Culture

Course Description:

Why is it important to study California history? We use this question to guide us as we move from the sixteenth century to the twenty-first century, examining topics such as Native American experiences, Spanish Missions, the Gold Rush, the growth of Los Angeles, Asian and Latin American immigration, African American migration, and civil rights activism. With the study of each topic, we confront the image of California in the popular imagination, how it exists in tension with the realities of lived experiences, and the ways that individuals and communities have sought to shape and harness what they have thought of as the “California Dream,” often under difficult conditions. By the end of the class, students will understand the California they live in as the product of these long historical processes.