HISTORY (HIST)

HIST 001 Making of the Modern World
How did the world we now live in come to be? Is globalization a recent development or does it have a history of its own? At what point can we say that a world economy emerged and what sort of relations of production and distribution linked it together? When did people start thinking and acting as citizens of nations rather than as subjects of rulers or members of religious or ethnic communities, and what were the consequences? How should we conceptualize the great revolutions (French, American, Russian, Chinese) that would determine the landscapes of modern global politics? This course is designed to help us think about the "making of the modern," not by means of an exhaustive survey but by exploring a range of topics from unusual perspectives: piracy, patriotism, prophecy; global struggles for political and human rights, drivers of war and peace, capitalism, nationalism, socialism, fascism, fundamentalism; communication and culture.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Cassanelli/Dickinson
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Recitation
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 011 Deciphering America
This course examines American history from the first contacts of the indigenous peoples of North America with European settlers to our own times by focusing on a few telling moments in this history. The course treats twelve of these moments. Each unit begins with a specific primary document, historical figure, image, location, year, or cultural artifact to commence the delving into the American past. Some of these icons are familiar, but the ensuing deciphering will render them as more complicated; some are unfamiliar, but they will emerge as absolutely telling. The course meets each week for two 50-minute team-taught lectures and once recitation session. Course requirements include: in-class midterm and final exams; three short paper assignments; and punctual attendance and participation in recitations.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Brown/Licht
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Recitation
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 023 Intro to Middle East
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Also Offered As: NELC 102
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 024 Introduction to the Ancient Near East
See primary department (NELC) for a complete course description.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Frame
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: ANCH 025, NELC 101
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 030 The Emergence of Modern Europe
This course traces the formation of European society, politics and culture from its earliest days through the era of the Reformation, ca. 1000-1600 CE. Major themes will include: politics and power; law and the state; economics and trade; religion, learning and the rise of universities; social organization; everyday life. The reading and analysis of primary sources from each era will be important in understanding Europe's key features and development.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Moyer
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Recitation
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 031 Making and Breaking European Hegemony
HIST 031 will trace the dramatic rise and fall of Europe's global hegemony during the period roughly from 1450 to 1950. Among the major themes we will examine are: states and power, borders and resistance, race and genocide, economies and oppression, ideas and revolution, the building and change of hierarchies of gender and power. Truly, a dramatic story.
The objectives of the course are: 1) To serve as an introduction to the study of history for majors and non-majors alike, and to teach the critical analysis of historical sources; 2) to teach substantive knowledge of European history; 3) to provide a foundation for further study of the European past. No previous background in European or World history is required.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Holquist/Nathans/Safley
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 040 Early Modern Europe, 1450-1750
This course examines those European developments which contributed to the world we understand as modern. Special emphasis will be placed on the transformation of Europe through the advent of new technologies, the creation of a global economy, the consolidation of territorial states, the rise of effective, central governments, the dissolution of religious unity, and the dialect between modern and traditional world views.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Safley
Course not offered every year
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 046 Portraits of Soviet Society: Literature, Film, Drama
For BA Students: Humanities and Social Science S
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: REES 187
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
HIST 047 Portraits of Russian Society: Art, Fiction, Drama
This course covers 19C Russian cultural and social history. Each week-long unit is organized around a single medium-length text (novella, play, memoir) which opens up a single scene of social history—birth, death, duel, courtship, tsar, and so on. Each of these main texts is accompanied by a set of supplementary materials—paintings, historical readings, cultural-analytical readings, excerpts from other literary works, etc. The object of the course is to understand the social codes and rituals that informed nineteenth-century Russian life, and to apply this knowledge in interpreting literary texts, other cultural objects, and even historical and social documents (letters, memoranda, etc.). We will attempt to understand social history and literary interpretation as separate disciplines yet also as disciplines that can inform one another. In short: we will read the social history through the text, and read the text against the social history.
For BA Students: Humanities and Social Science Sector
Taught by: Platt
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: REES 136
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: No prior language experience required.

HIST 048 The Rise and Fall of the Russian Empire, 1552-1917
How and why did Russia become the center of the world’s largest empire, a single state encompassing eleven time zones and over a hundred ethnic groups? To answer this question, we will explore the rise of a distinct political culture beginning in medieval Muscovy, its transformation under the impact of a prolonged encounter with European civilization, and the various attempts to re-form Russia from above and below prior to the Revolution of 1917. Main themes include the facade vs. the reality of central authority, the intersection of foreign and domestic issues, the development of a radical intelligentsia, and the tension between empire and nation.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Nathans/Holquist
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: REES 048
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

Out of an obscure, backward empire, the Soviet Union emerged to become the great political laboratory of the twentieth century. This course will trace the roots of the world’s first socialist society and its attempts to recast human relations and human nature itself. Topics include the origins of the Revolution of 1917, the role of ideology in state policy and everyday life, the Soviet Union as the center of world communism, the challenge of ethnic diversity, and the reasons for the USSR’s sudden implosion at the end of the century. Focusing on politics, society, culture, and their interaction, we will examine the rulers (from Lenin to Gorbachev) as well as the ruled (peasants, workers, and intellectuals; Russians and non-Russians). The course will feature discussions of selected texts, including primary sources in translation.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Nathans/Holquist
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: REES 049
Activity: Recitation
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 050 England and the British Isles to 1707
The subject of this course is the history of the British Isles from the Roman Conquest in 43AD to the creation of the United Kingdom in 1707. Between these two dates the various societies and cultures in the British Isles were brought into the orbit of the Roman Empire, converted to Latin Christianity, and developed distinctive cultures and strong ties with the Continent. From the twelfth century on, the kingdom of England began to exert its power over Wales, Ireland, and Scotland, although English power waxed and waned in these areas between the twelfth and the seventeenth centuries. The Anglo-Norman continental empire of the Plantagenet dynasty also played a large part in shaping the English monarchy, as did the playing out of the Hundred Years War, the internal divisions in fifteenth-century English society, and the rise of the Tudor-Stuart dynasty.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Todd
Course not offered every year
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 051 Modern Britain, 1700-present: Empire, Industry and Democracy
In this course, we will investigate the extraordinary story of Britain’s rise to global predominance and the question of its “decline” in the twentieth century. Our readings and discussions will engage with dominant ideas, social processes, and popular beliefs; we will look at the structure of government and the texture of everyday lives. We will encounter Britons in all corners of the world even as we explore the complexities of metropolitan British history. Big ideas were born there: industrial capitalism, political liberalism, and scientific racism. Britain’s political system, with its early form of (limited) democracy, gave shape to party politics around the world. We begin in the early eighteenth century—focusing on the agricultural and social changes that accompanied the onset of the Industrial Revolution. We’ll examine the rise of the Hanoverian fiscal-military state, and its consolidation and transformation in the course of the Napoleonic Wars. We end in the present day, looking at a Britain which may have lost an Empire, but which retains a strong welfare state, a global cultural presence, and a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. Should we understand its rise and subsequent retraction as a store of an ascent and a decline? We will interrogate that narrative throughout the semester. The course moves roughly chronologically, but by way of discrete units that provide different perspectives on British politics, economics, and culture.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Chase-Levenson
Course usually offered in spring term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
HIST 055 Reading the Classics
In this course we will study the early roots of Western culture—the Biblical, Greek and Roman traditions—as well as how sixteenth- and seventeenth-century European authors reproduced, rethought and reshaped these early traditions. Instead of reading and discussing the required texts according to the date when they were written (first the early traditions and ending with the Renaissance views), we will focus our attention on a few themes that were central concerns to those living in Classic and Renaissance times, and that continue to influence modern ways of thinking and acting in Western societies: conceptions of God and the place of religion in society; nature of power and authority, and individuals’ rights and duties; good, evil, and ethical philosophy; views on women, their nature and roles in society; ethnography and the perception of other cultures and societies. In addition to reading and discussing several of the biblical books—Genesis, Exodus, the Book on Revelation—we will study other seminal classical works—Sophocles’ Antigone, Aristotle’s Politics and Ethics, Herodotus’ The Histories; Plato’s Apology—and works by Michel de Montaigne, Maria de Zayas y Sotomayor, Marie de Gournay, Christopher Marlowe, William Shakespeare, and several others. We will also work with books published in the last decades, analyzing the classics and their reception in various periods of history, but also books that analyze what the classics tell us today—Dreyfus and Kelly’s All things shining, Reading the Western Classics to find meaning in a secular Age; Anthony Grafton’s Bring Out Your Dead: the Past as Revelation; James Miller, Examined Lives, from Socrates to Nietzsche; and Sarah Bakewell, How to Live: Or a Life of Montaigne in One Question and Twenty Attempts at an Answer.
Taught by: Feros
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 056 Universal Language
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: COML 095, ENGL 219, REES 095
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 070 Colonial Latin America
The year 1492 was pivotal in the history of the world. It precipitated huge population movements within the Americas and across the Atlantic - a majority of them involuntary as in the case of indigenous and African people who were kidnapped and enslaved. It led to catastrophic cultural upheavals, including the formation of new cultures in spaces inhabited by people of African, European and indigenous descent. This course explores the processes of destruction and creation in the region known today as Latin America in the period 1400 - 1800. Class readings are primary sources and provide opportunities to learn methods of source analysis in contexts marked by radically asymmetrical power relationships.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Norton
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: AFRC 070, LALS 070
Activity: Recitation
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: Fulfills History Tradition Distribution Requirement

HIST 071 Latin American Survey 1808-Present
This course examines central themes of Latin American history, from independence to the present. It engages a hemispheric and global approach to understand the economic and social transformations of the region. We will explore the anti-imperial struggles, revolutions, social movements, and global economic crises that have given rise to new national projects for development, or have frustrated the realization of such goals. Taking a historical perspective, we will ask: What triggers imperial breakdown? How did slaves navigate the boundary between freedom and bondage? Was the Mexican Revolution revolutionary? How did the Great Depression lead to the rise of state-led development? In what ways have citizens mobilized for equality, a decent standard of living, and cultural inclusion? And what future paths will the region take given uneasy export markets and current political uncertainty?
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Teixeira
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: LALS 071
Activity: Recitation
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 072 Introduction to Latin American and Latino Studies
Designed to introduce students to the interdisciplinary field of Latin American and Latino Studies, this is a seminar oriented toward first and second year students. Readings will range widely, from scholarly work on the colonial world that followed from and pushed back against the "conquest"; to literary and artistic explorations of Latin American identities; to social scientists' explorations of how Latinos are changing the United States in the current generation.
Taught by: Farnsworth-Alvear
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: LALS 072
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 075 Africa Before 1800
Survey of major themes and issues in African history before 1800. Topics include: early civilizations, African kingdoms and empires, population movements, the spread of Islam, and the slave trade. Also, emphasis on how historians use archaeology, linguistics, and oral traditions to reconstruct Africa's early history.
Taught by: Babou
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: AFRC 075
Activity: Recitation
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 076 Africa Since 1800
Survey of major themes, events, and personalities in African history from the early nineteenth century through the 1960s. Topics include abolition of the slave trade, European imperialism, impact of colonial rule, African resistance, religious and cultural movements, rise of naturalism and pan-Africanism, issues of ethnicity and “tribalism” in modern Africa.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Cassanelli
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: AFRC 076
Activity: Recitation
1.0 Course Unit
HIST 078 The African Diaspora: Global Dimensions
This class examines the cultural and social ramifications of the African diaspora on a global level. It is divided into two major sections. The first section provides the historical background to the African diaspora by focusing on the forced migrations of Africans to Spanish and Portuguese colonies in the Americas. We will then delve into the black experience in French and British colonial spaces. In this section, we will also endeavor to move beyond the Atlantic-centric paradigm in studies of the African diaspora by examining free and unfree migrations of African people across the Indian Ocean to places as far away as India and the Philippines. The second half of the class devotes significant attention to the historical legacy of slavery and colonialism in places like Brazil, Cuba and the United States. In this section, we will discuss such issues as race relations, the struggle for civil rights for African-descent people as well as the emergence and the implementation of affirmative action policies in places like Brazil and the US.
Taught by: Ferreira
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: AFRC 073, LALS 078
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 081 History of the Middle East Since 1800
A survey of the modern Middle East with special emphasis on the experiences of ordinary men and women as articulated in biographies, novels, and regional case studies. Issues covered include the collapse of empires and the rise of a new state system following WWI, and the roots and consequences of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the Iranian revolution and the U.S.-Iraq War. Themes include: the colonial encounter with Europe and the emergence of nationalist movements, the relationship between state and society, economic development and international relations, and religion and cultural identity.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Kashani-Sabet/Troutt-Powell
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: NELC 031
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 091 Modern Japanese History
This course will survey the major political, economic, social and intellectual trends in the making of modern Japan. Special emphasis will be given to the turbulent relationship between state and society from 1800 to the present.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Dickinson
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: EALC 071
Activity: Recitation
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 096 Late Imperial China
This lecture course – the first of a two-part sequence – examines the history of late imperial China through the early 19th century. We begin with the Song dynasty transformation: the rise of gentry society and imperial absolutism, the institution of Confucian orthodoxy, the shift of the population and the economic center of gravity to the south, the commercialization of the economy, and change in the relative status of women and men. We then trace China's subsequent political and social history, including the following themes: inner vs. outer court politics; law, government, and society; intellectuals and political dissent; gender, family, and kinship practices; patterns of peasant life and rebellion; traditional foreign relations and first contacts with the West; internal sources of the decline of imperial order.
Taught by: Fei
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: EALC 041
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 097 History of Modern China
From an empire to a republic, from communism to socialist-style capitalism, few countries have ever witnessed so much change in a hundred year period as China during the twentieth century. How are we to make sense out of this seeming chaos? This course will offer an overview of the upheavals that China has experienced from the late Qing to the Post-Mao era, interspersed with personal perspectives revealed in primary source readings such as memoirs, novels, and oral accounts. We will start with an analysis of the painful transition from the last empire, the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), to a modern nation state, followed by exploration of a century-long tale of incessant reform and revolution. The survey will focus on three main themes: 1) the repositioning of China in the new East Asian and world orders; 2) the emergence of a modern Chinese state and nationalistic identity shaped and reshaped by a series of cultural crises; and finally, 3) the development and transformation of Chinese modernity. Major historical developments include: the Opium War and drug trade in the age of imperialism, reform and revolution, the Nationalist regime, Mao's China, the Cultural Revolution, and the ongoing efforts of post-Mao China to move beyond Communism. We will conclude with a critical review of the concept of "Greater China" that takes into account Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the Chinese diaspora in order to attain a more comprehensive understanding of modern China, however defined, at the end of the last century.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Fei
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: EALC 047
Activity: Recitation
1.0 Course Unit
HIST 098 Introduction to Korean Civilization
This gateway course surveys the history of Korea from early times to the present. We will study the establishment of various sociopolitical orders and their characteristics alongside major cultural developments. Covered topics include: state formation and dissolution; the role of ideology and how it changes; religious beliefs and values; agriculture, commerce, and industry; changing family relations; responses to Western imperialism; and Korea’s increasing presence in the modern world as well as its future prospects. Students will also be introduced to various interpretive approaches in the historiography. No prior knowledge of Korea or Korean language is presumed.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Park
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: EALC 003
Activity: Recitation
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 101 Freshman Seminar: Europe before 1800
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: JWST 103
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 102 Freshman Seminar: Europe after 1800
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 104 Freshman Seminar: America after 1800
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 106 Freshman Seminar: The World After 1800
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: AFRC 010
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 107 Comparative Capitalist Systems
The course follows the evolution of industrial capitalism since the beginning of the English industrial revolution in the late 18th century. It ranges from the problems of the industrial revolution in England to problems of building a market economy in eastern Europe today. In particular, it examines industrialization and explores the sources of sustained economic growth from a comparative perspective. Most of the world, especially in so-called emerging economies, is still confronted with the challenge, and often pain, of creating a modern industrial capitalist society. The course attempts to build a conceptual apparatus for understanding models of industrialization and is built around issues such as law, anti-trust, corporate forms, banking institutions, industrial relations, etc. By definition, the course tends to concentrate on successful industrializers around the world, but questions regarding continuing underdevelopment will be addressed.
For BA Students: Humanities and Social Science S
Taught by: Drew
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 108 American Origins
The United States was not inevitable. With that assumption as its starting point, this course surveys North American history from about 1500 to about 1850, with the continent’s many peoples and cultures in view. The unpredictable emergence of the U.S. as a nation is a focus, but always in the context of wider developments: global struggles among European empires; conflicts between indigenous peoples and settler-colonists; exploitation of enslaved African labor; evolution of distinctive colonial societies; and, finally, independence movements inspired by a transatlantic revolutionary age.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Richter
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Recitation
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 118 Witchcraft and Possession
This course explores world witchcraft and possession from the persecutions of the early seventeenth century through the rise of Wicca in the twentieth century. The mere mention of these terms, or of such close cousins as demonology, sorcery, exorcism, magic, and the witches Sabbath, raises clear ethnographic and historical challenges. How can the analysis of witchcraft— including beliefs, patterns of accusation, the general social position of victims, the intensity and timing of witch hunts, and its relation to religious practice, law, language, gender, social marginalization, and property—lead us to a more humane understanding of belief and action? Films such as The Exorcist, The Blair Witch Project, The Crucible, and Three Sovereigns for Sarah will focus discussion.
For BA Students: Humanities and Social Science S
Taught by: St.George
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ANTH 118, GSWS 119, RELS 109
Activity: Recitation
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 121 Silver and Gold in the Americas from pre-history to the present
Precious metals have shaped pre-Colombian economies and socio-cultural processes in the Americas for thousands of years. After 1492, gold and silver sent from the “New World” to the “Old World” played a key role in changing economies all over the world. Locally, mining centers were places marked by forced labor, conspicuous consumption, and the destruction of ecosystems. Internationally, gold and silver prices have long had outsized effects on monetary and trade policies. This course uses case studies to delve into the fascinating history of precious metals and mining in North and South America. We will analyze documents describing the gold objects ransacked by Spanish conquistadors, examine 17th Century proto-industrial silver mining at Potosi, trace the impact and human cost of the huge gold strikes in Minas Gerais, in colonial Brazil, read new work on the California and Yukon moments of “rush” and their long-term impact on US monetary policy, and follow new reports about the conflicts at the heart of transnational gold mining in the present. Students will gain experience working with primary sources and will produce an in-depth research paper.
Taught by: Farnsworth-Alvear
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: LALS 121
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
HIST 123 Economic History of Europe I
This course concentrates on the economy of Europe in the Early Modern Period, 1450-1750. It was a time of great transition. Europe developed from an agriculturally-based to an industrially-based economy, with attendant changes in society and culture. From subsistence-level productivity, the European economy expanded to create great surfeits of goods, with attendant changes in consumption and expectation. Europe grew from a regional economic system to become part--some would say the heart--of a global economy, with attendant changes in worldview and identity. Economic intensification, expansion, globalization, and industrialization are our topics, therefore. Beginning with economic organizations and practices, we will consider how these changed over time and influenced society and culture. The course takes as its point of departure the experience of individual, working men and women: peasants and artisans, merchants and landlords, entrepreneurs and financiers. Yet, it argues outward: from the particular to the general, from the individual to the social, from the local to the global. It will suggest ways in which the economy influenced developments or changes that were not in themselves economic, shaped, and deflected economic life and practice.
For BA Students: Humanities and Social Science S
Taught by: Safley
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 126 Modern Europe, 1789-1919
It’s old, it’s new. It’s unfamiliar, it’s recognizable. This course investigates the collapse of the "old regime" and the birth of something like the Europe we recognize. The long nineteenth century witnessed the development of political, economic, and cultural phenomena we often see as characteristic of modern society. Topics considered include political revolution, industrialization, liberalism, imperialism, and new ideologies of gender, race, and class. Our focus will be consistently transnational. Where did Europe begin and end? How did borders and boundaries operate at the edge of nations, but also within societies? We will investigate these questions as we follow European history from the violence and optimism of the French Revolution to the chaos of the First World War.
Taught by: Chase-Levenson
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 127 The Material Past in a Digital World
The material remains of the human past -objects and spaces- provide tangible evidence of past people's lives. Today's information technologies improve our ability to document, study, and present these materials. But what does it mean to deal with material evidence in a virtual context? In this class, students will learn basic digital methods for studying the past while working with objects, including those in the collections of the Penn Museum. This class will teach relational database design and 3D object modeling. As we learn about acquiring and managing data, we will gain valuable experience in the evaluation and use of digital tools. The digital humanities are a platform both for learning the basic digital literacy students need to succeed in today's world and for discussing the human consequences of these new technologies and data. We will discuss information technology's impact on the study and presentation of the past, including topics such as public participation in archaeological projects, educational technologies in museum galleries, and the issues raised by digitizing and disseminating historic texts and objects. Finally, we will touch on technology's role in the preservation of the past in today's turbulent world. No prior technical experience is required, but we hope students will share an enthusiasm for the past.
Also Offered As: ANTH 127, ARTH 127, CLST 127, NELC 187
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 131 Financial Meltdown, Past and Present
Economic history is increasingly recognized as a crucial source of policy advice and is invoked with growing frequency in public debates. In particular, the subprime crisis in 2008 and after has generated a demand for "historical perspective" that would improve the understanding of the causes of financial turmoil and facilitate the prevention of comparable catastrophes. This course begins with a review of the principal features of the subprime crisis of 2008 and asks, so to speak, "how did we get there?" It answers by providing historical insights that shed light on crucial aspects of financial disasters. This is a history course, engaging with topics pertaining to economics, law and politics (national and international). Students with diverse backgrounds are expected to benefit from this course through acquiring a concrete knowledge of the historical evolution of fundamental institutions of financial capitalism. Ultimately, students enrolling in this course are expected to achieve proficiency in historically informed discussion of the mechanisms that were played out in the subprime crisis and beyond.
For BA Students: Humanities and Social Science S
Taught by: Flandreau
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ECON 028
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
HIST 133 Free Speech and Censorship
This course will explore the idea of free speech - its justification, its relationship to various forms of censorship, and its proper limits - as a historical, philosophical, legal, and ultimately, political question. In the first half of the course, we will explore the long history across the West of the regulation of various kinds of ideas and their expression, from malicious gossip to heresies, and read classic arguments for and against censorship, copyright protections, and standards of taste and decency and of truth. In the second part of the seminar, after looking at how the idea of freedom of speech came to seem an existential prerequisite for democracy as well as individual liberty, we will take up the historical and philosophical questions posed by such recent dilemmas as whether or not hate speech deserves the protection of the First Amendment, the distinction between art and pornography from the perspective of freedom of expression, speech during wartime, and the transformative effects of the internet on the circulation and regulation of ideas. We will end the semester by thinking about the globalization of the idea of free speech as a human right and its implications, both positive and negative. Readings will range from Robert Darnton's The Forbidden Best-Sellers of Pre-Revolutionary France, to D. H. Lawrence's Lady Chatterley's Lover, to documents concerning the cartoons of Charlie Hebdo and law review articles about Citizens United v. FEC. We will also make considerable use of local resources, from museums to the library.
For BA Students: Humanities and Social Science S
Taught by: Rosenfeld
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 134 Origins of Nazism: From Democracy to Race War and Genocide
Where did the Nazis come from? Was the Weimar Republic bound to fail? Did the Treaty of Versailles or the Great Depression catapult the Nazis into power? What was the role of racism, of Anti-Semitism? How did the regime consolidate itself? What was the role of ordinary people? How do we explain the Holocaust and what kind of a war was the Second World War? Grappling with these and more questions, the first half of the course focuses on Germany's first democracy, the Weimar Republic and its vibrant political culture. In the second half, we study on the Nazi regime, how it consolidated its power and remade society based on the concepts of race and struggle. Discussions of race and race-making are crucial throughout the course. In the name of the "racial purity," the Nazi state moved ruthlessly against Germany's Jewish population and cleansed German society of all "undesirable" elements. These ideas and practices didn't originate with the Nazis and they didn't operate in a geopolitical vacuum. Thinking about Nazi racism and genocide in both its particular specifics and in a larger global historical context is the main goal of this course.
Taught by: Berg
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: GRMN 134
Activity: Recitation
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 135 Cold War: Global History
The Cold War was more than simply a military confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union; it was the frame within which the entire world developed (for better or worse) for nearly five decades. This course will examine the Cold War as a global phenomenon, covering not only the military and diplomatic history of the period, but also examining the social and cultural impact of the superpower confrontation. We will cover the origins of the conflict, the interplay between periods of tension and detente, the relative significance of disagreements within the opposing blocs, and the relationship between the "center" of the conflict in the North Atlantic/European area and the global "periphery".
For BA Students: Humanities and Social Science S
Taught by: Nathans
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: REES 135
Activity: Recitation
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 139 Jews and Judaism in Antiquity
A broad introduction to the history of Jewish civilization from its Biblical beginnings to the Middle Ages, with the main focus on the formative period of classical rabbinic Judaism and on the symbiotic relationship between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Dohrmann
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: JWST 156, NELC 051, NELC 451, RELS 120
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 140 Medieval and Early Modern Jewry
Exploration of intellectual, social, and cultural developments in Jewish civilization from the rise of Islam in the seventh century to the assault on established conceptions of faith and religious authority in 17th century Europe, that is, from the age of Mohammed to that of Spinoza. Particular attention will be paid to the interaction of Jewish culture with those of Christianity and Islam.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Ruderman
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: JWST 157, NELC 052, RELS 121
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 141 Jews in the Modern World
This course offers an intensive survey of the major currents in Jewish culture and society from the late middle ages to the present. Focusing upon the different societies in which Jews have lived, the course explores Jewish responses to the political, socio-economic, and cultural challenges of modernity. Topics to be covered include the political emancipation of Jews, the creation of new religious movements within Judaism, Jewish socialism, Zionism, the Holocaust, and the emergence of new Jewish communities in Israel and the United States. No prior background in Jewish history is expected.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Wenger
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: JWST 158, NELC 053, RELS 122
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
HIST 143 Foundations of European Thought: from Rome to the Renaissance
This course offers an introduction to the world of thought and learning at the heart of European culture, from the Romans through the Renaissance. We begin with the ancient Mediterranean and the formation of Christianity and trace its transformation into European society. Along the way we will examine the rise of universities and institutions for learning, and follow the humanist movement in rediscovering and redefining the ancients in the modern world.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Moyer
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: COML 143
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 145 Discover the Middle Ages
This course offers a broad introduction to the history of medieval Europe roughly from the fourth century CE, when Roman civilization faced a series of crises that led to its eventual fall in the West and ushered in the Middle Ages, to the sixteenth century, when European society entered a new early-modern phase. As this is a long period, we will focus on themes that will help us explore some of the most important historical problems related to the period: why was it that a sophisticated and militarily superior Roman empire could fall to "barbarians"? How did political power transform into a feudal model? What did it mean to be a medieval knight? The Middle Ages are known as "an age of faith" but, at the same time, it was an age of questioning that invented the modern university--what roles did faith and knowledge play in the medieval world? It was also a time where many cultures, races and religions came into contact, both at home and in efforts at exploration and conquest. How did medieval culture handle difference, and how did that influence early-modern and even modern approaches? The class will involve a mixture of lecture and discussion, and will include visits to local museum and manuscript collections to provide students first-hand contact with the visual and material culture of medieval Europe.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Kuskowski
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 146 Comparative Medicine
See primary department (HSOC) for a complete course description.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Mukharji
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: HSOC 145, STSC 145
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 147 Warriors, Concubines & Converts: the Ottoman Empire in the Middle East & Europe
For almost six hundred years, the Ottomans ruled most of the Balkans and the Middle East. From their bases in Anatolia, Ottoman armies advanced into the Balkans, Syria, Egypt, and Iraq, constantly challenging the borders of neighboring European and Islamicate empires. By the end of the seventeenth century, Constantinople, Jerusalem, Cairo, Baghdad, Sarajevo, Budapest, and nearly Vienna came under Ottoman rule. As the empire expanded into Europe and the Middle East, the balance of imperial power shifted from warriors to converts, concubines, and intellectuals. This course examines the expansion of the Ottoman sultanate from a local principality into a sprawling empire with a sophisticated bureaucracy; it also investigates the social, cultural, and intellectual developments that accompanied the long arc of the empire's rise and fall. By the end of the course, students will be able to identify and discuss major currents of change in the Ottoman Empire and the Middle East. The student will have a better understanding of the roles of power, ideology, diplomacy, and gender in the construction of empire and a refined appreciation for diverse techniques of historical analysis.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Aguirre-Mandujano
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: NELC 148
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 150 American Jewish Experience
This course offers a comprehensive survey of American Jewish history from the colonial period to the present. It will cover the different waves of Jewish immigration to the United States and examine the construction of Jewish political, cultural, and religious life in America. Topics will include: American Judaism, the Jewish labor movement, Jewish politics and popular culture, and the responses of American Jews to the Holocaust and the State of Israel.
Taught by: Wenger
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: JWST 130, RELS 124
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
HIST 151 Race, Space and Place in American History
This course provides with a historical introduction to America’s racial and ethnic groupings by examining the social, spatial and historical forces that have defined these groups. Weekly lectures and readings trace American racial formations, identities and experiences from the age of Columbus to the present day. Following the work of historians and geographers who emphasize the importance of space and place in constructions of racial and ethnic identity, most of the class readings chart the evolution of such identities within specific regions or communities. Early readings illuminate the origins of categories such as "white," black, "Native American" and "Asian" by exploring the colonial encounters in which these identities first took shape; while later readings trace how these identities have been maintained and/or changed over time. Less a product of racial attitudes than of economic and political interests, early American conceptions of race first took shape amidst contests over land and labor that pitted European immigrants against the indigenous peoples of North America, and ultimately led to the development of racial slavery. Colonial legal distinctions between Christians and Heathens were supplanted by legislation that defined people by race and ethnicity. Over time these distinctions were reinforced by a variety of other forces. Distinctive from place to place, America’s racial and ethnic groupings have been shaped and reshaped by regional economics such as the slave South, political initiatives such as Indian Removal and Chinese Exclusion Acts, a changing national immigration policy, and sexual and social intermixture and assimilation. Course readings will examine the links between race, region, labor, law, immigration, politics, sexuality and the construction and character of racialized spaces and places in America.
Taught by: Bay
Also Offered As: AFRC 154
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 153 Transformations of Urban America: Making the Unequal Metropolis, 1945 to Today
The course traces the economic, social, and political history of American cities after World War II. It focuses on how the economic problems of the industrial city were compounded by the racial conflicts of the 1950s and 1960s and the fiscal crises of the 1970s. The last part of the course examines the forces that have led to the revitalization and stark inequality of cities in recent years.
For BA Students: Society Sector
Taught by: Cebul
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: URBS 104
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 155 Introduction to Asian American History
This course will provide an introduction to the history of Asian Pacific Americans, focusing on the wide diversity of migrant experiences, as well as the continuing legacies of Orientalism on American-born APA’s. Issues of race, class, gender, and sexuality will also be examined.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Azuma
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: ASAM 003
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 159 Technology, Policy & War
Comparative and interdisciplinary examination of successful and failed uses of force in international relations, from ancient to modern times, using case studies. Readings will include Clausewitz, Sun Tzu, and a variety of primary and secondary sources for the wars considered each year. Issues of war’s fundamental origins, and its many impacts on society, will also be considered.
Taught by: Waldron
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Recitation
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 160 Strategy, Policy and War
Analysis of the political use of force, both in theory and in practice, through analytical readings and study of selected wars. Readings include Sun Zi, Kautilya, Machiavelli, Clauseqitz and other strategists. Case studies vary but may include the Peloponnesian War, the Mongol conquests, the Crusades, the Crimean War, Russo-Japanese War, World War II, Korea, or the Falklands, among others, with focus on initiation, strategic alternatives, decision and termination. Some discussion of the law of war and international attempts to limit it.
Taught by: Waldron
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 161 American Capitalism
A broad overview of American economic history will be provided by focusing on the following topics: colonial trade patterns, the growth of the market economy, the political economy of slavery, industrial expansion, segmentation in the labor force and changes in work, technological and organizational innovations, business cycles, the rise of the corporate welfare state, the growth of monopoly capitalism, and current economic problems in historical perspective.
For BA Students: Society Sector
Taught by: Licht
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ECON 014
Activity: Recitation
1.0 Course Unit
HIST 162 The American West
This course explores the social and cultural history and current views of the many Wests we think we know. In 1872, President Grant established Yellowstone National Park, only the first of many national and state nature reserves in the west. Even while the Parks were widely celebrated, in 1876 Grant allowed miners and land speculators into the Black Hills, or Paha Sapa, land long considered sacred by the Lakota peoples and 'protected' for them as recently as 1868 Treaty of Laramie. From this pairing of events in the 1870s spring the many overlapping themes this course will address: Native peoples, their beliefs and material cultures, pressured by the arrival of scattered industries (gold rushes, silver and copper mining); irregular sources of industrial and banking capital from England, New York, Chicago, and elsewhere; the arrival of the US Army in 1851, then a break removing troops for the Civil War, then their renewed and constant appearance from 1866 on and the making and breaking of other treaties; the irregular scattering of land speculators and dirt farmers, even while the US government insisted the Sioux and Cheyennes, among other peoples, not disturb the passage of planters on the Oregon Trail, even as their hunting grounds were enclosed by the Union Pacific and North Pacific railroads by 1870. Naturalists, hikers, and artists arrived by rail to the western parks: Yellowstone, Yosemite (1890), and the Grand Canyon (1919). By 1900, American tourists went west to see wild West Indian Shows and wonder at the new parks. They ate at restaurants serving western food, wore western ware and cowboy boots, and listened to western music that finally reached its high point when folklorist Hal Cannon founded the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada, in 1984, still active today with offshoots in Durango, Montana, and Texas. Taught by: St. George
Course usually offered in spring term
Activity: Recitation
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 163 Modern American Culture
Through the twentieth century, American culture took on new forms and meanings, spurred by technological innovation, commerce, and institutions, and shaped by an ever-changing population. In the process, American culture became self-consciously 'modern'-embraced, contested, repudiated, and continually redefined. This course explores the history of American culture from the 1890s to the 1990s, with a focus on the following questions: Why did culture become such an important part of American economic, social, and political life in the twentieth century? How has culture been created, understood, and mobilized by different groups in American society at different times? What have been the politics of culture over the twentieth century? Topics include the rise of 'culture industries' and mass entertainment, including amusement parks, film, radio, and television; the growth of consumer culture; the impact of gender in such arenas as sports and fashion; the role of working-class peoples, African Americans, and immigrants in American culture; the cultural response to the Depression and World War II; and popular activism. The course emphasizes the study of primary documents-journalism, fiction, letters and diaries, music, photographs, and film-as a means of understanding the past.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Peiss
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Recitation
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 166 Arab/Israeli Conflict in Literature and Film
This course will explore the origins, the history and, most importantly, the literary and cinematic art of the struggle that has endured for a century over the region that some call the Holy Land, some call Eretz Israel and others call Palestine. We will also consider religious motivations and interpretations that have inspired many involved in this conflict as well as the political consequences of world wars that contributed so greatly to the reconfiguration of the Middle East after the fall of the Ottoman Empire, and after the revelations of the Holocaust in Western Europe. While we will rely on a textbook for historical grounding, the most significant material we will use to learn this history will be films, novels, and short stories. Can the arts lead us to a different understanding of the lives lived through what seems like unending crisis?
Taught by: Troutt-Powell
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: CIMS 166, NELC 137
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 168 History of American Law to 1877
The course surveys the development of law in the U.S. to 1877, including such subjects as: the evolution of the legal profession, the transformation of English law during the American Revolution, the making and implementation of the Constitution, and issues concerning business and economic development, the law of slavery, the status of women, and civil rights.
Taught by: Berry
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: AFRC 168
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 169 History of American Law Since 1877
This course covers the development of legal rules and principles concerning individual and group conduct in the United States since 1877. Such subjects as regulation and deregulation, legal education and the legal profession, and the legal status of women and minorities will be discussed.
Taught by: Berry
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: AFRC 169
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 170 The American South
Southern culture and history from 1607-1860, from Jamestown to secession. Traces the rise of slavery and plantation society, the growth of Southern sectionalism and its explosion into Civil War.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Two terms. student may enter either term.
Also Offered As: AFRC 172
Activity: Recitation
1.0 Course Unit
HIST 171 The American South 1860-Present
This course will trace the history of the American South from the end of the Civil War to the present. It will investigate Reconstruction, the New South, Populism, racial disfranchisement and the rise of Jim Crow, the politics of the One-Party South, the South in the Progressive era and its role in the New Deal and World War II, the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s, and the rise of the Republican South. While following the narrative of politics and economic development, we will pay particular attention to race relations and will be more than casually interested in gender roles. In addition, we will take frequent peeks at the evolving Southern identity as reflected in popular culture and literature as well as in other corners of the public sphere.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Two terms. student may enter either term.
Activity: Recitation
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 174 Capitalism, Socialism and Crisis in the 20th Century Americas
From the crisis of the Great Depression through the 1970s, the United States and Latin America produced remarkable efforts to remake society and political economy. This course analyzes the Cuban and Guatemalan revolutions, as well as social movements that transformed the United States: the black freedom movement, the labor movement, and changing forms of Latino politics. In all three countries, Americans looked for ways to reform capitalism or build socialism; address entrenched patterns of racism; define and realize democracy; and achieve national independence. They conceived of these challenges in dramatically different ways. Together, we will compare national histories and analyze the relationships between national upheavals. In studying the US and Latin America together, the class allows students to explore central questions in both regions’ histories. What did capitalism, socialism, and communism amount to? What did democracy mean? What were the roots of racial inequality and how did Americans address it? Why were Americans so enticed by economic growth, and how did they pursue it? How did the Cold War shape social movements? What purposes did unions serve? How did Christianity inform movements for and against social change? Studying these regions together also allows us to explore international interactions. How did the black freedom movement in the US relate to the Cuban revolution? How did Latin American immigration shape the US labor movement? How did US Cold War policy influence Latin American revolutionary movements? The goal of this class is for you to interpret the readings and decide what you think. What you learn in this class, and the quality of our experience together, depends on your reading closely, coming to class with informed ideas and questions, and being prepared to help your classmates answer theirs. We will read approximately 100 pages per week. No background is required.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Offner
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: LALS 174
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 175 History of Brazil: Slavery, Inequality, Development
In the past decade, Brazil has emerged a leading global power. As the world’s fifth-largest country, by size and population, and the ninth-largest by GDP, Brazil exerts tremendous influence on international politics and the global economy, seen in its position as an emerging BRIC nation and a regional heavyweight in South America. Brazil is often in the news for its strides in social welfare, leading investments in the Global South, as host of the World Cup and Olympics, and, most recently, for its political instability. It is also a nation of deep contradictions, in which myth of racial democracy -- the longstanding creed that Brazilian society has escaped racial discrimination -- functions alongside pervasive social inequality, state violence, political corruption, and an unforgiving penal system. This course examines six centuries of Brazilian history. It highlights the interplay between global events -- colonialism, slavery and emancipation, capitalism, and democratization -- and the local geographies, popular cultures, and social movements that have shaped this multi-ethnic and expansive nation. In particular, the readings will highlight Brazil’s place in Latin America and the Lusophone World, as well as the ways in which Brazil stands as a counterpoint to the United States, especially in terms of the legacy of slavery and race relation.
In this lecture, we will also follow the current political and economic crises unfolding in Brazil, at a moment when it has become all the more important to evaluate just how South America’s largest nation has shaped and been shaped by global events.
Taught by: Teixeira
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 175, LALS 175
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 176 Afro-American History 1550-1876
This course will study the history of Afro-Americans from their first encounter with Europeans in the 16th century to emancipation during the Civil War. The course will concentrate on the variety of black responses to capture, enslavement, and forced acculturation in the New World. The difference in the slave experience of various New World countries, and the methods of black resistance and rebellion to varied slave systems will be investigated. The nature and role of the free black communities in antebellum America will also be studied.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Two terms. student may enter either term.
Also Offered As: AFRC 176
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 177 Afro-American History 1876 to Present
A study of the major events, issues, and personalities in Afro-American history from Reconstruction to the present. It will also examine the different slave experiences and the methods of black resistance and rebellion in the various slave systems.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Savage
Two terms. student may enter either term.
Also Offered As: AFRC 177
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
HIST 178 The Foundations of the Early Modern Atlantic World 1450-1800
The purpose of this course is to provide students with a solid knowledge of Atlantic history during the early modern period (XV-XVIII centuries). Through readings of primary and secondary texts we will discuss the cultural, religious, intellectual, and economic developments of Europe, Africa, and the Americas, as well as the connections, struggles, and mutual influences between the peoples of these three continents. Throughout the semester we will study several important topics: medieval precedents of early modern expansion; theories of empire; ideologies and systems of conquest and colonization; the relevance of race and slavery to the understanding of the early modern Atlantic world; how different peoples perceived others and themselves; how European imperialism and colonialization affected the internal development of Africa and America; the role played by religion in the Atlantic world; persistence and continuity of Native cultures and beliefs during an age of expansion; the creation of new identities; the role played by African nations in the creation of the Atlantic world; and the creation of an Atlantic economy.
Taught by: Ferros
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: LALS 178
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 179 The Rise and Fall of the Spanish Empire 1450-1700
This course will provide students with a solid knowledge of the history of early modern Spain (1450-1700). Through readings of primary and secondary texts that offer a complex vision of the cultural, religious, intellectual, and economic contexts and processes, students will be able to appreciate the intricacies of Spain's historical evolution. The course focuses on the rise and decline of the Spanish monarchy: the conditions that enabled Spain to become the most powerful monarchy in early modern times, and the conditions that led to its decline. This course also touches upon other important aspects critical to understanding early modern Spain: relationships among Christians, Muslims, and Jews in the Iberian Peninsula; the conquest and colonization of the New World; and early modern debates about Spain's rights to occupy America and the so-called "destruction of the Indies."
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Ferros
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: LALS 179, ROML 250
Activity: Recitation
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 187 Africa and the Transatlantic Slave Trade
This course focuses on the history of selected African societies from the sixteenth through the mid-nineteenth centuries. The primary goal is to study the political, economic, social, and cultural history of a number of peoples who participated in the Atlantic slave trade or were touched by it during the era of their involvement. The course is designed to serve as an introduction to the history and culture of African peoples who entered the diaspora during the era of the slave trade. Its audience is students interested in the history of Africa, the African diaspora, and the Atlantic world, as well as those who want to learn about the history of the slave trade. Case studies will include the Yoruba, Akan, and Fon, as well as Senegambian and West-central African peoples.
Taught by: Ferreira
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: AFRC 186
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 188 Civilizations at odds? The United States and the Middle East
Foe or friend, Satan or saint - America has often been depicted in the Middle East either as a benevolent superpower or an ill-meaning enemy. In America, too, stereotypes of the Middle East abound as the home of terrorists, falafels, and fanatics. This undergraduate lecture course will explore the relationship between the United States and the Middle East by moving beyond such facile stereotypes. Our goal is to understand why a century of interaction has done little to foster greater understanding between these two societies. By reading novels, memoirs, and historical accounts, we will examine the origins of this cultural and diplomatic encounter in the twentieth century. The readings will shed light on America's political and economic involvement in the Middle East after the Second World War. We will consider the impact of oil diplomacy on U.S.-Middle East relations, as well as the role of ideology and religion, in our effort to comprehend the current challenges that face these societies.
Taught by: Kashani-Sabet
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: NELC 188
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 202 Major Seminar in History: Europe After 1800
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 204 Major Seminar in History: America After 1800
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 206 Major Seminar of the World after 1800
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 209 Industrial Metropolis
Although we no longer think of most U.S. cities as industrial cities, metropolitan areas today are all products of industrial economies, technologies, and social systems. This course explores the industrialization and deindustrialization of American cities within their evolving global context from the era of European colonization to the present. It includes weekly readings and discussion, regular response papers and walking tours, in-class exercises, and a research paper using primary sources. Themes include energy and ecology, labor and production, inner city and suburban development, globalization, and economic restructuring. Ultimately, the class aims to give students a broad knowledge of 1) the history of industrial capitalism, 2) its effects on cities and regions over the past three centuries, and 3) analytical tools for understanding the past, present, and future of metropolitan economies, geography, and society.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Vitiello
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: URBS 103
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 212 Europe after 1800: Advanced Benjamin Franklin Seminar
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
HIST 214 America after 1800: Advanced Benjamin Franklin Seminar
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 216 The World after 1800: Advanced Benjamin Franklin Seminar
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: AFRC 215, JWST 216, URBS 220
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 220 Russia and the West
This course will explore the representations of the West in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Russian literature and philosophy. We will consider the Russian visions of various events and aspects of Western political and social life, Revolutions, educational system, public executions, resorts, etc., within the context of Russian intellectual history. We will examine how images of the West reflect Russia's own cultural concerns, anticipations, and biases, as well as aesthetic preoccupations and interests of Russian writers. The discussion will include literary works by Karamzin, Pushkin, Gogol, Dostoevsky, Leskov, and Tolstoy, as well as non-fictional documents, such as travelers' letters, diaries, and historiosophical treatises of Russian Freemasons, Romantic and Positivist thinkers, and Russian social philosophers of the late Nineteenth century. A basic knowledge of nineteenth-century European history is desirable. The class will consist of lectures, discussion, short writing assignments, and two in-class tests.
For BA Students: Humanities and Social Science S
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: COML 220, REES 220
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 230 Topics in European History
Topics vary
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: CLST 230, COML 248, GRMN 232, ITAL 230, JWST 230
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 231 Topics in US History
Topics in US History
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: AFRC 229, ASAM 203
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 232 World History: Africa or the Middle East
Topics vary
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: AFRC 233, GSWS 232, NELC 282
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 233 World History: East Asia or Latin America
Topics Vary
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: AFRC 234, ARTH 369, EALC 141, GSWS 233, LALS 233
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 234 Topics in Transnational History
Topics vary
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: AFRC 236, URBS 234
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 238 Span Civil War & Postwr
Also Offered As: LALS 238
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 241 Performing History
This seminar concentrates on the ways that various peoples in the world make their history by means other than relying on written texts alone. Over the course of the semester, we therefore may be examining such different public events and civic rituals as parades, political and religious processions, local historical pageants, carnivals, historic preservation, museums, military reenactments, and history theme parks. The emphasis in each of these forms, places, and semiotic processes will be on their identity and function as key performances that transform consciousness, shift individuals alternately into both actors and spectators, reframe the everyday as the metaphysical, and intensify the status of cultural values in the histories they present to view. Course requirements: a seminar paper, the topic of which you will discuss with me no later than week five of the course; and a working annotated bibliography and statement of your paper's main thesis. I will say more about these assignments as they approach.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ANTH 241, ARTH 395
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 243 American Feminist and LGBT Movements, 1960s-1980s
This seminar explores the history of the feminist and LGBT movements from the mid-1960s to mid-1980s in Philadelphia. Although there will be some attention to national organizations, we will focus on social and political activism as it was made in local groups and spaces. We will explore the social and cultural web that fostered activism, for example, in gay and lesbian coffee houses, campus women's centers, bookstores, and radio shows. We will also pay attention to groups and actions that may not have been self-consciously defined as "feminist" or "gay liberationist," but had important effects on social change related to gender and sexuality; these include African American, Latino/a, and working-class organizations. This is a hands-on research seminar, with students exploring local archives and special collections to document and analyze these complex movements. Each student will conduct an oral history, analyze a set of published and printed sources, and write a paper based on archival research.
Taught by: Peiss
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: GSWS 244
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
HIST 248 The Haitian Revolution
In August 1791, enslaved Africans on the northern plain of Saint Domingue (colonial Haiti) rose up in a coordinated revolt against their French colonial masters, launching the initial revolt in what would come to be known as the Haitian Revolution. In the years that followed, their actions forced the abolition of racial discrimination and slavery throughout the French Empire. When Napoleon Bonaparte threatened to return slavery to Saint Domingue, they waged a war for independence, declaring Haiti the world’s first “Black Republic” in 1804. This seminar will examine some of the major themes and debates surrounding Haiti’s colonial and revolutionary history. We will begin by considering the colonial paradox: France’s leading role in the intellectual movement called the “Enlightenment” coincided with its ascent as a slaveholding colonial power. The seminar will also explore parallels and points of connection between the revolutionary movements in France and Saint Domingue: how did increasingly radical ideas in France shape events in the Caribbean? Likewise, how did west African traditions and political ideologies influence insurgents and their leaders? And how, in turn, did revolution in the Caribbean impact the revolution in France? Finally, we will ask how the Haitian Revolution influenced ideas about liberty, sovereignty and freedom throughout the Atlantic World. We will read a combination of primary and secondary materials each week. A final research paper will be required of all students.
Taught by: Fabella
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: AFRC 248, LALS 248
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 273 Penn Slavery Project Research Seminar
This research seminar provides students with instruction in basic historical methods and an opportunity to conduct collaborative primary source research into the University of Pennsylvania’s historic connections to slavery. After an initial orientation to archival research, students will plunge in to doing actual research at the Kislak Center, the University Archives, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the American Philosophical Society, the Library Company, and various online sources. During the final month of the semester, students will begin drafting research reports and preparing for a public presentation of the work. During the semester, there will be opportunities to collaborate with a certified genealogist, a data management and website expert, a consultant on public programming, and a Penn graduate whose research has been integral to the Penn Slavery Project.
Taught by: Brown
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: AFRC 277
Activity: Field Work
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 274 African American Life and Culture in Slavery
This course will examine the lives of enslaved African Americans in the United States, both in the North and the South. We will engage historiographical debates, and tackle questions that have long concerned historians. For example, if slaves were wrenched from families and traded, could they sustain family relationships? If slaves worked from sun-up until sun-down, how could they create music? We will engage with primary and secondary sources to expand our understanding of values, cultural practices, and daily life among enslaved people. Topics will include: literacy, family, labor, food, music and dance, hair and clothing, religion, material culture, resistance, and memories of slavery. Several disciplines including History, Archaeology, Literature, and Music, will help us in our explorations. Written, oral, and artistic texts for the course will provide us with rich sources for exploring the nuances of slave life, and students will have opportunities to delve deeply into topics that are of particular interest to them.
Also Offered As: AFRC 276
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 275 Faces of Jihad in African Islam
This course is designed to provide the students with a broad understanding of the history of Islam in Africa. The focus will be mostly on West Africa, but we will also look at developments in other regions of the continent. We will explore Islam not only as religious practice but also as ideology and an instrument of social change. We will examine the process of Islamization in Africa and the different uses of Jihad. Topics include: prophetic jihad, jihad of the pen and the different varieties of jihad throughout the history in Islam in sub-Saharan Africa.
Taught by: Babou
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: AFRC 274
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 276 Japan: The Age of the Samurai
This course deals with the samurai in Japanese history and culture and will focus on the period of samurai political dominance from 1185 to 1868, but it will in fact range over the whole of Japanese history from the development of early forms of warfare to the disappearance of the samurai after the Meiji Restoration of the 19th century. The course will conclude with a discussion of the legacy of the samurai in modern Japanese culture and the image of the samurai in foreign perceptions of Japan.
Taught by: Hurst
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: EALC 176, EALC 576
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
HIST 279 Women in Modern South Asia
This course on women in modern South Asian history has three objectives: 1. To gain an understanding of evolving institutions and practices shaping women’s lives: especially the family, law, and religious traditions. 2. To understand the impact of historical processes--the formation and breakdown of empire, colonialism, nationalism, and decolonization--upon South Asian women between the sixteenth and twentieth centuries. 3. To acquaint ourselves with the historiography of South Asian women. We will read primary sources, as well as familiarize ourselves with the historiography of women, religion, and colonial modernity in South Asia.
Taught by: Sreenivasan
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: SAST 295
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 287 African Religious History
In recent decades, many African countries have perennially ranked very high among the most religious. This course serves as an introduction to major forms of religiosity in sub-Saharan Africa. Emphasis will be devoted to the indigenous religious traditions, Christianity and Islam, as they are practiced on the continent. We will examine how these religious traditions intersect with various aspects of life on the continent. The aim of this class is to help students to better understand various aspects of African cultures by dismantling stereotypes and assumptions that have long characterized the study of religions in Africa. The readings and lectures are will be drawn from historical and a few anthropological, and literary sources.
Taught by: Amponsah
Also Offered As: AFRC 287, RELS 288
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 306 Gunpowder, Art and Diplomacy: Islamic Empires in the Early Modern World
In the sixteenth century, the political landscape of the Middle East, Central Asia, and India changed with the expansion and consolidation of new Islamic empires. Gunpowder had transformed the modes of warfare. Diplomacy followed new rules and forms of legitimation. The widespread use of Persian, Arabic and Turkish languages across the region allowed for an interconnected world of scholars, merchants, and diplomats. And each imperial court, those of the Ottomans, the Safavids, and the Mughals, found innovative and original forms of expression in art and literature. The expansion of these Islamic empires, each of them military giants and behemoths of bureaucracy, marked a new phase in world history. The course is divided in four sections. The first section introduces the student to major debates about the so-called gunpowder empires of the Islamic world as well as to comparative approaches to study them. The second section focuses on the transformations of modes of warfare and military organization. The third section considers the cultural history and artistic production of the imperial courts of the Ottomans, the Mughals, and the Safavids. The fourth and final section investigates the social histories of these empires, their subjects, and the configuration of a world both connected and divided by commerce, expansion, and diplomacy.
Taught by: Mandujano
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: NELC 306
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 308 Renaissance Europe
This course will examine the cultural and intellectual movement known as the Renaissance, from its origins in fourteenth-century Italy to its diffusion into the rest of Europe in the sixteenth century. We will trace the great changes in the world of learning and letters, the visual arts, and music, along with those taking place in politics, economics, and social organization. We will be reading primary sources as well as modern works.
Taught by: Moyer
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ITAL 308
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 311 The Tudors
This course examines the history of England from the accession of Henry (VII) Tudor in 1485 to the death of Elizabeth I in 1603, with emphases on the political and personal history of this colorful dynasty, the religious revolution known as the protestant Reformation, the arts and literature known as the English Renaissance, imperial and trade ventures overseas, and aspects of popular culture including the witch craze. Unlike most English histories of the period, we will also look closely at the other realms of the British Isles, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland. Readings consist of a textbook with a British scope, and an array of primary sources, some in book form and others (marked with an asterisk on the syllabus) attached to Blackboard or distributed in class. Books are available at the Penn Book Center, except for biographies associated with film critiques. Most of the films noted in the syllabus will be available on PVN; otherwise, they can be viewed at the library or through Netflix.
Assignments in square brackets are optional.
Taught by: Todd
Course usually offered in spring term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 312 Britain's Century of Revolution
England, Ireland, Wales and Scotland experienced revolutions in the first half of the seventeenth century that abolished monarchy and hereditary aristocracy, and carried out the first judicial execution of a monarch in European history. England was re-constructed as a republic, then with Scotland became the United Commonwealth of Great Britain, then declined into a military dictatorship, and finally invited the king back. In 1688, however, the Glorious Revolution deposed that king and declared Britain a strictly constitutional monarchy. This course will explore what motivated ordinarily obedient British subjects to take up arms against their rulers. The works of Milton and Marvell, Cromwell, Hobbes and Locke, and many lesser-known writers of diaries, autobiographies, sermons, statutes, and letters will illuminate the issues. The focus will be on how law, politics and religion interacted in the onset of war and defining of settlement, but with an eye to the larger social and cultural setting in which revolutions happened: this is also an era of both witchcraze and scientific revolution, puritanism and the slave trade, the near-destruction of London by fire and plague and its re-birth as the capital of a commercial empire.
Taught by: Todd
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
HIST 314 Victorian Britain: Spaces, Places, and Pests
In this course, we will examine the nooks and crannies of Victorian society. It was a period of squalor, but also innovation, devastating diseases, and crucial advances in public health and medical science. Its cities featured depressing slums and lurid crimes, but also new kinds of spectacles, entertainments, and commodities. It was, in many ways, as one of its greatest authors wrote, “the best of times, and the worst of times.” Units under study will include “The Docks,” “The Germs,” “The Empire,” “The Church,” and “the Museum.” We’ll investigate killer diseases like cholera and typhus, dazzling buildings like the Crystal Palace, imperial wars and crises, and new scientific movements like Darwinism and mesmerism. Along the way, we will encounter proper and eminent Victorians as well as scandalous and marginalized ones. The aim will be to understand Victorian mentalities and ideas by looking at a diverse array of institutions and inventions. Readings will include novels, stories, pamphlets, essays, and cartoons as well as secondary literature. Classes will be a mixture of lecture and discussion, and no previous experience in British history is necessary.
Taught by: Chase-Levenson
Course not offered every year
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 331 American Diplomatic History Since 1776
Survey course tracing the origins and evolution of the great traditions of U.S. foreign policy, including Exceptionalism, Unilateralism, Manifest Destiny, Wilsonianism, etc., by which Americans have tried to define their place in the world. Three hours of lecture per week, extensive reading, no recitations.
Taught by: McDougall
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 333 Napoleonic Era & Tolstoy
In this course we will read what many consider to be the greatest book in world literature. This work, Tolstos War and Peace, is devoted to one of the most momentous periods in world history, the Napoleonic Era (1789-1815). We will study both the novel and the era of the Napoleonic Wars: the military campaigns of Napoleon and his opponents, the grand strategies of the age, political intrigues and diplomatic betrayals, the ideologies and human dramas, the relationship between art and history. How does literature help us to understand this era? How does history help us to understand this great novel? This semester marks the 200th anniversary of Napoleon's attempt to conquer Russia and achieve world domination, the campaign of 1812. Come celebrate this Bicentennial with us! Because we will read War and Peace over the course of the entire semester, readings will be manageable and very enjoyable.
Taught by: Holquist/Vinitsky
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: COML 236, REES 240
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 343 Nineteenth Century European Intellectual History
Starting with the dual challenges of Enlightenment and Revolution at the close of the eighteenth century, this course examines the emergence of modern European thought and culture in the century from Kant to Nietzsche. Themes to be considered include Romanticism, Utopian Socialism, early Feminism, Marxism, Liberalism, and Aestheticism. Readings include Kant, Hegel, Burke, Marx, Mill, Wollstonecraft, Darwin, Schopenhauer, and Nietzsche.
Taught by: Breckman
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: COML 343
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 344 Twentieth Century European Intellectual History
European intellectual and cultural history from 1870 to 1950. Themes to be considered include aesthetic modernism and the avant-garde, the rebellion against rationalism and positivism, Social Darwinism, Second International Socialism, the impact of World War One on European intellectuals, psychoanalysis, existentialism, and the ideological origins of fascism. Figures to be studied include Nietzsche, Freud, Woolf, Sartre, Camus, and Heidegger.
Taught by: Breckman
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: COML 344
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 345 Sinners, Sex and Slaves: Race and Sex in Early America
This course explores the lost worlds of sinners, witches, sexual offenders, rebellious slaves, and Native American prophets from the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries. Using the life stories of unusual individuals from the past, we try to make sense of their contentious relationships with their societies. By following the careers of the trouble-makers, the criminals, and the rebels, we also learn about the foundations of social order and the impulse to reform that rocked American society during the nineteenth century.
Taught by: Brown
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: AFRC 345, GSWS 345
Activity: Recitation
1.0 Course Unit
HIST 347 Gender History and American Film
More than any other medium, the motion pictures fostered new ideals and images of modern womanhood and manhood in the United States. Throughout the twentieth century, gender representations on the screen bore a complex relationship to the social, economic, and political transformations marking the lives and consciousness of American men and women. This course explores the history of American gender through film. It treats the motion pictures as a primary source that, juxtaposed with other kinds of historical evidence, opens a window onto gendered work, leisure, sexuality, family life, and politics. We will view a wide range of Hollywood motion pictures since 1900, as well as films by blacklisted artists, feminists, and independent producers.
Taught by: Peiss
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: CIMS 347, GSWS 347
Activity: Recitation
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 349 History of Sexuality in the U.S.
This course introduces students to a relatively new field of inquiry, the history of sexuality in the U.S. It explores the past to consider why sexuality has been so central to American identities, culture, and politics. Primary documents and other readings focus on the history of sexual ideology and regulation; popular culture and changing sexual practices; the emergence of distinct sexual identities and communities; the politics of sexuality; and the relationship between sexual and other forms of social difference, such as gender, race, ethnicity, age, and class. Topics include many with continuing relevance to contemporary public debate: among them, sexual representation and censorship, sexual violence, adolescent sexuality, the politics of reproduction, gay and lesbian sexualities and sexually transmitted diseases.
Taught by: Peiss
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: GSWS 349
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 354 American Expansion in the Pacific
This class will focus on America's expansion into the Pacific around the turn of the century with the acquisition of Hawaii and the Philippines. It can deal with various issues, including the meaning of "frontier," colonialism, development of capitalist economies in the region, diplomacy, racism, migration, an American brand of Orientalism in encountering the "natives" and "heathens," and histories of the West and the Pacific Islands in general.
Taught by: Azuma
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ASAM 354
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

This course explores significant political and social developments that shaped the final decades of twentieth century U.S. history, an era notable for declining faith in political institutions, ideological and partisan polarization, and a variety of new rights claims by marginalized citizens. Until very recently, scholars have characterized this period as one of conservative political resurgence spurred by its most towering figure, Ronald Reagan, the nation's 40th president. While Reagan is an essential actor in this class, the course will consider a variety of perspectives, developments, and movements across the political spectrum as well as others that defy easy ideological or partisan categorization. In addition to tracing the transformation of the major political parties and ideologies, topics may include the evolution of the post-1960s civil rights movement and the rise of the incarceration crisis; the rise and transfiguration of the religious right; the AIDS crisis and the LGBTQ movement; and the emergence of the concept of the "free market" as an idealized way of reordering not just social and political commitments but society itself.
Taught by: Cebul
Course not offered every year
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 360 French Literature of the 18th Century
Topics vary. For current course description, please see the department's webpage: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: FREN 360
Prerequisites: Two 200-level French courses taken at Penn or equivalent.
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
HIST 367 Philadelphia, 1700-2000
Using Philadelphia as a lens, this course will examine the transformation of American cities from the colonial period to the present. Through readings, lectures, and tours, we will consider urbanization and suburbanization, race, class, and ethnicity, economic development, poverty and inequality, housing and neighborhood change, urban institutions, and politics and public policy.
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: URBS 367
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 370 North Africa: History, Culture, Society
This interdisciplinary seminar aims to introduce students to the countries of North Africa, with a focus on the Maghreb and Libya (1830-present). It does so while examining the region's close economic and cultural connections to sub-Saharan Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. Readings will include histories, political analyses, anthropological studies, and novels, and will cover a wide range of topics such as colonial and postcolonial experiences, developments in Islamic thought and practice, and labor migration. This class is intended for juniors, seniors, and graduate students.
Taught by: Sharkey
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: AFRC 332, AFRC 632, NELC 332, NELC 632
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 371 Africa and the Mid-East
This seminar will explore the historical relationship between these two regions from the early modern age to the present. We will examine the history of trade, particularly the slave trade, and its cultural and political legacy. We will compare the experiences of European imperialism—how the scramble for Africa dovetailed with the last decades of the Ottoman Empire—with an eye to how this shaped nationalist movements in both regions. The course will also explore the decades of independence with a special eye towards pan-Africanism and pan-Arabism. We will also study the ramifications of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the relationship between African and Middle-Eastern countries, from Uganda to Ethiopia, from OPEC to Darfur. The course will pay close attention to migrations through the regions, whether forced or economic or religious. Whenever possible we will explore, through film and literature, how people in Africa and the Middle East see their connections, and their differences.
Taught by: Troutt-Powell
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: AFRC 372, NELC 334
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 372 The History of Foreign Aid to Africa
This course examines the history, politics, and significance of foreign aid to Africa since the late 19th century. While we do not typically think about the European colonial period in Africa in terms of 'foreign aid,' that era introduced ideas and institutions which formed the foundations for modern aid policies and practices. So we start there and move forward into more contemporary times. In addition to examining the objectives behind foreign assistance and the intentions of donors and recipients, we will look at some of the consequences (intended or unintended) of various forms of foreign aid to Africa over the past century. While not designed to be a comprehensive history of development theory, of African economics, or of international aid organizations, the course will touch on all of these topics. Previous course work on Africa is strongly advised.
Taught by: Cassanelli
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: AFRC 373
Prerequisites: AFST/HIST 076, AFST 190, or AFST 256
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 376 History of Health and Healing in Africa
This seminar course will examine how sub-Saharan Africans have interpreted and dealt with issues of health, healing, and medicine under colonial and postcolonial regimes. It will also look at how various social, economic, religious, and political factors have impacted health and healing on the continent and shaped African responses. Class discussions will center around both general themes affecting health and healing in Africa as well as case studies drawn from historical and anthropological works.
Taught by: Amponsah
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: AFRC 311
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 380 Modern Jewish Intellectual and Cultural History
An overview of Jewish intellectual and cultural history from the late 18th century until the present. The course considers the Jewish enlightenment Reform, Conservative and Neo-Orthodox Judaism, Zionist and Jewish Socialist thought, and Jewish thought in the 20th century, particularly in the context of the Holocaust. Readings of primary sources including Mendelsohn, Geiger, Hirsch, Herzl, Achad-ha-Am, Baeck, Buber, Kaplan, and others. No previous background is required.
Taught by: Ruderman
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: JWST 380, RELS 320
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
HIST 385 Human-Animal Relationships in Historical Perspective
We live in a paradoxical moment in the history of people's relationships with animals. Certain species suffer today more than ever due to environmental degradation and modern food production practices. Yet other mammalian species are subject to a degree of sentimental attention (perhaps) unprecedented in history. This paradox is related to an unresolved tension in Western cultures: do the commonalities that bind humans to other animals unite them more or less than the differences that divide them? The course is organized around three main segments: animal domestication; modes of interaction (hunting, husbandry, pets, science) in early modern Europe; and contemporary science. We will conclude with a consideration of current philosophical and ethical perspectives of our treatment of non-human animals. By considering a variety of disciplinary approaches but with an emphasis on historians' methodologies, we will investigate these questions through careful reading of primary sources as well as secondary sources.
Taught by: Norton
Course usually offered in spring term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 390 China & USSR Compared
A comprehensive and multi-faceted survey of China and Russia, mostly in the twentieth century, through examining preludes and postludes, but focusing above all on their time as Communist states and sometimes quarreling Cold War allies. Of course we will cover the history, the geography, the economics, the leaders (Stalin, Mao), and the great events - not least the Second World War in each - always comparing, contrasting, and drawing linkages. We will also examine, however, daily life and work for ordinary people, developments in society, and not least their common attempts at revolution, at somehow creating new and unprecedented polities, having populations of radically transformed new people. This informative, fascinating quest will take us from folklore to literature and the arts to dissent and religion and ecology, among other topics. As far as possible we will let their people speak for themselves, by assigning mostly translations of original sources including novels and memoirs, even poetry. A comprehensive assessment of the strategically critical Asian heartland - which at over 14 million square miles is larger than Canada, the United States, and Western Europe combined. Lectures, readings, midterm, short paper, and in-class final.
Taught by: Waldron
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: REES 390
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 391 The Vietnam War
A thorough historical, military, and social history of the Vietnam war, which lasted in one form or another from the end of WWII in 1945 to 1975, in which occurred the longest and most humiliating defeat in our history. Since that time the Vietnamese have published hundreds of documents, some in English, which provide an entirely new perspective on what we believed during the war. These, supplemented by other primary and secondary materials, as much as possible written by Vietnamese or by Americans having first-hand knowledge, will form the backbone of the course. The various American and Vietnamese strategies will be scrutinized carefully, and a good deal said about the home front in America. The actual fighting, that determined the outcome, will not be slighted. We expect at least some guest speakers having long diplomatic or military experience in Vietnam. The present will be our conclusion.
Lectures TTH 12:1-30; midterm in class, short paper, regular final. If you want to understand the world you now live in, this course a good place to start.
Taught by: Waldron
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: EALC 196
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 393 20th Century China: Ideas, Politics, States
Since 1900 four types of states have ruled China: dynastic, elective parliamentary, authoritarian nationalist, and communist. We will trace each from its intellectual origins to conclusion. By doing so we will present a solid and wide-ranging narrative of China's past century, introducing newly discovered material, some controversial. Above all we will dig into the issues raised by the century's mixture of regimes. Right now China is a dictatorship but once it was an imperfect democracy. Does this prove that Chinese are somehow incapable of creating democracy? That sadly it is just not in their DNA? Or only that the task is very difficult in a country nearly forty times the size of England and developing rapidly? That without dictatorship the Chinese almost inevitably collapse into chaos? Or only that blood and iron have been used regularly with harsh effectiveness? You will be given a solid grounding in events, and also in how they are interpreted, right up to the present. Readings will be mostly by Chinese authors (translated), everything from primary sources to narrative to fiction. We will also use wartime documentary films. Two lectures per week, regular mid-term and final exams, and a paper on a topic of your own choice. No prerequisites.
Taught by: Waldron
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: EALC 145
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: Two lectures per week, regular mid-term and final exams, and a paper on a topic of your choice.
HIST 394 China and the World: Modern Times
History 394 is a comprehensive introduction to the last hundred years of China's relations with the world, with emphasis on American-Chinese relations, but within the necessary context of China's relations with other countries from Asia to Europe to Africa and elsewhere (as well as Washington's changing relations with Beijing). China's role in the world can be understood only when the full background and international context is made clear. This course has no prerequisites: freshmen and others lacking background will find it manageable and interesting.

Students who have successfully completed this course will be well positioned to understand some of the most important of current events, and if they like, pursue the topics as careers (there will be no shortage, I assure you). Although much will be said about diplomacy, and Chinese diplomatic strategy in particular, the mile-posts of the course will be a series of wars: World War I and its effects on China; the heroic Chinese war of resistance against Japan (1937-1945) in which, effectively without allies, the Chinese avoided defeat; the bitter Civil War that followed almost immediately (1946-1949) and brought Mao Zedong and his Communists to power while the predecessor Nationalist government fled to the island of Taiwan; then the Korean War (1950-1953) and the close Chinese-Soviet alliance that followed; The Taiwan Straits Crises (1954-1955, 1958, 1996); the Chinese-Indian war (1962) the origin of a situation now heating up; the Sino-Soviet border conflicts (1969); the Vietnam War (1955-1975) which changed the United States profoundly while reorienting China internationally; the (at the time) little noticed Chinese invasion of Vietnam (1979) - and finally the increasingly tense situation today, between China and India, and China and her maritime neighbors from Japan to Indonesia, many U.S. allies.

Taught by: Waldron
Also Offered As: EALC 044
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 395 East Asian Diplomacy
Home to four of the five most populous states and four of the five largest economies, the Asia/Pacific is arguably the most dynamic region in the twenty-first century. At the same time, Cold War remnants (a divided Korea and China) and major geopolitical shifts (the rise of China and India, decline of the US and Japan) contribute significantly to the volatility of our world. This course will examine the political, economic, and geopolitical dynamism of the region through a survey of relations among the great powers in Asia from the sixteenth century to the present. Special emphasis will be given to regional and global developments from the perspective of the three principal East Asian states--China, Japan and Korea. We will explore the many informal, as well as formal, means of intercourse that have made East Asia what it is today. Graduate students (EALC 505) should consult graduate syllabus for graduate reading list, special recitation time and graduate requirements.

Taught by: Dickinson
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: EALC 105, EALC 505
Activity: Recitation
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 398 Junior Honors in History
Open to junior honors candidates in history. Introduction to the study and analysis of historical phenomena. Emphasis on theoretical approaches to historical knowledge, problems of methodology, and introduction to research design and strategy. Objective of this seminar is the development of honors thesis proposal.

Course usually offered in spring term
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 400 Senior Honors in History I
Open to senior honors candidates in history who will begin writing their honors thesis during this seminar.

Two terms. student must enter first term.
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 411 Introduction to Written Culture, 14th - 18th Centuries
Taught by: Chartier/Stallybrass
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: COML 411, ENGL 234
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 412 Topics in World History
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: EALC 442
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 414 Human Rights and History
The idea of universal, inalienable rights--once dismissed by the philosopher Jeremy Bentham as "nonsense upon stilts"--has become the dominant moral language of our time, the self-evident truth par excellence of our age. Human rights have become a source of inspiration to oppressed individuals and groups across the world, the rallying cry for a global civil society, and not least, a controversial source of legitimation for American foreign policy. This seminar asks: how did all this come to be? We will investigate human rights not only as theories embodied in texts, but as practices embedded in specific historical contexts. Are human rights the product of a peculiarly European heritage, of the Enlightenment and protestantism? How did Americans reconcile inalienable rights with the reality of slavery? Did human rights serve as a "civilizing" mask for colonialism? Can universal rights be reconciled with genuine cultural diversity? Through case studies and close readings, the seminar will work toward a genealogy of human rights.

Taught by: Nathans
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 418 European Intellectual History since 1945
This course concentrates on French intellectual history after 1945, with some excursions into Germany. We will explore changing conceptions of the intellectual, from Sartre's concept of the 'engagement' to Foucault's idea of the 'specific intellectual'; the rise and fall of existentialism; structuralism and poststructuralism; and the debate over 'postmodernity.'

Taught by: Breckman
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: COML 418
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
HIST 420 European International Relations from the Age of Enlightenment to the Great War
This course will examine the international politics of Europe in the 18th and 19th centuries, up to the outbreak of World War I. During these centuries, the European great powers experienced significant internal transformations and also a revolution in their relations, both of which reinforced and accelerated each other. In the process, Europe asserted a dominant position in world politics, but also sowed the seed for the terrible catastrophes of the 20th Century. The course will address this transformation of European diplomacy with special attention to the rivalries between the great powers, the impact of nationalism and emerging mass politics, the interplay between military and economic power, and the relationship between the European powers and the rest of the world.
Taught by: Holquist
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 421 Europe and the World since 1914
This course looks at Europe's interactions with other world regions throughout the twentieth century. Over the course of roughly a hundred years, Europeans have shaped the fates of peoples living beyond the western world, for instance through the impact of two world wars, European colonialism, and the global Cold War. At the same time, European societies 'at home' were not left unaffected by these interactions. Even today, Europeans are facing the legacies of some of these histories in immigration and the politics of religion and secularism for example. The past century also saw a dramatic shift in Europe's position in the world - from dominance to a loss of influence in the shadow of the United States and more recently, China. The course spends significant time covering the histories of world regions other than Europe. It furthermore considers some interactions and exchanges between world regions from a social and cultural point of view. Because the class spans roughly a century, the content has to remain introductory and general, although a very basic familiarity with 20th-century international history is helpful.
Taught by: McDougal
Two terms. student may enter either term.
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 425 World War I
This survey course examines the outbreak, conduct, and aftermath of the First World War. The First World War put an end to the world of the 19th century and laid the foundations of the 20th century, the age of destruction and devastation. This course will examine the war in three components: the long-term and immediate causes of the First World War; the war’s catastrophic conduct, on the battlefield and on the home front; and the war’s devastating aftermath. While we will discuss military operations and certain battles, this course is not a military history of the war; it covers the social, economic, political and diplomatic aspects that contributed to the war’s outbreak and made possible its execution over four devastating years. No preliminary knowledge or coursework is required.
Taught by: Holquist
Activity: Recitation
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 441 North American Colonial History
A survey of the development of American colonial society, 1607-1750, with emphasis on the regional differences between life in early New England, the Mid-Atlantic, and the South, as well as the relationships between British colonists, Native Americans, and African Americans.
Taught by: Brown
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 447 Histories of the Information Economy
This course provides a perspective on the role of information as a historical actor. Moving beyond common narratives of the progress of the information economy driven by technological factors, the course underscores the significance of what may be called the political economies of information. We will approach major works, dealing with the historical importance of information (Foucault, Cohn, Habermas) and simultaneously engages with the history of institutions to store and circulate information. We will emphasize the importance of value (social, political, economic) which is at the heart of information gathering and producing. In particular, we will discuss the rise and fall of institutions to store and circulate information. We will study the importance of information in historical processes such as imperialism and colonization, state building, propaganda, the Enlightenment, as well as the informational aspects of the rise of global NGOs and international organization, police and spying. Information may be accumulated or lost; it can be safeguarded or debased; it can confer power or undermine it. In the age of fake news, these are issues worthy of a closer interest.
Taught by: Flandreau
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 451 The U.S. and the World since 1898
This class examines the emergence of the U.S. as a world power since 1898, and considers both the international and domestic consequences of U.S. foreign relations. In one respect, the twentieth century was a strange time to become a global empire: it was the period when colonial systems centered in Europe, Russia, Japan, and Turkey collapsed, and new nations emerged throughout Africa and Asia. This class explores the changing strategies of military, economic, and political intervention that the U.S. pursued as colonization lost legitimacy. Within that framework, the class invites students to think about several questions: How did the idea and practice of empire change over the twentieth century? How did the United States relate to new visions of independence emerging in Africa, Asia, and Latin America? How did global interactions both inform and reflect racial ideology in the United States? Finally, how did international affairs transform U.S. politics and social movements?
Taught by: Offner
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
HIST 463 History of American Education
This course will examine the growth and development of American schools, from the birth of the republic into the present. By 1850, the United States sent a greater fraction of its children to school than any other nation on earth. Why? What did young people learn there? And, most of all, how did these institutions both reflect and shape our evolving conceptions of "America" itself? In an irreducibly diverse society, the answers were never simple. Americans have always defined their nation in a myriad of contrasting and often contradictory ways. So they have also clashed vehemently over their schools, which remain our central public vehicle for deliberating and disseminating the values that we wish to transmit to our youth. Our course will pay close attention to these education-related debates, especially in the realms of race, class, and religion. When immigrants came here from other shores, would they have to relinquish their old cultures and languages? When African-Americans won their freedom from bondage, what status would they assume? And as different religious denominations fanned out across the country, how would they balance the uncompromising demands of faith with the pluralistic imperatives of democracy? All of these questions came into relief at school, where the answers changed dramatically over time. Early American teachers blithely assumed that newcomers would abandon their old-world habits and tongues; today, "multicultural education" seeks to preserve or even to celebrate these distinctive patterns. Post-emancipation white philanthropists designed vocational curricula for freed African-Americans, imagining blacks as loyal serfs; but blacks themselves demanded a more academic education, which would set them on the road to equality. Protestants and Catholics both used the public schools to teach their faith systems until the early 1960s, when the courts barred them from doing so; but religious controversies continue to hound the schools, especially on matters like evolution and sex education. How should our public schools address such dilemmas? How can the schools provide a "common" education, as Horace Mann called it, melding us into an integrated whole while still respecting our inevitable differences?
Taught by: Zimmerman
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: EDUC 599
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 575 Politics and Societies in the Early Modern World
In this seminar, we will discuss how early modern globalization affected societies and the ways their members and rulers made politics. Following a historiographical introduction, it is divided in three sections. In the first, we will concentrate on empires and kings in order to detect common features of dynastic power across the globe and to explore how such characteristics influenced each other. Second, we will shift our attention to citizens and the ways they made politics in their city-states. For a long time, research on citizenship has been confined to the post-revolutionary nation states. However, recent research suggests that urban citizenship has far deeper roots in medieval and early modern cities. Up to now most research has focused on urban centers in Western Europe and more precisely on the so-called urban belt stretching from Central and North-Italy, over Switzerland and Southern Germany to the Rhineland and the Low Countries. Comparisons with urban centers in Asia and the colonial Americas will be needed to test that view. In the third section, we will study the people who provided information to societies and decision makers. Often, they held multiple identities or they acted as religious or ethnic outsiders. Therefore, we call them, with a term borrowed from anthropology 'brokers'. Taken together, the analysis of these aspects will deepen our understanding of politics and societies in the globalizing early modern world. Thus, the seminar will contribute to a more comprehensive, less Europe-centered view on that period.
Taught by: Cools
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: DTCH 574, GRMN 574
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 610 Topics in American History
Reading and discussion course on selected topics in American history. Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 620 Topics in European History
Reading and Discussion course on selected topics in European History. Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 630 Topics in Asian History
Reading and discussion course on selected topics in Asian History. One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 640 Topics in Middle Eastern History
Reading and discussion course on selected topics in Middle Eastern history. One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 650 Topics in African History
Reading and discussion course on selected topics in African history. One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
HIST 660 Topics in Latin American and Caribbean History
Reading and discussion course on selected topics in Latin American and Caribbean history.
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 668 Colloquium in the History of Law and Social Policy
This is a course in the history of law and policy-making with respect to selected social problems. Discussion of assigned readings and papers will elaborate the role law, lawyers, judges, other public officials and policy advocates have played in proposing solutions to specific problems. The course will permit the evaluation of the importance of historical perspective and legal expertise in policy debates.
Taught by: Berry
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 670 Topics in Trans Regional History
Reading and discussion course on selected topics in Transregional History.
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 700 Proseminar in History
Weekly readings, discussions, and writing assignments to develop a global perspective within which to study human events in various regional/cultural milieus, c. 1400 to the present.
Two terms. student must enter first term.
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 706 Introduction to Africa and African Diaspora Thought
This course examines the processes by which African peoples have established epistemological, cosmological, and religious systems both prior to and after the institution of Western slavery.
Taught by: Amponsah
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: AFRC 706
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 710 Research seminar in American history.
Research seminar on selected topics in American history.
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 720 Research in European History
Research seminar on selected topics in European history.
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 740 Research Seminar in Middle Eastern History
Research seminar on selected topics in Middle Eastern history.
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 770 Res Sem: Transregional
Research seminar on selected topics in Transregional history.
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 998 Test
Activity: Independent Study
0.5 Course Units