

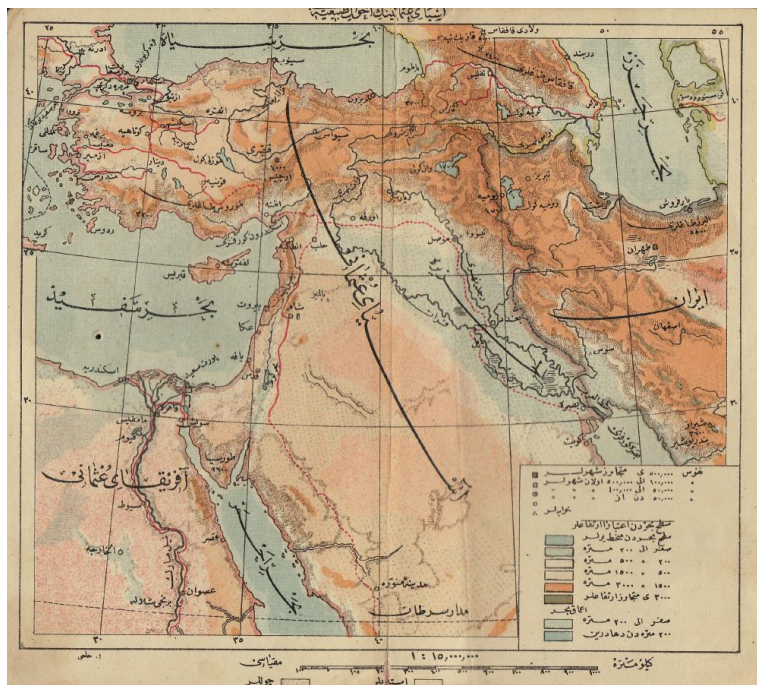
**History Department
Spring 2025 Course Offerings**



HI 144P 001 East Asian Civilization: Traditions and Transformations
Jenny Day TR 12:40-2:00 credits: 4

An introductory survey of East Asia (China, Japan, Korea) from its earliest history to the end of the Mongol empire in the 1300s. Students will explore the formation of Confucianism as an ideology, the changes in social and political institutions across East Asia, ideas and practices concerning gender and the family, religion and beliefs of elites and ordinary people, and intercultural exchanges and conflicts within East Asia.

Note(s): (Designated a non-Western culture course; fulfills social sciences requirement; fulfills humanistic inquiry and global cultural perspective.)global cultural perspective.)



HI 145 001 Making of the Modern Middle East Murat Yildiz TR 3:40- 5:00 PM credits: 3

An exploration of the political, economic, social, and cultural history of the modern Middle East in a global and comparative historical context. Students will examine the reorganization of state-society relations, the creation of modern government institutions, the construction of new social and political conceptualizations, and the state's growing involvement in the politics of population management in the Ottoman Empire and Qajar Iran. Students will also explore the processes and practices that were central to the production of the Middle East as both a physical place as well as a discursive concept.

Note(s): Fulfills non-western culture and social sciences requirements; fulfills humanistic inquiry and global cultural perspective.

HI 151 001 Cold War Matthew Hockenos TR 2:10-3:30 Credits: 3



This course examines the U.S.-Soviet rivalry after 1945—known as the Cold War—from a European and global perspective. In addition to addressing the nuclear arms race and the ideological struggle between the Soviet Union and the United States, attention will be given to how the Cold War ignited deadly conflicts in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America. Our starting point will be the division of Europe at the end of the Second World War and the formation of Eastern and Western Blocs under Soviet and American hegemony. In the European context we exam the occupation and division of Germany; the Marshall Plan; everyday life behind the Iron Curtain; the Prague Spring; and the revolutions across Eastern Europe that brought down the communist regimes. In the global context we exam the Korean War; the Cuban Missile crisis; the Vietnam War, and the emergence of China as a superpower. We end the course by examining the explosion of nationalism in the Yugoslav states after the fall of communism and the ethnic cleansing and genocide that takes place there.



HI 204 - Athens, Alexander the Great, and Cleopatra
Benjamin Abbott T/R 2:10-3:30 Credits: 3

A study of Greece from the Peloponnesian War to the end of Greek independence. Students examine the war between Athens and Sparta and its aftermath, the struggle for preeminence among Greek city-states, the rise of Macedonia, the monarchies of Philip and his son Alexander the Great, the Hellenistic kingdoms, the development of scientific thought, and the last “Greek” monarch, Cleopatra of Egypt. Special emphasis is given to the study of the ancient sources: literary, historiographic, archaeological, and numismatic.



HI 212P - The British Empire and the Making of the Modern World
Tillman Nechtman MWF 9:05-10:00 Credits: 4

A survey of the history of the British Empire over the course of its five-century history as a means of bridging the past to the present. Students will understand just how the empire helped to shape the map of our modern world. This course will focus on the political, economic, cultural, and ecological causes and consequences of Britain's overseas expansion. Topics include the ecological and biological impact of British imperialism; Elizabethan commercial expansion; the plantings of Ireland; early settlements in the New World and the impact on indigenous peoples; the trans-Atlantic slave trade and the plantation system in the Caribbean; the American Revolution and the end of the first British Empire; the ideologies of the British Raj in India; the “New Imperialism” of the late nineteenth century and the “scramble for Africa”; the transfer of technology and culture; decolonization; and the contemporary legacy of empire.

Prerequisites: [SSP 100](#)

Note(s): Fulfills cultural diversity and social sciences requirements; fulfills bridge experience.



HI 235 --Perceptions of Medieval and Early Modern Women

Erica Bastress-Dukehart, WF 2:30 – 3:50 Credits: 3

Throughout the Middle Ages and the early modern period the absence of solid, detailed information by women stands in sharp contrast to the abundance of discourse and imagery about them. As Georges Duby and Michelle Perrot have written, “women were more likely to be “represented” than to be described or to have their stories told—much less be allowed to tell their own stories.”¹ What this means is that the imagined woman was far more likely to appear in literature, art, and history, than the real.

How do we interpret the variety of ways in which philosophers, social theorists, historians, artists, and scientists have discussed and portrayed women? More importantly, how do we determine the real from the imaginary woman? Historians and philosophers have traditionally wavered between two extremes: classical thought, upon which Renaissance thinkers based their assumptions, emphasized the differences between men and women. Baroque thinkers suggested a more androgynous solution: the possibility that male and female elements existed within every person.² The purpose of this course is to explore the richly varied perceptions of Medieval and early modern European women in order to determine from the literature how the images of and discourse about women reflected (or contrasted) their reality.

¹ Georges Duby and Michelle Perrot, “Writing the History of Women,” in *A History of Women in the West: From Ancient Goddesses to Christian Saints*, ed., Pauline Schmitt, (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1992), IX.

ⁱⁱ Ibid.



HI-243P Leisure, Pleasure, and Serious Fun in the Middle East Murat C. Yildiz TR 12:40-2:00 Credits: 4

The nineteenth and twentieth centuries were periods in which men and women of the Middle East developed new notions of time, carved out larger spaces for themselves in the expanding public sphere, created novel activities, and experimented with different mood- and mind-molding substances. Through close readings of secondary and primary sources (including photographs, films, novels, and memoirs), we will examine a number of urban transformations related to leisure and pleasure, including: drugs, tobacco, coffee houses, reading rooms, alcohol, prostitution, public transportation, vernacular photographs, and sports. By creating new narratives around leisure activities, pleasure, and fun, students are able to cultivate a more textured and multidimensional understanding of the making of modernity in the Middle East.



HI 247P - History of Modern Japan
Jenny Day T/R 8:40 – 10:00 Credits: 4

An examination of the historical transformation of the Japanese archipelago from a feudal society to a modern state and imperial power, and to a postwar economic giant and a “bubble economy” in the 1990s. Students will explore how Japanese women and men have transformed elements of other cultures to create forms of government, society, and the arts that are uniquely Japanese. Sources include a diary, short stories, legal documents, and films.

Note(s): (Designated a non-Western culture course; fulfills social sciences requirement.)



HI 249P The Vietnam War
Jennifer Delton MW 2:30-3:50 Credits: 4

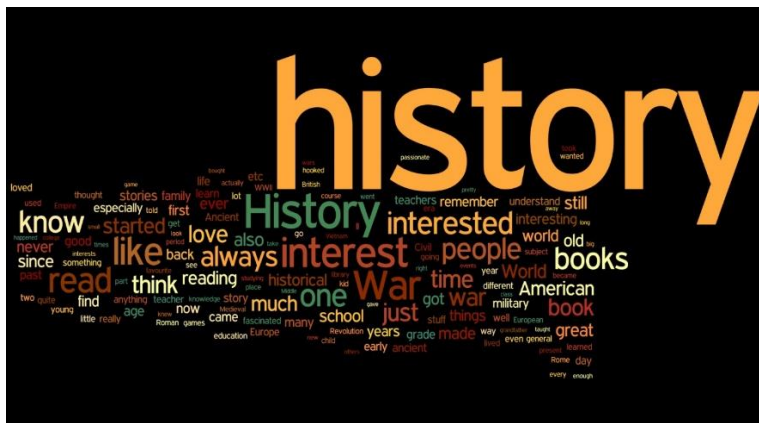
The Vietnam War (1945-75) was one of the most divisive episodes in American history. It did not begin that way, however. Unlike previous U.S. wars, the Vietnam War initially had the full support of the American people and Congress. What went wrong? Had the public been misled? Had American leaders overreached? Had cultural unrest transformed American purpose? And what were the lasting effects? How did the war change America’s role in the world? How did it change Americans’ views of their nation? How do we currently explain what happened? How did the war look from the perspective of the Vietnamese? This course will examine the political, military, and cultural aspects of the U.S. involvement in Vietnam from 1945 to 1975, as well as the war’s legacy since. The fourth credit hour will consist of an oral history project.



HI 266P American Environmental History
Eric Morser MWF 10:10-11:05 am credits: 4

An exploration of American environmental history from pre-colonial times through the modern era. Students will investigate how the different landscapes and ecologies of North America shaped the continent's history, the links between industrialization and the environment, economic and political struggles for control of natural resources, the rise of modern consumer culture, and changing American perceptions of nature.

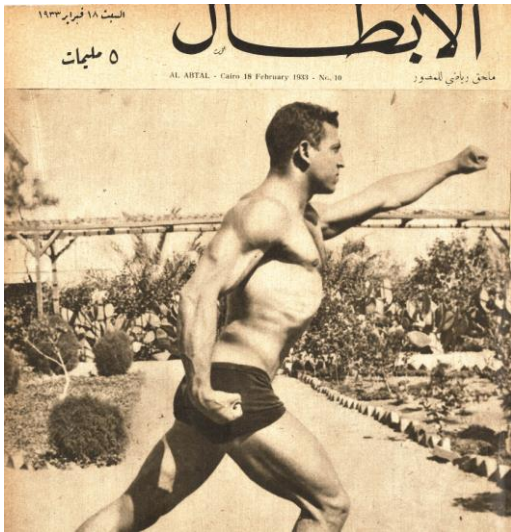
Note(s): (Fulfills social sciences requirement.)



HI 275 Introduction to the History Major
Jennifer Delton MWF 12:20-1:15 credits: 1 (six week course)

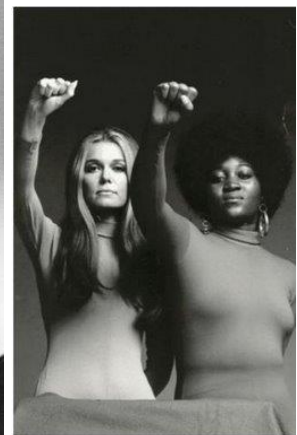
An introduction to the aims of the history major.

Note(s): A prerequisite for the Colloquium. Required of all majors and interdepartmental majors, to be taken in the sophomore or junior years. Open to non-majors with permission of instructor.



HI-345P: The Body in Middle East History
Murat Yildiz TR 2:10-3:30 Credits: 4

The course will focus on the ways in which the Middle East's experience during the modern period featured important shifts in understandings and practices of the body. Students will consider how modern institutions, like schools, the army, the hospital, civic associations, and the press, played a transformative role in creating, inculcating, and spreading radically reconfigured understandings of the body throughout the modern Middle East.



Vivien Leigh, Hattie McDaniel 1970

HI 322 R. 001 American Radicalism
Professor Morser 4 Credits MWF 11:15-12:10

An investigation of how radicals have shaped the course of American history from the colonial period through the modern era. Students read and discuss scholarly works, craft a project proposal, conduct research, and write an original essay that contributes new insights to the field of History.



HI 351P 001 “Cold War Berlin”

Matthew Hockenos TR 2:10-3:30 Credits: 4

This course examines the history of divided Berlin during the Cold War. Topics include: the brutal Soviet invasion of Berlin; the emergence of the Cold War and the division of the city; the 1948 Soviet blockade of West Berlin and the American and British airlift of food and fuel to West Berliners; the quashing of the 1953 workers’ uprising in East Berlin by Soviet tanks; the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961; attempts (often fatal) to subvert the wall; the women’s movement on both sides of the wall; dissent and resistance in East and West Berlin; sex and sexuality in the socialist state; Stasi surveillance of East Berliners; and finally, the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the reunification of Berlin and the rest of Germany in 1990. Special attention will be given to the emergence of two distinct cultures in East and West Berlin, including eating habits; sex life; gender relations; youth movements; religious life; film, music, theatre, and literature; and attitudes toward the Nazi past and the Holocaust.

HI 351P 002 - THE QUEST

ERICA BASTRESS-DUKEHART/TILLMAN NECHTMAN

W/F 12:20-1:40 CREDITS: 4

Honor, Courage, Humility, Community



Your first Step: Quo Vadis?

SO VIOLENT AND MOTLEY WAS LIFE, THAT IT BORE THE MIXED SMELL OF BLOOD AND ROSES

~JOHAN HUIZINGA, *THE WANING OF THE MIDDLE AGES*

MYSTERIES, INTRIGUES, HONOR, ALLIANCES, CHIVALRY, CODED MESSAGES, MIRACLES, DRAGONS, AND, OF COURSE, THE QUEST FOR THE HOLY GRAIL.



HI 351 003: Barbarians and Nomads in the Greek and Roman World
Benjamin Abbott M/W 4:00-5:20

What is a “barbarian”? To the ancient Greeks and Romans, the label was a way to describe another culture as non-Greek or non-Roman, often in derogatory terms. One “barbarian” group most discussed by Greek and Roman writers were nomadic peoples, whose itinerant lifestyles did not adhere to the form of sedentary, urbanized “civilization” which the Greeks and Romans considered superior to other ways of life. While in many ways the “barbarian” never actually existed outside of the imagination, this course will examine how the concept of “barbarian” was applied to these nomadic groups and used by Greeks and Romans to define their own identities. In addition, students will examine these nomadic cultures beyond this Greco-Roman lens, providing an exploration into some of the ancient world’s most impactful and understudied cultures from their own perspectives. The end result will be an expansive view of the ancient world beyond Greece and Rome, examining ancient peoples who inhabited regions ranging from South Asia, Central Asia, the Eurasian steppe, the Iranian plateau, and North Africa.



HI 351R Communal Boundaries **Murat Yildiz TR 11:10-12:30 pm Credits: 4**

What are the defining characteristics of a community? What are the boundaries that delineate, separate, and establish difference? How have these boundaries changed over time and place? This seminar will investigate the construction of communal boundaries in the Ottoman and post Ottoman world. Drawing from a diverse array of secondary sources and translated primary sources, this course will expose students to the ways in which ethno-religious identities, physical boundaries, and socio-political hierarchies between Muslims, Christians, and Jews were produced, transformed, and navigated. Topics will include shared practices and activities, the cross pollination of ideas, the *millet* system, sectarianism, war, linguistic inbetweenness, colonialism, memory, and cosmopolitanism. Students will not only study these developments;

they will narrate them in the form of an original research paper that is due at the end of the semester.



HI 376 How Do You Know That?

Tillman Nechtman T/R 11:10-12:20 pm Credits 1 (six week course)

A library can be filled with shelf after shelf of books all themselves filled with history and with knowledge.

But, have you ever asked yourself: does the library itself have a history? Do the shelves have a history? Does the book have a history?

How is it that we have come to organize and store knowledge as we do? What is the history of western ways of knowing?

This course will explore the history of knowledge. From organizational structures like the dictionary to the encyclopedia, from the library to the periodic table of the elements. We will study the history of these structures and explore the implications they have had on our ways of both understanding and knowing the world.

Students in this class will ask the profound question: how do I really know the things I know?