

History Department Fall 2024 Course Offerings

HI 103 – Medieval Europe

Erica Bastress-Dukehart WF 12:20 – 1:40 Credits: 3



This course is an introduction to the history of Europe between roughly the 5th and the 15th centuries. This semester we will—chronologically and thematically—explore how philosophy, technology, warfare, religious belief systems, and political alliances transformed a cultural backwater into what we now think of as medieval Europe.



HI 116H Sea Changes A History of the World's Oceans

Tillman Nechtman WF 12:20-1:40 Credits: 4

A survey course in global history that takes the world's oceans as its subject. Students will explore themes ranging from naval history to legal history, from environmental history to zoological history, and from the history of exploration and adventure to the history of imperialism and conquest. Students will work with primary and secondary sources and develop their analytical and writing skills as they ask questions about the field of history itself. What assumptions have historians made when they focus on nations and continents? What institutions and categories have they privileged with their focus? What have we missed because we look only at the history of land? How and why does history's narrative shift when we undertake a "sea change" in our perspectives? **Note(s):** (Fulfills humanities requirement.)



HI 126 - Revolution to Civil War

Eric Morser M/W/F 10:10-11:05 Credits: 3

A grand tour of United States history from the American Revolution to the Civil War. Students investigate the challenge of nation building, the contested rise of American democracy, the economic transformation of the United States, battles to control the western frontier, and the growing conflict over slavery that eventually tore the national apart.

Note(s): (Fulfills humanities requirement.)



HI-146P Survey of the Middle East, c. 600-1500
Murat C. Yıldız TR 9:40 – 11:00 Credits 4

This course is a survey of the history of the Middle East, from late antiquity to the early modern period. It combines a chronological and thematic examination of social, political, and legal institutions; scientific, philosophical, and scholarly ventures; the impact of invaders; conversion; and, religious, political, and economic interactions. By examining cities, such as Aleppo, Baghdad, Cairo, Constantinople, Cordoba, Esfahan, and Shiraz, as well as areas, such as the Mediterranean basin, over the course of a thousand years, the course challenges the notion that there was one physical center to the Middle East. Through a close reading of historiographical debates and primary sources, students will examine the circulation of people, ideas, goods, and practices across space and time. The course fulfills Humanities and Non-Western culture requirements.



HI 151P Two World Wars, A Global Perspective of the Years 1900-1945

Professor Matthew Hockenos 4 credits T/R 2:10-3:30

Examines the two world wars from a global perspective. Rather than study the two wars as merely a series of military battles in Europe and the Pacific, this course will give special attention to the global nature of the two wars: the clash between imperial powers over colonial possessions; the use of colonial subjects as soldiers; the collapse of great empires after the wars; the emergence of the United States and the Soviet Union as world powers; the impact of war on Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East; the growth of colonial independence movements after the wars; and the origins of the global Cold War in the second half of the twentieth century. The course gives equal weight to how the wars broke out, how they were waged, and how their outcomes fundamentally rearranged the world. Students will be introduced to various lenses through which the war can be examined, including perspectives that emphasize, culture, the economy, the home-front, gender, and society.



HI 203 - Rise of Athens

TBD TR 9:40 – 11:00 Credits: 3

A study of Greece with a focus on Athens from the Mycenaean age to the outbreak of the Peloponnesian War. Students examine the heroic age, the development of the city-state, the origins of democracy, the nature of imperialism, intellectual and cultural achievements, economic conditions, and family life. Special emphasis is given to the study of the ancient sources: literary, historiographic, archaeological, and numismatic.

Note(s): (Fulfills Humanities requirement.)



HI 242P - China in War and Revolution

Jenny Day W/F 10:10-11:30 Credits: 4

The emergence of modern China-its turbulent and violent transition from an imperial dynasty to a Communist nation-state. Students will study how internal and external crises precipitated reforms and revolutions, how people shed their old identities and took on new ones, how political leaders engineered campaigns and movements-often with disastrous effects-and how this history has been remembered, reflected upon, and remolded by the Chinese themselves.

Note(s): (Fulfills Non-Western Culture requirement, fulfills humanities requirement.)



HI 264P American West

Eric Morser M/W/F 12:20-1:15 Credits: 4

An exploration of the complex and contested history of the American West. Key themes include contact and conflict among different people on the western borderlands, western migration and settlement, the role of government in the West, ongoing frontier conflicts over control of natural resources, and links between the West and American identity.

Note(s): (Fulfills Humanities requirement.)



HI 265P - Class in the United States, 1776 to present

Prof. Delton T/Th 12:40-2:00 Credits: 4

How have Americans thought about social/economic class from 1776 to the present? Topics include the United States as a new kind of classless society, the influence of Marx, the rich, the poor, and the middle-classes, the politics of class-consciousness, and the dynamics of race and class in the twentieth century.

Note(s): Fulfills Humanities requirement and Bridge Experience

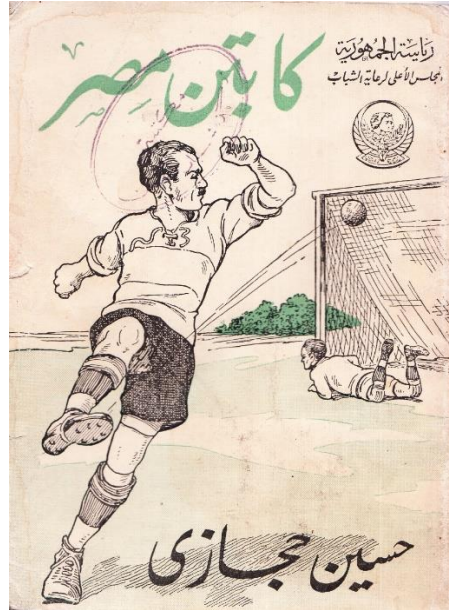
A study of the culture of Renaissance ideas as they pertained to the natural world. Building on historian Brian Ogilvie's argument that natural history was invented in the Renaissance, this course looks at the Renaissance perceptions of the natural world from three perspectives: (1) how scientists and philosophers thought about astronomy, astrology, and humans' relationships with the universe; (2) how explorers, natural philosophers, and theorists cataloged and categorized their wondrous discoveries; (3) how Renaissance notions of the cosmos transformed perceptions scientists, artists and doctors had about the human body. **Note(s):** (Fulfills humanities requirement.)



HI 351P 001 AMERICAN LANDSCAPE HISTORY
MWF 9:05-10 and W 2:30-5:30 Field trip credits: 4
Instructor: Field Horne

Humans create patterns on the land that endure over time and influence everything we do. In this course, students will learn to “read” the landscape, developing both intuitive observation skills and documentary research techniques.

Each class session will discuss one aspect of the landscape (e.g., farmland, monuments, fences, parks, bicycle paths....) based on images and the readings for that day and led by one class member. On Wednesday afternoons the class will explore (2:30–5:30 pm) landscape features within 45 minutes of the college; on Saturday, September 28, we’ll venture further afield to explore Amish landscapes (Stone Arabia, N.Y.), First Nations landscapes (Kanatsiohareke, Yosts, N.Y.), and a nineteenth-century industrial complex (Hanford Mills, East Meredith, N.Y.) Students will take journal notes on these excursions.



HI 351P 002 Sports in the Middle East
Murat Yildiz TR 11:10-12:30 (Credits 4)

What insights can sports offer into the Middle East? This course is structured around investigating this central question. In the past decade and a half, scholars from an eclectic array of disciplinary backgrounds have explored the emergence, spread, and growing popularity of different sports across the Middle East. Scholars have produced a rich body of literature that enables us to explore the thought-provoking question that sociologist Tamir Sorek asked in 2019: “Is there such a thing as a Middle Eastern sport?” Rather than searching for an ‘authentic’ regional sport, the course examines the discursive and institutional dynamics of sports across urban centers of the Middle East. We will examine how educators, government administrators, commentators, athletes, and regular people viewed sports as joyous activities that also promised to create healthy and strong citizens over the past hundred years.



Memorial to the murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin

HI 351R 001 Confronting Nazi Past
Matthew Hockenos TR 9:40-11:00 Credits 4

Since 1945 the world has struggled to understand, explain, and confront the horrors of the Third Reich and the Holocaust. This research seminar will explore the various ways that three countries—Germany, Israel, and the United States—have sought to remember, memorialize, and learn from the Nazi past. Each with their own unique ties to the Nazi past, all three countries have wrestled with how to productively address Nazism and the Holocaust. The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin, Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC are just three examples of how they have sought to confront, engage, and remember the Holocaust. Students will conduct research on and analyze these three sites of memory, as well as others ways Germans, Israelis, and Americans have confronted the Nazi past and the Holocaust.



HI 315R 002 The United States and China: A Shared History
Jenny Day TR 2:10-3:30 Credits 4

The United States and China, as global economic and military powers, share a history of commerce, friendship, alliance, and antagonism, shaping and reshaping each other's trajectories. The current crisis in this relationship prompts us to rethink the present and future of US-China relations in the light of their past. What were some of the long-term patterns in this relationship? How have people from these two countries perceived each other over time? How has war shaped this relationship? What roles have trade and diplomacy played? This seminar delves into the intertwined history between the United States and China from the mid-19th century to the present days. Through seminar discussions, workshops, and primary source research, students will engage as active participants in making this history.



HI 376 How Do You Know That?

Tillman Nechtman W/F 10:10-11:30 pm Credits 1

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?