HISTORY (HIST)

HIST101F History and the Humanities (FYS)
This course offers first-year students an opportunity to explore the humanities from a variety of different disciplinary perspectives, traditionally Western as well as global, and to make connections between humanistic learning and history. The course is a small discussion seminar in which primary source materials, or classic texts, are used exclusively. An effort will be made to examine the interrelationship of ideas in the various disciplines and to compare history, literary analysis, philosophy, and theory as modes of inquiry and as ways of thinking about documents and texts. The course thereby aims to provide students with the critical tools by which to analyze texts produced in the remote or recent past. The course also serves a related purpose: to familiarize students with the heritage of Western historical tradition and to impart knowledge of the crucial role of history and the humanities as a component in general education.
Students may take HIST101F without having to take HIST102F.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST102F History and the Humanities II (FYS)
This course offers first-year students an opportunity to explore the humanities from a variety of different disciplinary perspectives, traditionally Western as well as global, and to make connections between humanistic learning and history. The course is a small discussion seminar in which primary source materials, or classic texts, are used exclusively. An effort will be made to examine the interrelationship of ideas in the various disciplines and to compare history, literary analysis, philosophy, and theory as modes of inquiry and as ways of thinking about documents and texts. The course thereby aims to provide students with the critical tools by which to analyze texts produced in the remote or recent past. The course also serves a related purpose: to familiarize students with the heritage of Western historical tradition and to impart knowledge of the crucial role of history and the humanities as a component in general education.
Students may take HIST102F without having taken HIST101F.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST109F With Bold Knife and Fork: An Introduction to Food History (FYS)
This first-year seminar is an introduction to food history and food studies, two linked fields in which we ask how people have satisfied their appetites, and what their choices mean. This encompasses everything from the question of how agriculture began, to the question of what it meant to eat a Korean taco in Los Angeles in, say, 2014. Food history and food studies are vast fields, and in this seminar we will sample many versions of them. Because this seminar is designed for students just beginning college, it introduces a variety of academic approaches to food, from chronological analyses of how specific ingredients became important for specific populations, to the anthropological treatment of food and identity, to cultural histories informed by primary sources--that is, documents written by historical actors. We even read contemporary “food writing,” including restaurant reviews, which are themselves historical documents of a sort. This course also has a strong chronological through-line, winding from the establishment of agriculture to the modernization and industrialization of global food ways.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST112 Living the Latin American City: Urban History, Politics, and Culture
This course offers an introduction to modern Latin American cities, exploring how the region’s urban spaces—including sprawling megalopolises like Mexico City and Rio de Janeiro—have been made and re-envisioned by elite and poor inhabitants alike. Approaching urban space and everyday life as a terrain of political and social negotiation as well as cultural ferment, the course traces the growth of Latin American cities through case studies that examine themes including colonialism, citizenship, migration, inequality, and social movements, and the tensions between state planning and informalidad. We also consider how the urban experience shaped intellectuals’ and artists’ efforts to chronicle, represent, and reimagine the Latin American city in essays, photography, and film.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: LAST211
Prereq: None

HIST116 Environmental History: Telling Stories in Place
This course introduces students to environmental history, the study of the changing relationships between humans and nature through time. We will consider how the natural world has shaped human history; how humans have transformed the environments they have moved through, made use of, and inhabited; and how ideas about nature have shaped people’s interactions with the world around them and with one another. Focusing on both historiography and methods, we will read classic and recent work in the field and learn to conduct historical research. We will also pay attention to narrative and the writing of history, through reading, in-class workshops, peer editing, and trying different kinds of historical storytelling. The central assignment will be a short research paper in which students will practice environmental history through the study of a particular place.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST117 Chinese Cities
More than half of China’s population now resides in cities. Within the next few years, China plans to accelerate the rate of urbanization by building sprawling cities and relocating more people into urban areas.
This course explores the history of Chinese cities from the imperial to modern age. Cities were centers of commerce, intellectual activity, and, in the words of historian and political scientist David Strand, “storehouses of political technique, strategy, and sentiment open to anyone with the understanding and the will to inventory to exploit them.” We will study how cities supported massive populations with limited resources, inspired new forms of social organization, and transformed the political and social order of China.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: CEAS269
Prereq: None

HIST118F History of the U.S.: Social Movements (FYS)
The history of U.S. social movements offers a number of opportunities to enrich the curriculum of the History Department and Wesleyan University’s First Year Seminars. U.S. social movements structured many of the discourses—on racial citizenship, gender equality, and social inclusion—that continue today. Understanding the history of social movements, therefore, is vital to
This course examines how films represent the past and how they can help us make sense of the human condition of the United States as it unfolded over time. Taking the study of social movements seriously also fosters critical thinking and the need for flexible interpretations of a material usually presented in an uncomplicated, victorious manner. As a first year seminar, it presents American history in a way that will be new to first year students. The multitude of research opportunities afforded by diverse movements over more than 150 years of American history make it an ideal subject to introduce undergraduate students to college writing and research. I think that the course will prove effective, popular, and enlightening.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST123F Cinema India: South Asia's Past on Film (FYS)
This first year seminar course examines the relationship of film and history in India. We will focus on how filmmakers represent the past and, alternatively, how films inform historical memory—especially in the context of the competing trajectories of nationalism and globalization in South Asia. A central concern will be the historiographical challenges and opportunities of film. We will pay particular attention to Hindi cinema, including films produced by the Bombay/Mumbai ("Bollywood") film industry since the 1950s. We will also examine the rise of "parallel" (or "art") cinema. There will be one session reserved for evening screenings (Tuesdays) and two morning sessions per week (Mondays and Wednesdays). Feature films will range from classics like "Mughal-e Azam" (1960) and "Umrao Jaan" (1981), to lesser known works like "Shatranj ke Khiladi" (1977) and "Hazaaraoon Kwaishhein Aisi" (2005). We will also probe the critical and box-office success of relatively recent blockbusters such as "Lagaan" (2001), "Jodhaa Akbar" (2008), "Bajirao Mastani" (2015), and "Padmaavat" (2018), comparing them to the disappointing performance of budget-busting period dramas like "Thugs of Hindustan" (2018) and "Manikarnika" (2019).

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST124F The Making of the Modern American Landscape (FYS)
This course uses the contemporary American landscape to tell the history of the modern United States. The political, economic, social, and cultural forces that shaped our nation are also physically embedded in the world around us. An office tower, a city park, a chicken farm, a loft apartment—they all tell revealing stories if we know which questions to ask. This course covers a wide geographic and temporal range, looking closely at particular landscapes to examine how macro-level forces construct the everyday spaces that we inhabit. These close readings allow students to develop their own interpretative skills and the course culminates in individual research projects on landscapes chosen by each student.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST129 Philosophy and the Movies: The Past on Film
This course examines how films represent the past and how they can help us understand crucial questions in the philosophy of history. We begin with three weeks on documentary cinema. How do documentary films achieve "the reality effect"? How has the contemporary documentary's use of reenactment changed our expectations of fiction film? Much of the course is devoted to classic narrative films that help us critically engage questions about the depiction of the past. We think about those films in relation to texts in this history of philosophy and contemporary film theory.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-FILM
Identical With: FILM360, PHIL160
Prereq: None

HIST130F North American Borderlands (FYS)
North American Borderlands explores the physical, social, political, cultural, and economic spaces that borders create and purport to divide. The course covers a long history and a wide variety of material—with subjects ranging from 17th-century contests between Algonquian peoples and Dutch traders along the saltwater frontier to the Gilded Age story of a Texas slave who reinvented himself as a Mexican millionaire, to the sulfur dioxide that blew up from U.S. power plants to fall as acid rain in Canada and sour relations between the two nations in the 1980s. By the end of the course, students will be able to recognize borderlands as distinctive spaces of conflict, exchange, dispossession, and opportunity.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST135 American Food
This course investigates topics in the history of food production from the colonial period to the present, with emphasis on the American contribution to the development of world food systems and cultures of consumption. Topics to be addressed include the production of agricultural commodities, development of national markets, mass production of food, industrialization of agriculture, and the recent emergence of organics, slow food, and local movements.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: ENVS135
Prereq: None

HIST140 Virtue and Vice in History, Literature, and Philosophy
Beginning with Aristotle and Confucius and reading our way through significant texts of Christianity, humanism, postmodernism, and contemporary cultural productions, we will explore the ethics, power, and politics intersecting in the idea of virtue.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Identical With: COL228, CHUM228, PHIL112
Prereq: None

HIST141 Theories and Models
This class will focus on how theories and models are designed and regarded across the university curriculum—in the humanities, the social sciences, and the sciences. This topic is particularly pertinent to intellectual history, a subject that regularly uses texts from across the modern university curriculum as its primary readings. Given the range of intellectual history, both in terms of chronology and subject matter, intellectual history could be argued to be the subject best positioned to consider the process of making theory.

Questions to be addressed include: What are some of the unexpected results of the increased use of mathematics and computers even in the humanities and social sciences, not just in the sciences, and how has this changed the relationship of theory and models for each of these disciplines? To what extent does the debate about the refutability, the falsifiability—or truth status—of models indicate an ongoing need for theory? The specific modern academic
subjects to be examined will be philosophy, economics, and physics. Thomas Kuhn’s THE STRUCTURE OF SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTIONS (1962) will serve as a starting point for this study; however, most of the readings during the semester will be much more recent.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST151 Introduction to History: The "Russian World" Past and Present

The "Russian World" has become a central--though deeply ambiguous and contested--theme in contemporary political discourse both within and beyond Russia. This course will offer a survey of how different conceptions of the "Russian World" have been articulated and deployed over time by following the history of Russian lands and peoples from the eighth century to the present day. This course is one of the gateways to the history major and is intended especially for first- and second-year students. As an introduction to history, the course will introduce students to the discipline of history by examining the historical sources, concepts, theories, and methods necessary for reading and writing history.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST154 Introduction to History: Twelve Medieval People

This course is one of the gateways to the history major. It is also an introduction to the Middle Ages through a study of 12 exemplary medieval lives and minds, spanning a thousand years of history. We focus on people--bodies, minds, and souls--cooperating with history and creating sense for their world. The course will typically feature one person or pair per week, and by examining their writings or stories and the contexts in which these were produced, the nature of medieval life, the pressure on the self, the articulation of gender and ethics for the entire period will come into view. Among the figures studied are likely to be St. Augustine, Queen Brunhild, St. Anselm, Abelard, Heloise, William Marshal, King Louis IX, Dante, Catherine of Siena, Christine de Pisan, Joan of Arc, Margery Kempe, and Pope Pius II.

As an introduction to history course, we will also offer an examination of the basic concepts, techniques, and skills for reading, understanding, and writing history: documents and archives, text and context, sceptical inquiry, argument construction, and an interest in good and expressive writing.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST170 Introduction to History: American Material Culture

This course introduces students to the study of history through an investigation of American material culture and the built environment from the pre-colonial period to the present. The course is structured around Friday site visits in the New England and mid-Atlantic regions, including the Pequot Museum, Mystic Seaport, Central Park, New York City waterfront, Fresh Kills, and local suburbs. Students will consider theories and methods of studying history through objects, landscapes, and architecture. We will consider how changing patterns of settlement and land use shaped human and natural ecology, and how people fashioned cultures and communities through the fabrication, circulation, and use of a wide range of natural and human-made objects.
This introductory course surveys the history of Europe during the formative period of the modern era from 1500 to 1800. It focuses on the crucial episodes of religious and political conflicts and highlights key intellectual, cultural, and economic developments: the Renaissance, the Protestant Reformation and the Reformation, events that ended the medieval period. We will also explore the critical role of women in the global Industrial Revolution, the Suffrage Movement, the rise of international feminisms, and the everyday struggles of women in multiple sexual revolutions.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST188 Introduction to History: Revolutionary Women

"I do not think the war would have been won without the women.... Now women have to liberate themselves." The fighter Maudy Muzenda's reflection on the role of women in Zimbabwe’s liberation war speaks to a broader pattern in global history. Women have been central to the radical transformation of societies in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas from the early modern era to the present. In this course we will examine revolutionary women who took up arms and others who protested for improved working conditions, voting rights, sexual liberty, and human rights. Our cases will include the history of political revolutions in France, Cuba, Russia, and China, as well as in Zimbabwe.

We will also explore the critical role of women in the global Industrial Revolution, the Suffrage Movement, the rise of international feminisms, and the everyday struggles of women in multiple sexual revolutions.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST195 Mellon Mays Seminar

This course is for participants in the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship program. It is designed to introduce students to the requirements and rigors of graduate school. A central focus of the seminar will be to develop a research project on which the students would work over a two-year period.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST201 Medieval Europe

This introductory lecture course is a history of European politics, culture, and institutions from the end of the Roman Imperial era through 1520. Within a chronological framework we will focus on the creation of kingdoms and government; the growth and crises of papal-dominated Christianity; its crusades and its philosophy; the rise and role of the knight, lady, and aristocratic culture; masculinity and gender relations; the crises of the later Middle Ages, including the Black Death, heresy, mysticism, and war. These all contributed to the beginnings of the Renaissance and the Reformation, events that ended the medieval period. We will also at least glance at the borderlands of Europe, the edges of Islamic and Orthodox worlds.

The course will also provide students with basic introductory exposure to the ideas and methods of the digital humanities through course illustrations and discussions. This will probably include exercises in visualizing the past, exposure to geographic information systems (GIS) analysis, text-mining, and network analysis.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST202 Early Modern Europe

This introductory course surveys the history of Europe during the formative period of the modern era from 1500 to 1800. It focuses on the crucial episodes of religious and political conflicts and highlights key intellectual, cultural, and economic developments: the Renaissance, the Protestant Reformation and Catholic Reformation, the English civil war, absolutism, enlightened despotism, the rise of capitalism and plantation slavery, the scientific revolution, the Enlightenment, and the French Revolution. Representing one of the required
modules for the history major, this course also provides essential historical grounding for any student interested in study abroad and in modern culture and politics.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST203 Modern Europe
This course surveys the history of Europe since 1815 and is intended primarily as an introduction to decisive events and interpretation of central themes. Attention will be devoted to major political, social, economic, and cultural developments, beginning with the many dimensions of the political and industrial revolutions of the 19th century; continuing with the emergence of nation-states and nationalism, working-class movements, the consequences of imperialism and the World War I, and communism and fascism; and concluding with study of the World War II, the reassertion of Europe, the collapse of the Soviet system, and contemporary issues.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST204 Greek History
Using primary sources wherever possible, this course will examine the development of Greek civilization from Mycenaean times through the death of Alexander the Great. Special attention will be given to the connection between political events and cultural and intellectual trends. No prior acquaintance with ancient history is required.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-CLAS
Identical With: CCIV231
Prereq: None

HIST205 Roman History
This course traces the history of Rome from its foundation, through its rise as an Italic and Mediterranean power, up to the transfer of the empire to Constantinople. It focuses on the political, military, and social achievements of the Roman people and the contributions of its principal historical figures, from the legendary kings of the regal period, to Republican leaders such as Marius, Sulla, Pompey, and Caesar, through Augustus and the establishment of the principate and subsequent emperors such as Vespasian, Hadrian, and Diocletian.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-CLAS
Identical With: CCIV232
Prereq: None

HIST207 Japan Since 1868: Society and Culture in Modern Japanese History
This course examines the history of Japan from roughly 1800 to the present. With a broad-ranging observation covering politics, economy, society, culture, and foreign relations, we will look at a variety of historical events that the Japanese people experienced. Our goal is not only to understand what happened when, but also to be concerned with how people at different historical stages saw the world around them. Major historical events, trends, ideas, and people will constitute the vital part of the course; however, we will also inquire into everyday life of ordinary people, whose names do not remain in historical records. We will use a wide range of materials including written sources available in the English language, films, literature, and comics.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: CEAS265
Prereq: None

HIST208 War and Religion in Early America
This course examines the intersection of war and religion in early America. Beginning with the first European settlements in North America and continuing through the early republic (1790s), this course asks students to explore how the religious identities of early Americans influenced their concepts of war and violence. Students will be challenged to rethink the ways in which religious imperatives created and shaped violent conflict and investigate the varied ways in which religious women and men relied upon moral dogma to interpret war and violence. Finally, this course will also require students to reflect on how the early American experience informs our understanding of the relationship between war, violence, and religion in 21st-century America.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST210 Jews & America
This course will investigate why Jews came to America and how they and their children adapted to their new home. It will explore American Jews' relations with other groups, including the Irish Americans, African Americans and the white Anglo-Saxon Protestant elite, and Jews in other parts of the world. Finally, the course will consider Jews' quite significant impact on the American economy, politics, society, and culture. Although it will begin with the colonial era, the course will focus primarily on the 19th and especially the 20th centuries.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST211 Digital History
This course offers an introduction to the emerging field of digital history, part of the broader digital humanities (DH), the application of computing techniques and new media to humanities disciplines. DH has important implications for teaching, research, and the presentation of cultural artifacts to the scholarly and general public. Digital humanists employ a wide-ranging set of techniques, from text-and data-mining to network analysis, topic modeling, GIS, and visualizations. DH also offers opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaborations among humanists, computer scientists, media specialists, and others. As a result, this course seeks to bring together students with a variety of skills and backgrounds (e.g. history, writing, programming, web and graphic design, sound and video) who share an interest in historical communication and making things.

Through readings, conversations, and hands-on work with DH tools and historical resources, we will examine questions pertinent to historical scholarship and consider how they may be reconfigured by new media and new applications of computing power. How does DH allow us to ask new questions as historians, and what perils do digital techniques pose for the discipline of history? Together, we will cultivate our skills as practitioners of history in the digital age.

A central component of the course will be collaborative DH projects of our own devising. Much of the course will have the character of a digital history research lab as we take real problems and relevant sources to advance historical knowledge as well as our skills. This might involve projects in which we conceive, design, build, publicize, and launch a tool, website, or other contribution to
digital history. Students should be prepared to collaborate in and out of class, to teach and learn from each other, and to cope with a dynamic and flexible syllabus and group of tasks.

This course is part of Wesleyan's Digital and Computational Knowledge Initiative.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: COL370
Prereq: None

HIST212 Modern Africa
What is African Modernity? We will examine this question as we survey the major historical transformations in Africa since approximately 1800. Important themes include: African political innovations, the abolition of the slave trade and its effects, European colonialism, African adaptation and resistance, nationalism and decolonization, and Africa’s role in shaping major global events. We will also study the impacts of religious and social transformations amid rapid economic and political change. Finally, we will examine African visions for post-colonial development and how to shape the future of the continent.

During the semester we will also cover some of the issues surrounding African history as a discipline. No single course can cover more than a sliver of the complexity and variety in the continent. For this reason, we approach the study of Modern Africa as comparative history. However, students satisfactorily completing this course will be able to write knowledgeably about African history and will have the foundation necessary to undertake further study about Africa with sensitivity to the complexity of its recent past.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: AFAM212
Prereq: None

HIST214 The Modern and the Postmodern
In this course we will examine how the idea of “the modern” develops at the end of the 18th century and how being modern (or progressive, or hip) became one of the crucial criteria for understanding and evaluating cultural change during the last 200 years. Our readings will be drawn from a variety of areas--philosophy, novels, music, painting, and photography--and we will be concerned with the relations between culture and historical change. Finally, we shall try to determine what it means to be modern today and whether it makes sense to go beyond the modern to the postmodern.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-HIST
Identical With: COL214, CHUM214
Prereq: None

HIST215 European Intellectual History to the Renaissance
This class will examine some of the major texts in Western thought from ancient Greece to the Renaissance. Emphasis will be placed on close reading and analysis of the texts.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: MDST225
Prereq: None

HIST216 European Intellectual History since the Renaissance
This class will examine some of the major texts in Western thought since the Renaissance. Emphasis will be placed on close reading and analysis of the texts.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: COL332
Prereq: None

HIST216L European Intellectual History since the Renaissance - Service Learning
This class will examine some of the major texts in Western thought since the Renaissance. Emphasis will be placed on close reading and analysis of the texts.

This course is designed for Service Learning. Students in this course will read short selections about Aging, meet with a specific senior citizen to talk about the books we are reading for class (5 times in the semester), and write 2-page papers responding to those meetings. Otherwise, both History 216L and History 216 will have the same class requirements.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: COL332L
Prereq: None

HIST217 Empires, Slavery, and Revolution: Africa to 1800
In this course we will examine the dynamic political and social histories of precolonial Africa. We will study the rise of kingdoms and empires such as Mali and Kongo, as well as revolutions in society from the technological development of iron production, to the emergence of trade networks, the development of ancient cities, the spread of religious healing and reform movements such as Cwezi spirit possession, and the role of gender in early African societies. Over the course of the semester we will also consider the impact of slavery and the first African encounters with Europeans. The methods for studying the early African past are interdisciplinary. You will have the opportunity to explore how ancient Africa has been imagined in the past by Africans and early Arabic and European observers, and how contemporary scholars write these histories. As we trace a history of early Africa in the world, we will consider several methods: the study of myths and oral traditions, linguistic and archaeological data, as well as ecological and archival records.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: AFAM217
Prereq: None

HIST219 Russian and Soviet History, 1881 to the Present
Reversals of fortune have defined Russian history perhaps more so than for any other nation. Though the Russian Empire began the 19th century as an emerging European superpower that defeated Napoleon, it ended that same century as a backward state plagued by political, economic, and social strife that ultimately brought the Romanov dynasty to a revolutionary collapse. A similar trajectory describes the "short" Soviet 20th century that began with the promise of a qualitatively new political order that sought to transform social relations and human nature and concluded with a spectacular implosion that some heralded as the end of history itself.

This course will follow the story of how the Soviet Union emerged from the ruins of the Russian imperial order to become the world's first socialist society, the most serious challenge to imperialism, liberalism, and capitalism, and, arguably, modernity's greatest political experiment. We will cover the following topics: the emergence and fate of Russian national identity; the origins and dynamics
of Russia’s revolutions; the political, economic, and cultural challenges of the Soviet project; the role of the party and ideology in politics and everyday life; the nationalities question and the challenges of governing a socialist empire; Soviet victory in the Great Patriotic War and the rebirth of the nation (and nationalism); the emergence of the Soviet Union as a Cold War superpower; the country’s historic attempts to reform (and the frequent failure of these attempts); and the dynamics of the system’s collapse.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: REES219
Prereq: None

HIST220 Authority and Resistance: France Since 1870

Historians suggest it may be normal for France to be always on the verge of crisis owing to the persistence of irreconcilable conflicts and a celebration and practice of resistance. They conclude that France may be ungovernable, noting that five presidents since 1981, frustrated and resisted, have accomplished very little. This course studies France under three republics and a dictatorship, beginning with defeat in war and revolutionary upheaval in 1870-1871 and concluding with current, sustained challenges to state authority and liberal democracy. We will survey this 150-year history, emphasizing political forms, ideologies and movements, social change, the economy, and cultural developments. Particular consideration will be given to revolutionary ideas and activities, working-class organizations, socialism and communism, conservative thought and action, extreme rightist movements, the degradation of rural life, the experiences of three wars against Germany, imperialism and decolonization, key personalities, and styles of authority and resistance. Times of emergency and crisis will command attention, specifically the Paris Commune of 1871; the Dreyfus Affair of the 1890s; the Great War of 1914-1918; the Popular Front of the 1930s; the three wars against Germany, imperialism and decolonization, key personalities, and styles of authority and resistance. Times of emergency and crisis will command attention, specifically the Paris Commune of 1871; the Dreyfus Affair of the 1890s; the Great War of 1914-1918; the Popular Front of the 1930s; the military defeat of 1940; the drama of collaboration or resistance, 1940-1944; the early years of the Fifth Republic, 1958-1969; the extraordinary career of General de Gaulle; and the “yellow vests” in 2018-2019.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: RL&L220
Prereq: None

HIST221 History of Ecology

The word “ecology” has come to have many meanings and connotations: a scientific field dealing with the relation of organisms and the environment, a way of thinking about the world emphasizing holism and interconnection, a handmaiden of the environmental movement, to name a few. This course covers the history of ecology as a scientific discipline from the 18th-century natural history tradition to the development of population, ecosystem, and evolutionary ecology in the 20th century, situating the science in its cultural, political, and social contexts. Along the way, it traces the connections between ecology and economic development, political theory, ideas about society, the management of natural resources, the preservation of wilderness, and environmental politics. How have scientists, citizens, and activists made use of ecological ideas, and to what ends? How have they understood and envisioned the human place in nature? How have the landscapes and places in which ecologists have done their work shaped their ideas? Other major themes include the relationship between theories of nature and theories of society, ecology and empire, the relationship between place and knowledge about nature, the development of ecology as a professional discipline, the role of ecologists as environmental experts, the relationship between the state and the development of ecological knowledge, and the relationships among ecology, conservation, agriculture, and environmentalism.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: SISP221, ENVS211
Prereq: None

HIST222 Disease and Epidemics in Historical Perspective

Disease and epidemics have been powerful agents of historical change as well as determinants of human development before the advent of historical records. In this lecture course we will examine how diseases have changed human societies over time, with special attention given to the place of disease-causing organisms, from viruses to parasites, in the ecological networks they make home. Yet at the same time, we will keep in mind the ways in which human society and culture also have important causal roles in human disease. HIV, for example, arose because of human interactions with animals but reached pandemic proportions, in part, because of cultural, social, and political forces.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: SISP222
Prereq: None

HIST223 Traditional China: Eco-civilization and Its Discontents

This course introduces students to the history of China from ancient times to the middle of the Ming Dynasty circa 1450. This is a period when China invented and reshaped its cultural identity by moving into new frontiers and creatively incorporating foreign ideas with indigenous practices. It is also a period when the natural environment was drastically transformed by agrarian civilizations and nomadic neighbors.

The course places concepts of sustainability in the center of the history of traditional China. We will explore the relationship between power and social inequities as we explore the everyday politics of agrarian civilizations through China’s transformation from feudal ages to the imperial period. Did competing regimes/dynasties create a sustainable political and economic system? Did bureaucrats improve the well-being of the population and maintain the balance of the ecosystem? Or did they deplete natural resources to meet their short-term needs? How did Confucian, Legalist, Buddhist, and Daoist teachings alter the dynamics of production and consumption? To what extent did traditional Chinese philosophies promote the ethos of ecojustice?

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: CEAS223, ENVS223
Prereq: None

HIST224 Modern China: States, Transnations, Individuals, and Worlds

This course examines China’s turbulent transition to modernity. It covers the Ming-Qing transition, Manchu conquest of central Eurasia, China’s conflict and engagement with the West, birth of China’s first republic, and the People’s Republic of China under Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping, and his successors.

The dramatic transformation of China spanning the late 19th century to the present day is the focus of this course. The Chinese people today continue to deal with the legacy of these reforms, wars, and revolutions, as China’s leaders and people dealt with unprecedented challenges. The three central themes of this course are (1) the reconstitution of (a somewhat) unified China after decades of political upheaval, (2) China’s vulnerabilities in the face of domestic troubles and threats from abroad, and (3) the challenges of maintaining a high-growth economy with scarce resources.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
HIST225 Modern East Asia’s Maritime Borderlands
This course offers a perspective of East Asian history from the sea. Between the 17th and mid-20th centuries, port cities of Batavia, Canton, and Nagasaki, as well as the islands of Taiwan, Tsushima, and the Ryukyus, were situated at the crossroads of global trade networks and became sites of political contestation. Mariners, traders, and adventurers from different parts of the world converged on East Asia to profit from trade and military conflict. As a Chinese saying goes, “The mountain is high, and the emperor is far away.” As the land-based empires on the Eurasian continent fade into the background, we begin to see the integral role of islands and port cities in shaping the economic and political order of the modern world.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: CEAS274
Prereq: None

HIST226 Queen Mothers, Unruly Women: Histories of Gender and Sexuality in Africa
The 1929 Women’s War is a touchstone for women’s history in Africa. By ’sitting on a man’ women in Nigeria shocked colonial authorities and demanded economic rights and a public voice. These unruly women danced in protest and rioted (sometimes nude), but their actions were not uncommon sights for their African audience. African women across the continent had long wielded power as queen mothers, prophets, and traders. Others challenged the constraints of ordinary domestic life through their labor, dress, or spirit possession.

Gender and contested authority are central to everyday life and politics in Africa. In this course, we will study the history of political and domestic authority on the continent with special consideration for the ways in which gender, sexuality, and power intersect. These histories are diverse both in time and place. For this reason, this course will not present a single narrative of gender in African history. However, students who satisfactorily complete the course will be able to write knowledgeably about the major debates surrounding gender and sexuality in Africa. Major themes include: spiritual authority; domestic and sexual life; the division of labor; and the impact of colonial rule and post-colonial politics. We will examine how women (and also men) have grappled with these intricate social and political relations from the pre-colonial period into the post-colonial era.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: FGSS227
Prereq: None

HIST230 Constantinople: From Rome to Istanbul
Constantinople was founded by a Roman Emperor Constantine the Great in 330. From there the story gets complicated. Should we account for Constantinople from a Western point of view and call it Roman? Or, should we label it by its Eastern religion and call it Christian? Or, should we see Constantinople’s true nature in a transnational Hellenic culture and call it Byzantine? Then, once we have chosen a story to explain the city’s nature, how should it end? With the pillaging fourth crusade in 1204, or the Ottoman sack in 1453, or is Constantinople yet alive in modern Istanbul? This course diverges from such narrative frameworks by accounting for Constantinople as, first and foremost, a city. Together we will explore the rich, unevenly distributed, textual and material relics of this medieval metropolis and contribute our finds to a collaborative digital database. Students will draw from this database to craft their own histories, applying both imagination and analysis into a believable and reliable story conveying the diversities and paradoxes of life in The City.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Identical With: COL128, MDST128
Prereq: None

HIST231 Islamic Civilization: The Classical Age
This course surveys the historical development of Islamic civilization from the time of the Prophet Muhammad to the rise of the “gunpowder empires” of the 16th century. Special emphasis will be placed on the unique cultural forms this civilization developed and the emergence of Islam as a world religion. This course primarily deals with the political, intellectual, and social history of the Muslim peoples of the Middle East and only secondarily with Islam as a system of religious belief.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: MDST251
Prereq: None

HIST232 Turkey and the Balkans, 1453 to present
This course examines the history of the Balkans from the fall of Constantinople in 1453 to the present. It focuses on the region’s role as a crossroads of cultural exchange and as a site of political contestation. Emphasis is on the historical roots of current problems. These include the Arab-Israeli conflict, Westernization vs. Islam, U.S. involvement in the region, Turkish and Kurdish nationalisms, and the Sunni-Shia divide within Islam. Finally, the course will address the causes of the Arab Spring and discuss the ongoing turmoil, including the rise of Da’ish/Islamic State, that reform movements unleashed.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST234 The Modern Middle East
This course surveys the history, culture, and religion of the contemporary Middle East. Emphasis is on the historical roots of current problems. These include the Arab-Israeli conflict, Westernization vs. Islam, U.S. involvement in the region, Turkish and Kurdish nationalisms, and the Sunni-Shia divide within Islam. Finally, the course will address the causes of the Arab Spring and discuss the ongoing turmoil, including the rise of Da’ish/Islamic State, that reform movements unleashed.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST235 Enlightenment Concept of the Self
This course explores several Enlightenment thinkers who grappled to understand the paradoxes of the self at a time when traditional religious and metaphysical systems were disintegrating. As we explore these issues, readings will be drawn from primary texts in philosophy and literature.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
HIST237 Making New Worlds: Encounters in Early North America
From the arrival of the earliest fishing ships off the coast of Newfoundland to the fall of New France at the close of the Seven Years’ War, North America was the site of entangled encounters. Overlapping imperial claims and the construction of new societies took place on a continent long inhabited by powerful Indigenous groups. This course will examine North America as a contested and negotiated territory in which imperial plans were subjected to local contexts and contingencies. Using primary and secondary sources, we will examine major events (explorations, encounters, and wars), the rise and fall of imperial powers (French, British, Dutch, and Spanish), and the daily realities that shaped experiences in North America (trade, religion, sex, forced migrations, and disease).
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: AMST284
Prereq: None

HIST238 Liberty and Loyalism: Reconfiguring North America in the Age of Revolution, 1774-1848
At the end of the Seven Years’ War, Britain found itself in possession of a huge swath of North America peopled by French Catholics, Indigenous nations, and British American subjects. In the years that followed, British North America was torn apart by revolution (which created the United States) and rebuilt by loyalists (who challenged the government at every turn).
This course will examine the revolution that fractured North America, the entangled development of the New Republic and the loyal British colonies, and the experiences of British subjects, American citizens, French inhabitants, and Indigenous peoples, all of whom worked to shape their environment as best they could. From political leaders to slaves, wealthy merchants to poor farmers, British monarchs to Indigenous sachems, this course will explore North America as it was understood by those who lived during a period of intense social and political upheaval.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST239 The Long 19th Century
The Long 19th Century explores the history of the United States from the Early Republic to the Progressive Era (1787-1900). During that time, an array of different groups and competing interests structured the course of the United States. The period witnessed the transition of the United States from a confederation of states to a centralized nation. Revolutions in transportation, industrialization, and communication transformed the daily life of every American. The emancipation of African Americans and efforts by women to achieve gender equality challenged the conceptions of American citizenship. This course examines these ideas, shifts, and challenges to understand how the United States emerged from the 19th century into the modern world and how that emergence informs the world that we live in today.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST240 The United States Since 1901
"I am certain that history has equipped modern American liberalism with the ideas and the knowledge to construct a society where men will be both free and happy.” - Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., January 1949
This course will explore the history of the United States from 1901 until recent times. The central focus will be on politics and society, although economics, foreign relations, war, intellectual trends, ethnic and racial relations, and other topics will also be discussed. The unifying theme will be the emergence of modern liberalism during the Progressive Era and its dominance in American politics and thought by the mid-20th century. Although intellectuals hostile to the New Deal and liberalism emerged in the 1930s and 1940s, as time passed, conservative ideas and organizations acquired increasing influence, ultimately conquering the Republican Party and changing the Democratic Party as well. Thus, political divisions that emerged in the 1890s continue to this day.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST241 From Romanus Pontifex (1454) to Black Lives Matter: Race and the Formation of the Modern World
This course investigates the belief system of race from its emergence in the 15th century in the wake of European expansion into Africa and the Americas to contemporary dynamics both in the Americas and globally. Rather than viewing this phenomenon in the liberal humanist terms of race relations or more recently of diversity and multiculturalism, or as merely a function ostensibly more fundamental issues (e.g. class), this course proposes to analyze race not only as a central mechanism instituting Western societies, but also as one form of how humans have organized and reproduced their social orders.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST242 World History
Using material culture, visual sources, primary texts, and articles, this course will give students a solid understanding of World History from the River Valley Civilizations, the Classical Period, and the Post-Classic Period, to the Early-Modern Period, the Long 19th Century, and the Contemporary Period. Emphasis will be placed on the development of major cultures around the world -- and there will also be discussion of how the major cultures fail to explain much of World History.
In practical terms, students will learn how to assess a broad range of historical sources from varied places and times; how to debate these works in class discussion; how to produce concise and precise short papers; how to write longer papers based on an argument/counter-argument format; and how to work collaboratively on the group project.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None
making history have been spoken about less, but they have remained crucial parts of history's success. Today especially, it is important to understand the versions of history-making that have existed and the possibilities for students and other historians to make well-shaped, moving, decisive history. The course will examine the history of history-making, looking through its long history around the world to understand historiographical developments but also to give ourselves examples now for ways of writing history more effectively. The course will pay unusual attention to the possibilities of making history today, not only in the academy, but in fiction, in film, on television--everywhere that history is, in fact, made.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST245 Modern Latin America Since 1810
This lecture course explores some of the main themes of Latin America’s modern history from the beginning of the independence movements in the 19th century until the present day. In particular, it traces the contentious processes of state-formation and the creation of national and regional identities. Governments, elites, and popular movements fought over questions of race, economic development, and inequality in their attempts to formulate a particular vision of the nation. We will contextualize these struggles in global economic transformations and pay particular attention to the rise of the United States as a force in the region.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: LAST245
Prereq: None

HIST246 France at War, 1934–1944
Beginning with a Parisian riot widely understood to be a fascist insurrection in 1934, followed immediately by massive popular protests from the Left, France entered a decade in which it was at war with itself, often characterized as a Franco-French civil war. These were years of uncommon political engagement, disappointments, struggle, and multiple disasters. A divided France encountered the menace of another European war, concluding with its astonishing defeat in 1940 by Nazi Germany. This seminar explores the ideological antagonisms that shaped French life during the Popular Front, a broad alliance of the Left, 1934–1938, and during the German occupation, 1940–1944, when French authorities collaborated with the occupier. We will consider interpretation and memory of these dark years and draw upon documents, films, memoirs, and journalistic accounts.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: ENVS252
Prereq: None

HIST247 The Fall of Rome and Other Stories
The fifth-century fall of Rome to barbarian invaders is an event that slowly crystallized over time. This course will examine the birth and development of this “fall”—one of the most persistent stories in history—using the very texts in which it was first articulated. We will work with a range of authors—Suetonius, Eusebius of Caesarea, Ammianus Marcellinus, Augustine of Hippo, Jordanes, Procopius of Caesarea—to connect the fall of Rome with other attempts to explain catastrophe and change. The course will conclude by surveying the persistence of the fall of Rome as an idea, through the medieval, early modern, and modern periods, right into contemporary discourse.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT

Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Identical With: COL247, CCIV118
Prereq: None

HIST251 Empires in World History
Empires have dominated the political landscape across the globe for much of human history. But how did they come into being? More importantly, what strategies were used to maintain them? This course examines the history of five empires—Roman, Mongol, Ottoman, Aztec, and British—to see whether patterns emerge that might explain why a particular imperial project was successful and why it ultimately failed. In reviewing the history of each empire, we will discuss its ideology, military technology, economy, gender roles, and treatment of subject peoples to create a comparative framework in which to place empires in a global context.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: ENVS252
Prereq: None

HIST252 Industrializations: Commodities in World History
This course defines “industrialization” broadly to encompass the development and application of systematic knowledge to agriculture and manufacturing in 18th- to 21st-century societies. Although special attention will be devoted to the British and American examples, the course will be organized by commodity rather than nationality, focusing on traffic in materials used in production of food, clothing, and medicines, for example, cotton, rubber, guano, wheat, bananas, and quinine.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: ENVS252
Prereq: None

HIST253 Slavery, Race, and Indigeneity in Early America
This course examines the intersection of slavery, race and indigeneity in the early Americas, with special emphasis on this history in New England. The course will explore the lived experiences of the Indigenous and black founding population groups with the central role that their presence played in the politics and economics of imperial encounters and nation-state formation.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST254 Science in Western Culture
This course offers an introduction to the history of the sciences between the late 17th and early 20th centuries, with the aim of understanding the varied ways of knowing that have come to be called "science" and how they have attained such an important status in shaping modern Western culture. To do so, we will both investigate key intellectual developments--such as Newtonianism, theories of energy and matter, and the rise of evolutionary thought--and consider these ideas in the cultural contexts in which they developed to better understand how people have "done science" in different times and places.

Throughout, we will pay attention to the relationships between science and other knowledge systems, between scientists and nonscientists, and between science and state power by exploring the changing nature of scientific authority, the cultural status of the scientist, and the connections among science, commerce, technology, and empire.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
HIST256 Japan and the Atomic Bomb: History, Myths, and Mysteries

Even today, when discussing the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, newspaper and other media sources often refer to "Truman’s decision" to drop the bomb, the idea that these bombings conclusively brought an end to World War Two, arguments that they saved more lives than they killed, and assertions that the United States would not have dropped the bomb on Germany since its citizens were white. But what do the historical sources actually say on these and other related points? This course emphasizes the use of archival sources to address these and many other issues. It establishes the historical context for the atomic bombings of Japan by tracing events that led to the War in the first place, how civilians became the targets of mass bombings, and the scientific discoveries that made nuclear weapons possible. It also examines how after the War the American press and government strove to establish a particular perspective on the atomic bombings of Japan. By the end of this course students will have a much better idea about the historical facts, the popular myths, and remaining mysteries related to the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: SISP254
Prereq: None

HIST257 From Chocolate to Coca: Commodities and the Making of Latin America

Banan, silver, and coffee connect Latin America to consumers across the globe. From the discovery of massive silver deposits in Potosí in the 16th century to the growth of the illegal drug industry in the 20th century, these commodities have shaped how people work and eat, not only in Latin America but worldwide. Everyday goods like sugar or rubber have also given rise to political revolutions, environmental destruction, scientific discovery, and new literary and artistic movements across the region. How do commodities shape the societies that produce or consume them? What commodities are shaping today's global economy? Is it possible to extract these goods in a sustainable way?

This course combines approaches from anthropology, history of science, and environmental history to study key commodities in the history of Latin America from the colonial period until the present day. It will examine the ways in which various material goods linked local actors to broad networks of production and consumption of an increasingly interconnected global economy. The course will pay particular attention to how these relationships irrevocably changed local communities and to the ways in which historical actors contested, adapted to, or transformed production and consumption regimes.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: CEAS226, SISP257
Prereq: None

HIST260 From Archipelago to Nation State: An Introduction to Japanese History and Culture

How did a string of islands on the eastern edge of Eurasian landmass become today’s Japan, an economic and cultural superpower? Starting with prehistoric times, this course looks as how the early cultures and peoples on the Japanese archipelago coalesce to become “Japan” for the first time in the late seventh century and how those cultures and peoples adopt new identities, systems of power relations and economies up to the present. This course reveals the big picture, but to understand it, the factual pixels that constitute it are examined in some detail. Students are expected to think of the course as comprehensive in the same way as mathematics or a language course.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: CEAS260
Prereq: None

HIST261 Enlightenment and Science

For centuries it was assumed that the modern age was drawn from the scientific advances of the European Enlightenment in the 18th century. Then, in the last few decades, many scholars started to attack what has been called the Enlightenment Project with its wholesale emphasis on science and rationality. Others have found that there were also valuable nonscientific achievements in Europe during the Enlightenment. However, there is a need to bring the scientific method and the technological advances of the 18th century back into the conversation about the science of that time and then of our own time. Given that we now live in an age both bettered and dominated by science and technology, it is of paramount importance to understand the origins of modern science and technology.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST263 Inside Nazi Germany, 1933–1945

This survey course seeks to give a firm historical grounding in the processes that led to Hitler’s rise to power, the nature of the National Socialist regime, and the origins and implementation of policies of aggression and genocide. The basic premise of this course is that National Socialism was from the outset driven by a belligerent and genocidal logic. The course will therefore critically analyze the racial, eugenic, and geopolitical ideology of National Socialism and the policies of discrimination, conquest, economic exploitation, and extermination that followed from it. At the same time, the role of structural factors in explaining these outcomes will also be explored in great depth. We will analyze how German society was shaped by Nazism, considering conformity and opposition in the lives of ordinary people in both peacetime and war. The course seeks to impart an awareness of the complex of factors that produced a regime of unprecedented destructiveness and horror, and it aims to develop a critical understanding of the ongoing problems of interpretation that accompany its history. Just as importantly, we will consider the continued relevance of the legacy of National Socialism and the Holocaust to our evaluation of national and international affairs in the 21st century.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
HIST264 Waterways: Maritime World History
Human history has been shaped by the sea. Whether as a source of food, a frontier, a boundary, or a bridge, the sea has represented a site of both opportunity and danger. This course will examine the way humans have responded to their marine and maritime environments, both in terms of the technologies they have developed to navigate and exploit them but also insofar as the sea has shaped the way humans think about themselves. While our inquiry will extend into the deep past and the early development of human culture and civilization, we will focus on maritime history over the past millennium, the development of oceanic worlds, the rise of the "age of sail" between the 16th and 19th centuries, and the transformation of global navigation and politics with the rise of steam, diesel, and nuclear power.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Identical With: ENV5264
Prereq: None

HIST266 American Labor History from 1776 to Recent Times
"By the sweat of thy brow shalt thou eat bread," the Lord enjoined in Genesis.

But who did the hard work in the United States? How did they live? How were they organized? To what ends? Why has their power declined in recent times? These questions are explored in this course, which will reach back to the 18th century but highlight the 20th century.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: FGSS265, AMST265
Prereq: None

HIST267 Development in Question: Conservation in Africa
"Why not plant trees?" In 1977 Wangari Maathai started the Green Belt Movement, a popular environmental revolution, in Kenya. Then in the 1990s Nigeria Ken Saro-Wiwa fought for the rights of local communities against the multi-national oil industry. Like many African activists, scientists, and farmers, they placed African experiences at the center of environmental policy and conservation. Yet, popular images of the continent's environment in perpetual crisis blame African practices or disregard African efforts. Such depictions of "desertification" or "over grazing" have impacted international and governmental policy. Recent scholarship suggests that such common perceptions of the environment in Africa and conservation policy are misleading. This course will allow students to critically study the history of environmental management on the continent and the development of the idea of conservation. We will examine game park politics, the history of resource extraction, climate change, and other pressing environmental concerns. We will also study diverse African environmental perspectives from the guardians of sacred forests to activists such as Wangari Maathai and Ken Saro-Wiwa.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: ENV5267
Prereq: None

HIST268 The Origins of Global Capitalism: Economic History, 1400–1800
This course explores how the modern market economy came into being in Europe and why this system expanded outward to bring the rest of the world into its orbit by 1800. Among other things, it seeks to provide answers for why China's economy—perhaps the most sophisticated in the world before 1500—fell into relative stagnation and why Europe was the first region to develop mechanized industry and break out of a poverty trap that had restricted prosperity for millennia. The course begins by exploring late medieval European agriculture, market systems, institutions, and technology to reveal how the paths of economic development taken in Europe began to diverge fundamentally from those taken by societies in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. It will explore the role of the spice trade in the expansion of European influence abroad, the significance of new food and cash crops in the development of plantation systems and long-haul trade, the impact of organized coercion in the development of monopolies and monopoly companies, and the role of proto-industrial methods of production and colonial economies in the birth of the Industrial Revolution. The course aims to be accessible, broad, and comparative, drawing insights from many fields to consider the environmental, geographical, cultural, institutional, and political factors shaping the economic changes that have created modern capitalism.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None
The transformation of Europe’s overwhelmingly rural and agricultural economy into a predominantly urban and industrial one, looking closely at entrepreneurs, technology, and changing trading patterns during various phases of this process. The focus will be on Britain, Germany, the United States, and Japan, considering not only industrial development but also its broader implications, including colonial empire, great power rivalry, protectionism, economic depressions, and warfare, to highlight the complex relationship between economic and political power. The course will also analyze how industrial capitalism survived the disasters of the 20th century to drive a process of regional and global economic integration in the late 20th century. It will conclude by considering the opportunities and challenges posed to the mature industrial economies by the newly emerging industrial powers China and India.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST274 Public History
This course introduces students to the theory and practice of history in the public realm—in the museums, archives, historic sites, parks, landscapes, and other places we encounter the past. Through readings, discussions, and hands-on work, we will consider the challenges and opportunities of doing history beyond the classroom and develop our skills in historical interpretation directed at broad audiences. We will ask such questions as: How do we tell stories with objects, text, and images? Whose history are we interpreting? How do we connect with the past in our daily lives? What role can historians play in public discourse? The central assignment of the course will involve developing a local public history project.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST275 Empires on Fire: Revolutions in the Atlantic World
This class will explore what historians have called the "Age of Revolutions." The ideas, ideologies, and actions that set empires aflame during the long 18th century formed an entangled revolutionary experience that spread from one part of the Atlantic world to the next. From England’s “Glorious Revolution” in 1688 to the American, French, and Haitian revolutions at the end of the 18th century, and then on to the South American and Canadian uprisings in the early 19th century, this course will examine revolutions not as discrete events but as interrelated processes. By studying the perspectives of leading politicians, regular subjects and citizens, and marginalized groups, students will investigate the wide variety of revolutionary experiences.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST279 The Making of Modern Japan, 1500 to Present
In a global context, Japan emerged as a major player on the world stage after 1500. While in the midst of what later was called the Warring States Period (sometimes dated 1468–1600), Japanese traders and others maintained a broad network of commerce that included not only Korea and China but spread to Southeast Asia. Europeans first reached Japan in 1543, and it was soon obvious that no European state had the military might to colonize Japan. These are the roots from which a modern Japan appeared that in the 19th and early 20th centuries militarized and set upon an imperial project until defeated at war in 1945. Since then, Japan has emerged as a postmodern, highly technological, pop culture-oriented, and aging country. One theme that will be examined across the semester is environmental change over the long term.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST280 The Industrial Revolution in Global Context: Economic History Since 1800
With the development of mechanized industry in the late 18th century, a productivity revolution was unleashed that would soon spread from Britain to continental Europe, North America, and Japan. By the early 21st century, three successive industrial revolutions had profoundly transformed these societies as well as the rapidly developing economies of East and South Asia. This course analyzes the historical forces driving this process. It begins by studying the transformation of Europe’s overwhelmingly rural and agricultural economy into
HIST285 Modern South Asia
This course examines the history of South Asia with a focus on India and Pakistan since the 1940s. The approach will combine a chronological survey (Part One) with investigations of key themes, including war and foreign policy, separatism and armed rebellion, democracy and development, gender and sexuality, religion and politics, caste and class, and urbanization (Part Two).
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: SISP285, PHIL154
Prereq: None

HIST286 Photography and Law: Mugshots, Privacy and Publicity, Obscenity, Copyright, and Evidence
This seminar is designed as an introduction to the major developments in the legal history of photography in transatlantic (US-UK especially) society from the first law cases involving photography in 1840 through to contemporary legal debates about such topics as cameras in the courtroom, sexting, surveillance, photographing police, dash cam and body cam videos, admissibility of photographs as evidence, obscenity and moral boundaries of subject matter, and copyright. A range of secondary historical and theoretical writings will anchor the discussions, but the course will focus primarily on student analysis and interpretation of primary and archival sources (texts of legal cases, law reviews and dissertation, news articles, and documentary and video footage). Students will gain knowledge of how legal history has shaped the history of photography, and new perspectives on the historical origins of contemporary issues in photography and digital imaging. This course should be of interest especially to history majors and non-majors who are interested in law, photography, and culture and will also contribute to the "Visual and Material Studies" module in History.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: ARHA264
Prereq: None

HIST287 Science in Modernity and After: 20th-Century Science and Technology
The 20th century was a time of dramatic achievements in science, from nuclear physics to space exploration to gene sequencing. It also saw the emergence of many of the technologies that underpin our world today: atomic weapons, electronic digital computers, synthetic fertilizers, and high-yield crop varieties, to name a few examples. This course surveys these developments, focusing not only on the histories of specific ideas and techniques, but more broadly exploring the complex relationship between science and technology; the relationship between science, the military, and state power; the changing cultural and political influence of scientists and engineers; the institutions and places where science and innovation gets done; the globalization of science and technology; and the emergence of critiques of science and technology.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOV T
Identical With: SISP287
Prereq: None

HIST288 Delhi: The Past in the Present
This seminar examines the history of Delhi, one of the largest and oldest cities on the planet. Our focus will be on the ways the layers of Delhi’s past protrude into and inform Delhi’s present. We will combine a chronological and thematic approach, paying particular attention to material culture, memory, public history, and the environment.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST291 Gender and History: Women Working, the U.S., and Global Capitalism Since 1900 (FGSS Gateway)
This seminar will introduce first- and second-year students to the history of gender, sexuality, and women’s paid work in the context of the U.S. and global capitalism since 1900. In this perspective, "U.S." does not denote only the bordered United States, but also a political, economic, and cultural hub for currents of transnational capital and labor. While women have always worked, ideas about “woman’s work” shift across race, class, region, and time. Feminist historians have studied gender roles, work, and labor activism, yet recent histories of capitalism too often ignore women’s history, gender analysis, and sexualities. Readings will include histories of women in various parts of the world, where they often labored for U.S. enterprises. We will discuss influential theories in the field of gender and sexuality studies and how they apply to the writing of such history. All students interested in gender as a category of historical analysis for their scholarly work in any field, as well as prospective history and feminist, gender, and sexuality studies majors, will benefit from this course.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST293 The U.S. Civil War, 1861–1865
This course surveys United States history from the early national period to the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era at the end of the 19th century. Central themes to be addressed will include the struggle over the meanings of democracy and constitutionalism, the transformations resulting from industrialization, as well as continental expansion and expropriation of Indigenous lands. We will also examine the series of reform crusades dedicated to religion, abolition and the changing roles of women. Particular attention will be paid to the formation and consolidation of the United States as both a nation state and as an emergent global imperial power.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST294 Political Fiction
Attitudes toward politics, economics, society, and history will be examined from works of fiction that directly criticize an existing society or that present an alternative, sometimes fantastic, reality.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST296 Colonial Latin America
This course studies the history of Latin America and the Caribbean from pre-conquest times to the emergence of independence movements in the
early 19th century. Lectures will explore the key environmental, cultural, economic, political, and religious transformations that shaped colonial societies throughout the region. Beginning with the formation of indigenous and Iberian polities before 1492, we will consider how early modern colonial governance functioned and evolved throughout the period of Spanish and Portuguese rule in the Americas. Through an array of primary and secondary sources we will reconstruct the lived experiences of a diversity of actors across the colonial world. We will pay particular attention to the methods and approaches that scholars have used to understand the history of the region.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: LAST296
Prereq: None

HIST297 Mexican History and Visual Culture from Conquest to the Present
This course offers an introduction to Mexico’s history from the conquest of indigenous empires to the present, paying special attention to how images and visual culture—from the Virgin of Guadalupe to patriotic parades to lucha libre—naturally reflected, but also shaped, Mexican society and its political development. Through this lens, we explore the construction and unraveling of the colonial system, the emergence of the nation, the upheaval of the first major social revolution of the 20th century and its aftermath, and contemporary events. In addition to providing an introduction to major historical phenomena and debates, this course also familiarizes students with methods for using visual materials to understand and interpret the past.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: LAST257
Prereq: None

HIST298 Oh Canada: Creating the Northern Neighbour, 1776–1896
This course will help answer a pressing question: Why does Canada exist? Students will explore the complicated relationships that shaped America’s northern neighbor. With its deep Indigenous heritage, long history of British-French rivalries, and constant influence from the United States, Canada was (and is) a unique democratic experience defined in no small part by its inability to define itself. From the outbreak of the American Revolution until the end of the 19th century, the polyglot inhabitants of loyal British colonies north of the United States constructed a multi-faceted identity that remains the topic of great debate to this day. Students will examine the political, cultural, and social histories that transformed British colonies into the Dominion of Canada founded on what was and still is Indigenous territory.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: LAST257
Prereq: None

HIST301 The Spanish Civil War, 1936–1939
The Spanish Civil War erupted during a decade in Europe marked by ideological tensions, economic and social crises, the weakness of democracies contrasted to the dynamism of dictatorial regimes, and an international climate that culminated in the outbreak of World War II. The ideological character of the civil war in Spain, which appeared to pit left vs. right, or democracy vs. fascism, or nation and religious faith vs. communism and revolution, captured the imagination of Europeans and spurred their involvement in the war. All of Europe’s dangers seemed to have exploded in Spain, whatever the specifically Spanish factors that unleashed and defined the struggle. This seminar will examine the events in Spain and Europe’s response to them through contemporary writings, such as journalistic and participants’ accounts, diplomatic documents, memoirs, films, biographies, and general and specific studies from the 1930s to the present.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST302 Reproductive Politics and the Family in Africa
This course will introduce students to broad discourses and issues related to reproduction and the family in modern Africa. We will study maternal health and technologies of reproduction, but for us reproduction will be an object of historical inquiry. One of the driving questions for this course will be how reproduction has been given meaning socially. How have African societies understood abortion, infanticide, or other medical means of controlling fertility and childbirth? What has been the relationship between the family and the state? We will also examine ideas about sexuality and love, changing notions of parenthood, and what constitutes an ideal family. Finally, we will interrogate how these ideas influenced political practices and ideologies and, in turn, changed conceptions of motherhood, fatherhood, and the family.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: FGSS303
Prereq: None

HIST303 Medievals on the Move: Pilgrimage, Jihad, Crusade, and Apocalypse
Medieval people moved: They traded and sent emissaries; they invaded and migrated; they wandered, begged, and ascended the heavens; they went on crusade, jihad, and pilgrimage. This course will first analyze the most consistently preserved sources on medieval movement: accounts of pious travel "for God’s sake and not for pleasure." We will then contextualize such accounts with two other types of movement: the physical journeys of traders, diplomats, and warriors, as well as the interiorized journeys of the prophet, the mystic, and the storyteller. By encompassing this variety we will be able to pursue a larger question: Can patterns of exchange across the physical and cultural barriers of geography, language, religion, and governance reveal a more global medieval world than we usually envision?

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Identical With: COL308, MDST308
Prereq: None

HIST307 The Economy of Nature and Nations
On many of the key environmental problems of the 21st century, from climate change to biodiversity conservation, the perspectives of ecology and economics often seem poles apart. Ecology is typically associated with a skeptical stance toward economic growth and human intervention in the environment, while economics focuses on understanding (and often, celebrating) human activities of production, consumption, and growth. At the same time, ecology and economics share a common etymology: both words spring from the Greek oikos, or household. They also share much common history. This course thus explores the parallel histories of economics and ecology from the 18th century to the present, focusing on changing conceptions of the oikos over this period, from cameralism's vision of the household as a princely estate or kingdom, continuing through the emergence of ideas about national or imperial economic development, and culminating in the dominant 20th-century recasting of economics as being centrally concerned with problems of resource allocation. Simultaneously, the course explores connections between changes in economics and the emergence of ecological science over this period, from Enlightenment
natural history and early musings on the “economy of nature,” to the design of markets for carbon credits today.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: SISP307, ENVS307
Prereq: None

HIST310 Moving Through the Revolutionary Age: British Colonies and Early America, 1774–1815
Thomas Jefferson argued in his 1805 inaugural address that boundaries were less important than principles. Regardless of where they lived, Americans were Americans. British colonists were equally mobile and equally sure that their British liberties followed them wherever they went, which in no small part led to the Revolution. In the period during and after the American Revolution, with the creation of states and colonies in northern North America, people and ideas moved with regularity from one region to the next, thus testing Jefferson’s ideals and extant imperial bonds. This course will examine the movement of peoples and ideas within and across these new boundaries to explore the idea of mobility as a revolutionary, Native, and loyalist ideal. American settlers wanted to push west, and some later moved north; Natives desired to maintain their migratory patterns and traditional lands; and British Loyalists moved to remain members of—and demand changes within—the British Empire, while also relocating to American states when necessary. The borders that divided colonies and separated states were challenged and ignored as soon as they were created. By exploring the political ideals, territorial claims, and movement of people during and after the American Revolution, students will be encouraged to study the Revolution not as an American event, but rather as a North American process shaped by those who moved through it.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-CHUM
Identical With: CHUM276
Prereq: None

HIST311 Ethnicity and Religion in the Middle East and the Balkans
Starting with Benedict Anderson’s “Imagined Communities,” this course examines the transition from religious to ethnic identities in the lands of the former Ottoman Empire. To what degree do religious identities continue to shape ethnic ones? What is the role of political elites in transforming identities in the region and how do they seek to create mass movements based on the social memories of their communities? This course will examine both official historiography and folk memory of the past in an effort to understand continuing ethnic and religious tensions in the Balkans and Middle East.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST313 Schemers and Redeemers: Capitalism and Religion in Early America
This course examines the intersection of two of the most significant themes in American history: capitalism and religion. Beginning with the first European settlements in North America and continuing through the early republic, this course asks students to explore how early Americans used their religious identities to negotiate and shape market activity and institutions. Students will be challenged to rethink the ways in which economic imperatives drive economic decisions and investigate the varied ways in which religious women and men resolved tensions between moral dogma and market imperatives. Finally, this course will also require students to reflect on how the early American experience informs our understanding of the relationship between capitalism and religion in 21st-century America.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST314 Environmentalism in a Global Age
Over the second half of the 20th century, popular movements in the United States and around the world achieved landmark protections for the environment. Yet in that same period, accelerating globalization and the emergence of transnational environmental issues like acid rain threatened to undercut the effectiveness of national laws and regulations. This seminar investigates how environmental activists have responded to a range of challenges in the global age, from economic development and species conservation to population growth and Malthusian family planning campaigns. As those two examples suggest, environmentalists have engaged with key developments in the modern world, in sometimes troubling ways. Although the subject matter is historical, this course will also focus on what the history of global environmentalism can contribute to contemporary advocacy, not least with regards to climate change.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: ENVS314
Prereq: None

HIST315 Global Histories: Problems in Scale, Scope, Depth, and Time
How big is too big? How far back in time can historians go? How best to understand the relationship between science and history? What counts as evidence? What accounts for the rise (or return, some would argue) of macro-history? What does it portend for the future of microhistory? This advanced seminar will examine the history and historiographical implications of macro-historical frameworks, including comparative history, world history, global history, deep history, and big history.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: CHUM341
Prereq: None

HIST317 The Great Game
The “Great Game” originally referred to the power struggle for “mastery” of Asia during the 19th century, mainly between the British and Russian Empires. Nowhere were the effects of this rivalry more pronounced than in Pakistan and Afghanistan. More recently the term has been applied to grand strategy, global geopolitics, and espionage, more broadly, in scenarios as wide-ranging as Cold War “containment,” the global “War on Terror,” the current U.S. “pivot” to Asia, and China’s “One Belt One Road” policy. This seminar will examine the history of the Great Game and its wider geopolitical reverberations. We will also examine an array of Great-Game manifestations in popular culture. Readings will combine historical narrative and analysis with film, literature, art, and (yes) gaming.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST318 The Politics of Death: The Living, the Dead, and the State
This course will explore the intersections between the living, the dead, and the state, focusing on the ways that death and the dead body raise particular questions and problems for different kinds of political regimes. The course will examine the collisions between the state and the dead, both symbolic and
HIST319 Crisis, Creativity, and Modernity in the Weimar Republic, 1918–1933
Born in defeat and national bankruptcy; beset by disastrous inflation, unemployment, and frequent changes of government; and nearly toppled by coup attempts, the Weimar Republic (1918–1933) produced some of the most influential and enduring examples of modernism. Whether in music, theater, film, painting, photography, design, or architecture, the Weimar years marked an extraordinary explosion of artistic creativity. New approaches were likewise taken in the humanities, social sciences, psychology, medicine, science, and technology, and new ideas about sexuality, the body, and the role of women were introduced. Nevertheless, Weimar modernism was controversial and generated a backlash that caused forces on the political right to mobilize to ultimately bring down the republic. This advanced seminar explores these developments and seeks to understand them within their political, social, and economic contexts to allow for a deeper understanding of Weimar culture and its place within the longer-term historical trajectory of Germany and Europe. This perspective allows for an appreciation of the important links between Weimar modernism and Imperial Germany, as well as an awareness of some of the important continuities between the Weimar and Nazi years.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CHUM
Prereq: None

HIST321 Media and Power in Latin America: From Quipus to Twitter
This interdisciplinary seminar explores how media technologies have shaped Latin American societies and politics from the colonial encounter to the dawn of the digital age. Investigating the local histories of indigenous forms such as the Andean knotted quipu and scribal texts, along with newspapers, radio, photography and social media, we examine how Latin Americans made and used these technologies to assert power, claim status, and launch protests. Through brief theoretical readings and historical case studies, we explore such themes as the relationship between colonialism and the written word, the enduring legacy of alternative indigenous literacies, the importance of rumor and oral communication in societies with low literacy rates, and the role of mass media in identity formation and contemporary social movements.

Structured in part as a lab, the class will be organized around producing a physical and digital exhibition of Latin American media materials available in Wesleyan’s collections, to be displayed for the broader university community and beyond. We will produce this exhibition over the course of the semester, integrating individual research projects into our broader collective project that will be conducted as a collaborative/team effort. Along the way we will experiment with hands-on activities that might include making quill pens, setting type, and operating a printing press, take field trips to examine rare media materials first hand, and learn from on-campus experts as we develop our public exhibition.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST

HIST322 Exploration, Conquest, and Insurrection: The History of the Amazon 1542 to Present
Dark, wild, primitive, Edenic and infinitely wealthy: the Amazon has been many things in many times and places. From the disgruntled Spanish conquistadors who first traversed the jungle’s rivers in search of cinnamon, to the 19th-century scientific expeditions of enlightened explorers, to contemporary environmentalists, the Amazon remains a mysterious object of inquiry. It still incites the imagination of travelers, filmmakers, and politicians alike.

This seminar investigates the multiple ways in which the Amazon and its peoples have been portrayed in chronicles, scientific writings, and film. We will confront the historical circumstances, motives and ideologies that prompted each of these depictions and how, in turn, they shaped the colonization of the region. We will pay close attention to genre, and to themes such as cross-cultural encounter, imperialism, and the representation of indigenous societies. We begin in 1542 with the chronicle of Francisco de Orellana. As the first Spaniard to navigate the entire length of the Amazon River, Orellana influenced how Europeans imagined the jungle well into the 19th century. Subsequently, we apply readings in history of science and anthropological theory to Claude Lévi-Strauss account of Amazonian tribes in Tristes Tropiques (1955). Students will then conduct independent research into a representation of their interest. Possible topics include scientific expeditions in the region, the jungle and modernization, global warming, or human rights. Finally, we will reflect on the Amazon as a metaphor for the human condition with Werner Herzog’s film Fitzcarraldo (1982).

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: LAST322
Prereq: None

HIST323 Religion and History
This course will examine some ways that scholars have understood the role of religion in history. Readings will reflect a wide variety of theoretical, theological, and disciplinary perspectives.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: RELI298
Prereq: None

HIST324 Homelands and First Nations: Native Worlds in North America
This class will investigate the story of Natives discovering Europeans. It is a difficult story to tell, because few indigenous inhabitants left written records describing what it was like when ships arrived on the shores and the men and women disembarked, established settlements, and began the process of expanding across the continent. Some encounters were peaceful, while others were violent. Every encounter, however, can be understood by studying Native societies and their worldviews. Far from static and unchanging groups, indigenous nations were constantly adapting to their physical and spiritual world. This class will use primary and secondary sources to explore North America from the Native perspective, including the rise and fall of great societies before the arrival of Europeans, strategies of contact and exchange after 1500, and the quest to maintain authority and independence during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None
HIST327 Emperor, Caliph, King: Comparing the Byzantines, Abbasids, and Carolingians
This seminar investigates a unique "age of empires" in the wider Mediterranean world—the ninth century—during which imperializing political revolutions inspired intense cultural production among the Byzantines in Constantinople, the Abbasids in Baghdad, and the Carolingians across Europe. Using the cultural artifacts surviving from these "renaissances," we will investigate how political cultures accounted for their own contested identities through myths of rebirth and return, specifically of Greek, Roman, and Persian imperial traditions. The course uses a workshop environment that relies on both collaboration and independent research; students will apply skills of analysis, creative thinking, and persuasive communication to presentations and a (in-translation) source-based research project.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Identical With: COL347, CHUM315
Prereq: None

HIST328 History as Tragedy: Genre, Gender, and Power in the Alexiad of Anna Komnena
Why did it take until the 11th century for a woman to write a work in the genre of history? What did it take for Anna Komnena—a renowned student of ancient literature, mathematics, astronomy, and philosophy, and a princess of the East Roman (Byzantine) Empire—to finally break into this most gendered of genres? And, how has Anna Komnena’s accomplishment been received? This course will spend an entire semester delving into this deeply literary history, and its influence from the Middle Ages to the present. Students will engage with "The Alexiad" through close intertextual readings, critical scholarship in history, relevant work in theory, and digital research methods.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Identical With: COL350, MDST350
Prereq: None

HIST330 American Utopias in the 19th Century
This seminar will examine expressions, both religious and secular, of the utopian impulse in 19th-century American culture. Communitarian experiments launched by Shakers, transcendentalists, perfectionists, and feminists will be studied as manifestations of social and religious turmoil and will be compared with their literary analogues. Utopianism as a philosophical, literary, and literal approach to solving social problems and constructing a more perfect nation-state has been a persistent and recurrent feature in American history. This seminar explores precursors in the long 19th century to more recent utopian theory and experimentation.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: AMST330, RELI330
Prereq: None

HIST332 Appeasement and the Origins of the Second World War
In this study of Europe’s crisis, 1933–1939, from Hitler’s appointment as chancellor of Germany to the outbreak of the Second World War, attention will focus upon the reassertion of German power and its effects upon the diplomacy and politics of Great Britain and France. Specific topics will include Hitler’s aims and actions; critical events concerning the Rhineland, Spain, Czechoslovakia, and Poland; pacifism and the French Left; Neville Chamberlain and British conservatism; and the debate over the immediate origins of the war in 1939.

Readings will include memoirs and contemporary diplomatic documents, newspapers, and journals.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST334 Social History of Islam in Africa
The history of Islam in Africa spans 14 centuries, and Islam continues to play a central role in shaping contemporary African societies. In this course, we will examine the long social history of Islam on the continent. Islamic expression in Africa is diverse. We will explore the dynamic ways in which Islam has influenced local cultures and politics as well as the various ways in which individual Africans and African communities have made Islam their own. Topics of discussion include early trade and state formation; Islamic education, literacy, and conversion; the role of women in Muslim societies; Islamic cultural productions; Muslim responses to colonialism; and the contemporary development of political Islam. We will end the course by reflecting on the responses of Africans to contemporary changes in the wider Muslim world.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST335 Nature, Science, and Empire in Early Latin America
This seminar will introduce students to a diversity of scientific practices that flourished in the Hispanic World between 1400 and 1800. We will begin by analyzing how a debate known as the "polemic of Spanish Science," together with the Black Legend conditioned the ways in which colonial Latin American science was traditionally approached. From available studies we will then survey some of the significant contributions to botany, astronomy, medicine, and metallurgy of Mesoamerican and Andean civilizations. From there we will read an array of primary and secondary sources in order to reconstruct the varied, and often eclectic knowledge gathering and knowledge making practices that missionaries, humanists, and crown-officials devised to understand the natural world. We will pay close attention to their particular goals and methods and the manner in which they were influenced by the encounter with foreign peoples, the dynamics of conquest and colonization, the movement of books and commodities, and institutions of censorship and patronage.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: LAST335
Prereq: None

HIST336 Mystical Traditions in Islam
Muslim scholars today often condemn the mystical traditions of Sufism as being un-Islamic. But for almost 1,000 years, mysticism provided an alternative voice to Muslim believers. This course will explore the origins and development of Sufism and its extraordinary impact on the cultural life of Muslims over the past millennium.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST338 History and Theory
This seminar will explore the contemporary theory and philosophy of history, giving special attention to the publications of "History and Theory," the academic journal owned and edited by Wesleyan University faculty for the past 50 years.
We might discuss such topics as the nature of historical truth; history as a science, with laws, and as an art, with style; the nature of historical time; gender history; agency and causation; history of the emotions; and history's moral imperatives; as well as the ramifications of the postmodern turn. We will give special attention to recent arguments about the theory of history and the nature of the past.

Key figures are likely to include Walter Benjamin, R. G. Collingwood, Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault, Hayden White, Frank Ankersmit, Barbara Rosenwein, Joan Scott, and Dominick LaCapra.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST341 Body Histories in Africa

African bodies have long generated intrigue and misunderstanding. Outside observers, such as missionaries, travelers, colonial administrators, and anthropologists, have documented practices such as scarification and spirit possession as they simultaneously rendered their African practitioners "other." All too often the body as an instrument for creative expression, ritual healing, or social action was lost in translation. More recently Western feminists have focused their attentions on female circumcision. The persistence of circumcision (for both girls and boys) and other bodily practices speaks to their enduring social value and symbolic meaning. What can we learn from these and other body histories in Africa? In this course we will examine embodied rituals such as spirit possession, which marks the body as a site for human engagement with the supernatural. The widespread practice is also a gendered technique of healing documenting shifting understandings of health and illness. In addition, we will study the practice of "sitting on a man" by which women addressed the body politic through dance and collective nudity. The revealed body in motion we will study the practice of "sitting on a man" by which women addressed the body politic through dance and collective nudity. The revealed body in motion will serve to examine the African past through histories of aesthetics, value, labor, hierarchy, and knowledge production.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CHUM
Identical With: CHUM353, SISP352
Prereq: None

HIST342 The Rise of the Conservative Movement in the United States Since 1945

"So inevitable, yet so unexpected," Alexis de Tocqueville declared, referring to the French Revolution of 1789. The same is true of the conservative movement that developed in the United States during the second half of the 20th century. What is the nature of modern American conservatism? How and why did it emerge? What are its social bases? How has conservatism evolved in America since the 1930s? What sort of varieties and conflicts exist within the movement? How did mid- and late-20th-century American conservatives compare to earlier sorts of conservatism in America in the early Republic, the antebellum South, modern American liberalism, and political conservative parties in Europe and Britain? What is the historical significance of the movement?

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST

HIST343 Media Revolutions: Color Television and the Humanities in the 1960s and 1970s

This course visits some of the groundbreaking TV series that presented humanities and sciences to global mass audiences in the 1960s and 1970s. Television emerged as a powerful cultural presence and with remarkable speed. From the late 1960s, the British Broadcasting Company, in partnership with PBS in America, created a series of television programs (partly to widen the audience market for new color television programming). This course focuses on the role of television as a still new, and potentially disruptive, medium. We will look at and discuss a range of British TV series from Kenneth Clark's "Civilisation" and "Monty Python's Flying Circus" (both 1969) to Jacob Bronowski's "The Ascent of Man" (1973) and Alistair Cooke's "America" (1972), John Kenneth Galbraith's "The Age of Uncertainty" (1977), and David Attenborough's "Life on Earth" (first aired in 1979). We will read and discuss works of art and media criticism around this time that laid the groundwork for major conceptual and theoretical remappings of the fields of cultural and visual studies. We also will explore the impact of television on art worlds and museums, looking at how 1960s' color television documentaries influenced the way that humanities are presented televisually up to today. This course satisfies requirements for the "Visual and Material Culture" module in history and major requirements for the Science in Society Program.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CHUM
Identical With: CHUM353, SISP352
Prereq: None

HIST348 Urban Histories of Latin America

Cities have occupied Latin American writers, artists, and scholars since the early decades of the sixteenth century. Mapped on to preexisting settlements of indigenous importance, colonial cities became the center of Iberian administration in the New World. They imparted justice, granted citizenship rights, set the standard of civility and religious orthodoxy, and held the promise of economic improvement. The preeminence of cities in Latin America continued into the modern period. Mexico, Buenos Aires, and Rio de Janeiro became opulent and unequal metropolitan centers in the nineteenth century. Unconstrained growth brought about the megalopolises of our current day.

This seminar will explore Latin America's major urban centers in significant moments from the pre-Republican period until the present day. Through chronicles, travel narratives, photography, legal writings, newspaper archives, maps, and film we will reconstruct the many dimensions of urban culture in the region. The course will be organized thematically and geographically. We will begin by studying the ways in which Latin American writers have understood the role of the city, and its dwellers, in shaping the trajectory of their various nations. We will pay particular attention to themes like the city and modernity, the everyday experiences of urban residents, racial, gender, and social inequality, the city as a site of historical memory and violent contestation, the environmental challenges of urban growth, and the rise and fall of counter-cultural and protest movements.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: LAST348
Prereq: None

HIST349 Comparing Revolutions: The United States and Early Canada, 1774–1815

The American Revolution didn't just create the United States. Loyalists fled to British colonies in what would become Canada, while Native nations reasserted
their sovereignty over ancestral homelands. British, French, American, and Indigenous peoples in North America expanded (or moved) west, established new communities, and struggled to retain (or create) new identities.

Students in this seminar will read widely in the literature of the revolutionary era as it pertains to American, Canadian, and Native groups and will undertake specifically comparative research as part of Professor Lennox’s larger book project. What did Benjamin Franklin think of Montreal? Where did Iroquoia go after 1783? How did the creation of states such as Vermont compare to the division of Quebec the same year? What impact did David Thompson’s exploration for the Hudson’s Bay Company have on Lewis and Clark? By combining close reading of the most recent literature with in-depth exploration of primary sources, this seminar will encourage students to consider the Revolution as a continental rather than national event.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-CHUM
Identical With: CHUM318
Prereq: None

HIST352 The Communist Experience in the Soviet Union (CLAC)
Like the parent course, HIST353: The Communist Experience in the 20th Century, this CLAC course will engage with the problem of experience through a series of themes: subjectivity; engaging in the political process of building socialism; aesthetics; travel and tourism; East and West; race and ethnicity; production and consumption; time and space; political engagement and disengagement; science and technology; and emotions. We will work with sources from oral histories, diaries, film, television, and the press. The final project would involve a close reading and paper on a theme covered in class using both primary and preapproved secondary sources in Russian. The student language background appropriate for this class is (preferably advanced) intermediate to native.

Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: CGST352, REES352
Prereq: None

HIST353 The Communist Experience in the 20th Century
Two decades have passed since the collapse of Communism, its empire, and its utopian vision of the kingdom of heaven on Earth. Indeed, the Communist collapse was heralded as not just the end of the Cold War but the end of history itself. Yet how do we understand the nature of the communist way of life, the causes of its decline, and the meaning of its demise? This course will trace the development of Communism’s answer to capitalist modernity from the 1917 Revolution through the Soviet collapse. It will seek to shed light on the birth, life, and death of Communist modernity through history, literature, and art, by exploring the world socialism created as an ideological model and a way of life. The emphasis of the course will be on the lived experience of Communism, primarily within the Soviet Union, but also beyond it (in Eastern Europe and Asia). In the global conflict between capitalism and Communism, how did people understand the competing demands of ideology and reality, individual and society, private and public, production and consumption, labor and leisure? How did the state manage the contradictions that arose when lofty ideologies encountered everyday life, and how did citizens make sense of these ideological transformations? What killed Communism: bombs and diplomacy, or refrigerators and Finnish shoes?

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: REES353
Prereq: None

HIST355 The 1918 Influenza Pandemic: A Research Seminar
This fall is the centennial of the 1918 influenza pandemic, which swept around the globe that year and caused an estimated 40 million deaths worldwide. It caused more deaths in the 20th century than any other event except World War II. In this seminar we will examine this pandemic from multiple perspectives with the goal of defining how understanding it changed from the time it occurred to the present. In class, we will examine contemporary journalistic and scientific accounts and various secondary sources, with the goal of establishing a starting point for student research projects that will be completed over the second half of the semester. We will explore sources in Olin Special Collections, various digital archives, Middletown and Connecticut State archives, and other collections as available. Possible outcomes for the class can be a paper, documentary, exhibition, or web resource.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: SISP355
Prereq: None

HIST356 Between Worlds: Change and Continuity in Early Latin America
The conquest and colonization of the Americas challenged long-held assumptions about geography, time, history, nature, theology, and humanity for both indigenous societies and Europeans. Modern scholars have described the encounter either as an earth-shattering moment of revolutionary intellectual reverberations or, alternatively, as one of limited and slower impact.

This course examines the ways in which diverse actors in the Iberian colonial world confronted change and continuity in their societies. In particular, it seeks to understand how they approached the conquest and its environmental, political, religious, legal, and social repercussions. Through the study of chronicles, graphic materials, poetry, omen grammars, and maps, we will look at how missionaries, indigenous scholars, scientists, and nuns interpreted the forces transforming their communities. We will pay particular attention to the traditions and practices that they mobilized to explain the past and convey its present and future significance. Major themes include religious conversion and its consequences, the emergence of new social and ethnic identities under colonial institutions, linguistic change, and the writing of history.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CHUM
Identical With: CHUM229
Prereq: None

HIST357 Regulators: The Administrative State in Modern America
How much arsenic is permissible in drinking water? Should financial firms be required to hold on to some of the risky securities they issue? Can a company sell a jar of peanut butter that contains only 90% peanuts? In the modern United States, the answers to these questions are determined by the administrative state - a collection of dozens of regulatory agencies, bureaus, and commissions comprising millions of officials and staff. Historians, political scientists, and other scholars have long recognized the administrative state as an important site of governance. But unlike Congress, the courts, or the Presidency, most of us have little idea about what exactly the administrative state does, much less how these regulatory bodies came to have so much power and responsibility. EPA G-Men banging down doors in Springfield might get a laugh on "The Simpsons," but why do EPA special agents carry guns?

This course approaches the making of the administrative state as a central component in the history of the modern United States. The seminar begins in the late 19th century, when elected officials created commissions of experts in
an attempt to govern an increasingly complex economy, and continues through the 20th century, with its bursts of new state authorities and responsibilities, before concluding in the present, asking what a long history of the administrative state can teach us about contemporary policy. To understand the context in which the administrative state emerged and evolved, we cast a wide net. Among other subjects, students will consider popular movements for environmental protection and worker safety, intellectual transformations in understandings of risk and public welfare, political fights over the scale and scope of the government, and biographies of regulators and the powerful institutions that they make up. Readings include classic texts and new scholarship across different disciplines, alongside contemporary journalism and novel approaches like podcasts - returning throughout the semester to the question of how we can tell an engaging and vital history of the administrative state. Toward that end, students will also explore a variety of different primary source materials throughout the semester before embarking on their own original research projects.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST358 Ireland: History Remembered and Forgotten
The writing of history is often a political act. Perhaps nowhere has the practice been as politicized as in Ireland where the two competing traditions on the island, Nationalist/Catholic and Loyalist/Protestant, have advanced their respective cause through the appeal to history so that two very different narratives of the island’s past have emerged. This course will examine the history of Ireland from the rebellion of 1641 to the Good Friday Agreement of 1998. In doing so, we will see how differing memories of the past have shaped how members of both communities respond to their present. History here will be broadly defined as being both the formal production of historical texts by scholars and history as it is remembered by ordinary people in stories and songs. Finally, we will examine the “Revisionist” school of Irish history that has sought since the 1970s to put forward a unified narrative of Ireland’s past. Did those efforts lead to peace?

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST362 Issues in Contemporary Historiography
This course is designed to introduce history majors to a range of problems, debates, and critical practices in the discipline of history. Part I will explore varieties of evidence and problems of interpretation; Part II will provide a close examination of a historical problem using primary sources; and Part III will consider methods of and models in the construction of historical explanation.

This course should be taken in junior year.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST366 A History of Incarceration in the United States
This course examines the history of incarceration in the United States from the 18th century to the late 20th century. It begins with history of indentured servitude in the colonial era and then considers the intensification of the enslavement of blacks in the 19th century as well as the expansion of prisons in the 20th century. The course seeks to engage how systems of confinement accompanied the development of a political system based on the languages of liberty.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None
HIST370 Disease and Health in Modern Asia
While this course might seem highly focused and specialized at first glance, it is intended for students of all majors and backgrounds. It has two main goals. The first is to explore the influence of epidemics and diseases more broadly over the course of East Asian history while keeping a global context in mind. The focus is on China and Japan, but Korea will be included when possible. The second is to consider how historically, diseases and epidemics are best understood through multiple disciplinary approaches, including biology, epidemiology, anthropology, sociology, and iconology. Colonialism and empire—both Western and Japanese—are, of course, underlying themes throughout. We will examine several important historiographical and methodological approaches as well as some basic issues in the history of science and some important examples of specific diseases such as cholera, tuberculosis, and plague from different approaches using both secondary and primary sources.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: CEAS272, SISP370
Prereq: None

HIST371 Fascism
This seminar aims to identify varieties and components of fascist ideologies and to undertake comparative analysis of European fascist movements in the first half of the 20th century. The initial focus will be on the several ways fascism has been defined and understood, including examples of how the term has been utilized to characterize certain governments and personalities. Specific attention will then be devoted to Italy, Germany, Spain, and France, with emphasis on Mussolini and Hitler and their regimes. Additionally, apparent linkages of fascism to post-1945 politics, such as the National Front in France, will be explored. Other fascist movements may be chosen as the subject of a major research paper. Materials for the seminar will include documentary sources, films, interpretive studies, and biographies.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST373 Language and Power in Latin America
What is a perfect language? Societies across the globe, in different times and places, have sought to answer this question. In the process they have posited a diversity of theories about the relationships among language, individual and group identity, social harmony, religious devotion, and political power. This seminar investigates the ways in which Latin American societies, from the colonial period until the present, grappled with the problem of language and its ability to shape their communities. From indigenous polities, to the imperial monarchies that conquered and colonized the Americas, to the nation-states that emerged in the 19th century, all have had to confront the realities of a diverse and profusely multilingual region.

The course will be organized around representative case studies. It will draw from a variety of fields (e.g., linguistics, philosophy, history, anthropology, and history of science) to consider how language served as either a resource or an obstacle to be surmounted in the creation of ideal religious, political, and intellectual communities in Latin America. Significant themes include the role of language in conquest and colonization, the development of cultural institutions to regulate and standardize language usage, the prevalence of bilingualism in many regions, the proliferation of literacy campaigns as a hallmark of the revolutionary governments of the mid-20th century, and the emergence of indigenous peoples as social and political actors in contemporary Latin America.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: LAST373
Prereq: None

HIST374 Food Security: History of an Idea
The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations has held that “food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.” This course is a history of food insecurity as a material condition and a geopolitical concept for explaining uneven access to provisions. Although we begin with the emergence of food security as a concept during World War II, we will spend the majority of the course studying other ways of organizing access to the means of subsistence. Topics discussed will include why human beings share food, the invention of agriculture, transportation infrastructure, international trade, food aid, agricultural research and development, poverty, conflict, and famine.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: SISP374
Prereq: None

HIST376 Travel and Communication in Europe
This course will explore the character of travel and communication networks, patterns, technologies, and ideas in Europe in the medieval and early modern periods. Students will therefore learn the concept of travel and mobility, whether commercial, cultural, or bureaucratic, and the concept of notable reconfigurations and acceleration of exchange in this period. Beyond ideas, the networks they linked to will be prominent. These include technologies such as the bridge, road, and wayfinding, as well as cybernetic creations like the riding horse (with iron shoes and complex needs); the development of institutions of hospitality, like the monastery, the hostel and the inn; and the adaptation of writing to facilitate motion and communication. Due attention will be paid to exotic travel such as crusading, pilgrimage and warfare; however, routine business travel will be key, such as the trips required by law, by trade, by the search for money, and the desire to see family.

Methodologically, the course will focus on the idea of networks and the techniques of the digital humanities. Thus, text mining for information; mapping in GIS (Geographic Information Systems); and analyzing network relations will be important additions to the usual historical skills of reading and writing essays.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: MDST376
Prereq: None

HIST377 Comparative French Revolutions
This course makes a systematic, comparative analysis of the causes, patterns, and consequences of revolutionary activities in France, examining the revolutions of 1789, 1830, 1848, and 1870. The course will emphasize revolutionary movement organizations, political and social goals, ideology, and industrialization.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: RL&L377
Prereq: None
HIST380 Labor and Religion in American History
This seminar will explore how religious faith, ideas, and organizations influenced labor over the course of American history since the Industrial Revolution. It will begin with Old and New Testaments, Marx and Engels, and some of the path-breaking work on religion in the English working-class, then focus on America including the social gospel, Christian socialism, the Catholic Church and labor unions, black churches, immigrant churches, militant secularism (itself a kind of faith), the influence of faith of employers and mediators, and other aspects of the subject.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: AMST299
Prereq: None

HIST381 Japan’s Nuclear Disasters
The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 are central to the history of the 20th century. This course examines the scientific, cultural, and political origins of the bombs; their use in the context of aerial bombings and related issues in military history; the decisions to use them; the human cost to those on whom they were dropped; and their place in history, culture, and identity politics to the present. Sources will include works on the history of science; military, political, and cultural history; literary and other artistic interpretations; and a large number of primary source documents, mostly regarding U.S. policy questions. In addition, we will be examining the development of the civilian nuclear industry in Japan with a focus on the nuclear meltdowns in Fukushima and other accidents. This is an extremely demanding course.

This interdisciplinary, experiential, and experimental course combines studio learning (movement studies and interdisciplinary, creative exploration) and seminars (presentations and discussions). No previous dance or movement study is required, and the course is not particularly geared toward dancers or performers. However, your willingness to experiment on an own sensations, thoughts, and reactions in learning history.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.50
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: SISP381, CEAS384, DANC381, ENVS381
Prereq: None

HIST382 Anthropocene as Modern Grand Narrative
The Anthropocene refers to the new age in which humankind started to have a significant impact in altering or rupturing the Earth’s system, and the Earth is now moving out of its current geological epoch (the Holocene) and into “a less biologically diverse, less forested, much warmer, and probably wetter and stormier state.” (Steffen, Crutzen, and McNeill 2007, Sciences Module, 614). This course begins by examining the debates on the definition and periodization. It then explores precursors to the concept of the Anthropocene, such as Confucian and Daoist writings on the taming of the natural environment for human needs, the catastrophism vs. uniformitarianism debate, and contesting definitions of sustainability. Finally, it looks at how recent works of environmental history engaged with the concept of the Anthropocene and brought our attention to the impact of the transition from organic economy to carbon economy. Is the Anthropocene a new meta-narrative that professes to be the theory that explains all human activity? Is the Anthropocene a call to arms for environmental justice? Is the Anthropocene just a declensionist fairy tale—one that leads us down a dead end, throwing up our arms in resignation over the irreversible destruction of the natural environment?
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CHUM
Identical With: CHUM307, SISP382
Prereq: None

HIST383 French Existentialism and Marxism
This course is a study of French thinkers of the 20th century who challenged and reevaluated the principles upon which Western society was based, with an emphasis on the problems and theories concerning the standards of moral action, the nature of political knowledge, political engagement, ethical relativity, free will, and determination.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST384 Critical Approaches to the History of Disease and Epidemics
Epidemic disease is as much a part of the human condition as earthquakes, droughts, floods, heat waves and other natural hazards that can result in disaster. This course will examine four cases of epidemic disease: (tentatively) cholera, tuberculosis, and AIDS. While we will definitely be asking the classic historical question “what happened and how?” we also will be considering how different epistemological frameworks, metaphorical strategies, and historiographical assumptions have shaped past historians’ understandings of these events, while exploring alternative approaches. Students will write a research paper as a final project on an epidemic disease of their choice using an approach that helps explore some little-examined dimension of that disease. Choices will not be limited to diseases caused by microorganisms, but also can include cancer, diabetes, and other diseases that arguably have reached epidemic proportions, whether past or present.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: SISP384
Prereq: None

HIST386 History of Science and Technology in Modern China
Science, technology, and medicine played an integral role in the China’s transition to modernity and inspired dramatic economic, social, and political transformations. As scholars of modern China developed a keen interest in transnational histories and comparative methodologies, they have paid closer attention to the histories of science, technology, and medicine. This course introduces students to this emerging field of study. It examines broad philosophical questions that motivate the research in history of those areas. We will learn to explore science, technology, and medicine in China on “its own terms” by understanding how the unique political and social challenges of modern China shaped Chinese science.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: SISP285, CEAS222
Prereq: None

HIST387 History of the End
How will it end? Scientific hubris, a nuclear event, an asteroid, environmental disaster, overpollution, resource scarcity, commodity price spikes, riots, social chaos, social control? This seminar investigates how people have imagined apocalypse and post-apocalypse over time, on the premise that fantasies of the end provide a window into the anxieties of the societies that produce them.
HIST392 The Acceleration of Europe: Mobility and Communication, 1000—1700
This research course explores the thesis that during the Middle Ages, Europeans began to move faster, to move more often, and, by doing so, transformed the nature of social life, cultural life, and the character of selves and minds in the world. The course will explore the material aspects of this, such as the nature and development of roads and bridges, ships and canals, inns and hospitality that sustained and encouraged advancing travel. Thematic importance will be given to the place of horses and horseriding in these developments. The course is about the history of communication and the idea that a particular sort of traveler was created through later medieval travel and became the means of cultural and psychological acceleration. The social and cognitive networks established through travel, including the exchange of letters and messages, linked the local to the national. Merchants, pilgrims, soldiers, judges, students, preachers, and bureaucrats became the means of spreading news, changing views, and speeding up the world. This course will expose students to methods and skills in the digital humanities such as network analysis, geographic information systems, and database analysis.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST393 Materia Medica: Drugs and Medicines in America
This course investigates the identification, preparation, and application of drugs and medicines in the United States, emphasizing the period before the 20th-century institutionalization of corporate research and development. Topics include early modern European prospecting for medicinal plants, the development of an international drug trade, and the formation of national pharmaceutical markets in the United States in the 19th century. Participants will explore the production, circulation, and restriction of medical knowledge through local practice, public and private institutions, trade and commerce, and regulation. In addition to knowledge of the social history of drugs and medicines in the United States, students are expected to develop competencies in historical research using primary and secondary sources. The final weeks of the course are devoted to applying historical knowledge to contemporary debates in global public health, including international pharmaceutical research, drug development, and epidemic disease.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST394 Seminar: Topics in the History of Europe Since 1945
This seminar is devoted to study of selected topics in the history of Europe after the Second World War. These will include the end of the war in 1945; the origins and developments of the Cold War, 1945—1962; France and the war in Algeria; de Gaulle’s Fifth Republic and the events of 1968; Spain since 1975; Germany’s ascendency; the decline and collapse of the Soviet Union; the European Union; and contemporary Europe.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST

HIST395 “If there is no God, then everything is permitted?” Moral Life in a Secular World
In Fyodor Dostoevsky’s The Brothers Karamazov, Dmitri Karamazov famously poses the question of what would happen to mankind “without God and immortal life,” asking whether this means that “all things are permitted.” Made famous by Dostoevsky, the question of whether we can be moral without God has always haunted secularism and has consistently been the most vocal criticism of unbelief. From papal condemnations of secularism and “godless Soviets,” to the contemporary consensus that belief in God is evidence of moral goodness and its absence a sign of a broken ethical barometer, the assumption has been that transcendental authority is all that stands between us and moral abyss. When the atrocities committed by “totalitarian” regimes are cited as evidence of this, it is only the most radical articulation of a broader narrative of secular modernity.

One of modernity’s master narratives is that people go from being under the care of the church to being under the care of the state, and our focus will be on historical cases where the question of secular values was explicitly engaged by the state. We will examine individual and collective articulations of morality in three prominent models of secularism: American civil religion, French laïcité, and Communist official atheism. What constitutes the moral foundation of a world without God? Can religion’s moral and spiritual function be performed by a different kind of belief system?
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

HIST399 History and Geography
Maps are part of a broader family of value-laden images. This is a research seminar about the global history of cartography from 1490s to the recent past. We will study maps from the early modern and modern world and examine how maps were used as instruments of political power, shaped the imagination of peoples around the world, and inspired new ways to imagine our self-identity.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: CEAS214, ENV5399, SISP399
Prereq: None

HIST401 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

HIST402 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

HIST403 Department/Program Project or Essay
Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

HIST404 Department/Program Project or Essay
Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
HIST407 Senior Tutorial (downgraded thesis)  
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor. Only enrolled in through the Honors Coordinator.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: A-F  

HIST408 Senior Tutorial (downgraded thesis)  
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor. Only enrolled in through the Honors Coordinator.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: A-F  

HIST409 Senior Thesis Tutorial  
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT  

HIST410 Senior Thesis Tutorial  
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT  

HIST411 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate  
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT  

HIST412 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate  
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT  

HIST419 Student Forum  
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: Cr/U  

HIST420 Student Forum  
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: Cr/U  

HIST423 Advanced Research Seminar, Undergraduate  
Advanced research tutorial; project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT  

HIST424 Advanced Research Seminar, Undergraduate  
Advanced research tutorial; project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT  

HIST465 Education in the Field, Undergraduate  
Students must consult with the department and class dean in advance of undertaking education in the field for approval of the nature of the responsibilities and method of evaluation.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT  

HIST467 Independent Study, Undergraduate  
Credit may be earned for an independent study during a summer or authorized leave of absence provided that (1) plans have been approved in advance, and (2) all specified requirements have been satisfied.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT  
Credits: 2.00  
Gen Ed Area: None  
Prereq: None  

HIST469 Education in the Field, Undergraduate  
Students must consult with the department and class dean in advance of undertaking education in the field for approval of the nature of the responsibilities and method of evaluation.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT  
Credits: 1.00  
Gen Ed Area: None  
Prereq: None  

HIST491 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial  
The teaching apprentice program offers undergraduate students the opportunity to assist in teaching a faculty member's course for academic credit.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT  

HIST492 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial  
The teaching apprentice program offers undergraduate students the opportunity to assist in teaching a faculty member's course for academic credit.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT  

HIST496 Research Apprentice, Undergraduate  
Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: Cr/U