

History Department Spring 2024 Course Offerings

HI 104 Early Modern European History
Erica Bastress-Dukehart WF 8:40-10 am credits 3



This course is a survey of the major events and developments in pre-industrial European history. It takes students from the age of the Crusades to the eve of the French Revolution, a period of tremendous transformation which set the stage for modernity. Principle topics include the later Middle Ages, Renaissance, Reformation, the emergence of modern science, colonies and commerce, changes in political and military structures, and the Enlightenment. To help us understand the evolution of ideas and institutions throughout European history, we will focus on primary sources and explore how historical narratives are constructed. We will explore how Europeans forged a common culture that could survive fractious religious and political divisions, and consider how interactions with the rest of the world shaped Europe's own history.

HI 126 From Revolution to Civil War
Eric Morser MWF 11:15 – 12:10 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 social sciences requirement.)

HI 144 001 East Asian Civilization

Jenny Day TR 11:10-12:30 Credits 3

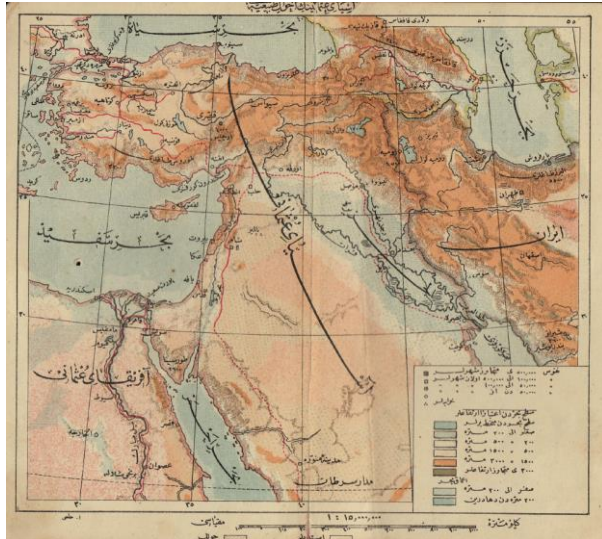


An introductory survey of East Asia (China, Japan, Korea) from its earliest history to the end of the Mongol empire in the 1300s. Students will explore the formation of Confucianism as an ideology, the changes in social and political institutions across East Asia, ideas and practices concerning gender 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 145P 001 Making of the Modern Middle East

Murat Yildiz 9:40 – 11:00 am Credits 4



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 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 206 001 Fall of Rome

Randolph Ford MW 2:30-3:50 Credits 3



A study of Rome from the foundation of the empire by Augustus until the sack of the city of Rome and the empire's demise. Students examine the Julio-Claudian and succeeding emperors, political intrigue in the imperial court, the development of an imperial mindset and responses to it in the provinces, the multiculturalism of the empire, social and political institutions, the evolution of Roman culture, the rise of Christianity and the end of the empire. Special emphasis is given to the study of the ancient sources: literary, historiographic, archaeological, and numismatic.

Note(s): (Fulfills social sciences requirement)

HI 212P British Empire and the Making of the Modern World

Tillman Nechtman MWF 9:05-10 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 247P History of Modern Japan

Jenny Day TR 12:40-2 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 243P 001 Leisure, Pleasure and Fun in the Middle East
Murat Yildiz TR 12:40-2 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 263 001 American Labor History
Eric Morser MWF 12:20 -1:15 Credits: 4

This Bridge Experience course explores the rich history of work and workers in America from the pre-colonial era through the contemporary age. We will focus on a number of themes including the lasting legacies of slavery, the evolution of capitalism and its impact on working men and women, the emergence of worker consciousness and labor protest, racial and ethnic tensions that divided the shop floor and undermined working-class unity, and how workers have transformed American culture and politics. Ultimately, the course provides us with an opportunity to explore how contests over commercial and political power, worker struggles for economic and social justice, and competing identities played key roles in the tale of American labor history that continue to shape the contemporary United States.



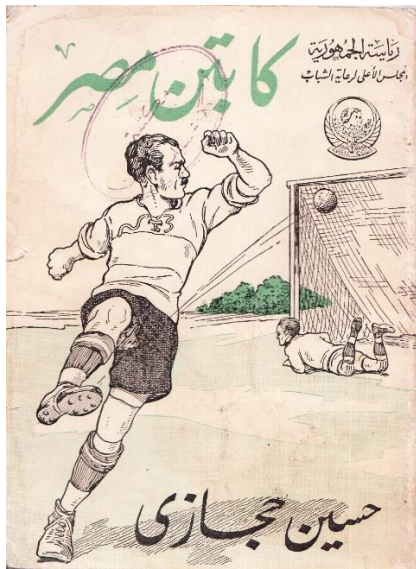
HI351D Cold War Berlin

Matthew Hockenos 9:40 -11:00 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.

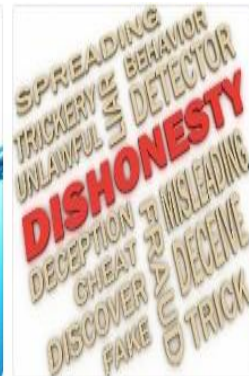
HI 351P 001 Sports in the Middle East

Murat Yildiz TR 2:10-3:30 (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.

HI 351R 001 Liars, Con Artists and Mythical Creatures
The History of Things that Were Never True
Erica Bastress-Dukehart and Tillman Nechtman
12:20-1:40 credits 4



The Securities Exchange Company was founded in January 1920. It operated out of a real building – the Niles Building – at 27 School Street in downtown Boston, MA. It hired employees, and it moved hundreds of thousands of dollars. It had real investors.

But, the Securities Exchange Company was a fraud. Owned and operated by Charles Ponzi, the Securities Exchange Company was the model for what we know today as the “Ponzi Scheme.”

This course will explore the histories of liars, con artists, frauds, and myths in an attempt to understand how it is that things that *never* existed came to have real and lasting historical significance.

If history is often defined as a record of what “really” happened in the past, surely frauds, lies, and myths are not history. And yet, Charles Ponzi existed. His “scheme” had real consequences. This class takes that paradox seriously.

As well as studying the history of a host of liars, con artists, frauds, and mythical creatures, students in this class will be required to produce a research paper of their own in fulfillment of the History Department’s Research (300R) requirement

HI 351R 002 Iraq War

Jennifer Delton MW 2:30-3:50 Credits 4



A research seminar focused on understanding the issues, debates, and politics of the United States invasion of Iraq in 2003 and its aftermath. (Prof. Delton)



HI 376 How Do You Know That?

Tillman Nechtman

T/R 11:10-12:20 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?