

**Spring 2010**  
**Course Descriptions for 3000-level HIST Senior Seminars**

Restricted to Senior HIST majors who have met all the prerequisites

**HIST 3011 Seminar in Ancient History (Flashpoints of Greco-Roman History: Great Battles, Wars, and their Aftermaths)**

Professor R. L. Hohlfelder

Thursdays 3:30 - 6:00 PM (Hellems 104)

This seminar will examine select watershed moments in antiquity when the Greeks and then the Romans dominated the Mediterranean world. Specifically we shall examine select major battles and various wars fought by these two civilizations and then discuss the impact that victory or defeat had on the subsequent unfolding of history. For those of you who like military history, traditional political history, and/or the study of "great leaders" and the role they may have had in shaping the course of human events, this course is for you. Your grade will be based on participation in class discussions, a series of short essays at the outset of the semester, and a research paper along with an oral presentation of this research at the end of the course. Topics covered will include:

1. The Trojan War: Cause or Effect of the Collapse of the Bronze Age?
2. When War Forced Unity: A Wartime Confederacy of Greek Poleis against the Persian Empire.
3. The Failure of Victory: Greeks vs. Greeks in the 5th Century BCE
4. Alexander's Conquest of the East
5. Rome vs. Carthage for Dominance of the Western Mediterranean
6. Pompey and the Pirates
7. Caesar's Conquests
8. The End of the Roman Revolution: The Battle of Actium 31 BC
9. The Battle of the Milvian Bridge: When the Religious History of Western Civilization Changed Forever.
10. Barbarians Triumphant and the Fall of West Rome
11. The Reconquest of the Western Mediterranean by Justinian, the Last Roman Emperor.

**HIST 3019 Seminar in Asian History (India in the World)**

Professor Mithi Mukherjee

Tuesdays 3:00 - 5:30 PM (Hellems 104)

In this course we will explore the making of India's place in the world over the colonial and postcolonial period. With India's emergence as one of the most important countries in Asia in the twenty-first century, its relationship with both the West and other Asian powers like China has acquired critical relevance. We will explore both the position of India in the British Empire in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and the role of the British imperial legacy in postcolonial India's imagining of her place and role in the world. The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with primary and secondary works on the topic. Students will then apply the insights gathered from their readings in their research and writing of a paper on a topic of their choice.

**HIST 3050 Seminar in World History (Space - The Final Frontier)**

Dr. David Spires

Tuesdays 3:30 - 6:00 PM (Hellems 181)

The focus of this readings course will be on military and civilian space personalities, events, and organizations that helped define American, Russian, as well as European and non-Western space programs from the Second World War to the present. Following discussion of early space initiatives, we will address the Cold War space race and the agendas of the space exploration dreamers for a human and robotic space future. Today the United States and other countries face major decisions about our space prospects. Military leaders focus on the issue of placing weapons in space and creating viable missile defenses. Their civilian counterparts debate the merits of robotic exploration, a cooperative space station program, and the periodic human spaceflight initiatives that envision a return to the moon and a mission to Mars. Both sides are affected by budget and policy constraints, and the need for public support. Examining our space past will enable us to better evaluate the condition of our present space community and the outlook for a space future. Students will be expected to discuss weekly readings, participate in class presentations, and complete a two-part writing project on a subject of their choice.

**HIST 3317 Seminar in the American West (Race and Ethnicity in the History of the American West)**

Professor Mary Ann Villarreal

Mondays 3:00 - 5:30 PM (Economics 13)

Over the last three decades historians broadened their scholarly topics to include the examination of race and ethnicity on the American West landscape, yet their interactions with each other remain marginal to the larger narrative of US history. In this course we will read the most recent works that place race and ethnicity as the primary framework for thinking about the American West. We will examine race and ethnicity through various lenses. Typically we will examine health, policy, citizenship, and community. Methodologically we will explore questions such as: What are nation, race, and ethnicity in the American West? What historical methods are used to rethink the formation and maintenance of national, racial and ethnic historical relations in the American West? The final outcome of this course is to bring students to a greater scholarly understanding of how race and ethnicity make up the core of American history, and in this case, the American West.

**HIST 3416 Seminar in American Society and Thought (The Social Impact of the Civil War)**

Professor Ralph Mann

Wednesdays 3:00 - 5:30 PM (Hellems 104)

This seminar will study the social impact of the US Civil War. We will use primary sources that illustrate many different points of view-Union and Confederate soldiers, black and white soldiers, slaves and freedpeople, Northern and Southern women, slaveholders and abolitionists. War accelerates social change and the death of slavery was the largest single social change in US history; the course's primary sources will help the students understand the connection between the two. After the analysis of these sources, students will conduct their own primary research on the course topic.

**HIST 3628 Seminar in Recent Chinese History (Media and Modernity in China, 1850 - the Present)**

Professor Timothy Weston

Mondays 3:00 - 5:30 PM (Hellems 237)

This seminar will focus on the role of media -- journalistic, cinematic, advertising -- in the shaping of Chinese modernity over the course of the last century and a half. The central question we will investigate is: in what ways have publicly available forms of communication helped remake Chinese society during a century of ongoing revolutionary change? Thematically, we will study the interrelationship between media and politics, media and culture, media and international relations, media and power, and media and money. We will also discuss what it means to speak of Chinese modernity. At the start of the semester we will do readings designed to provide students with basic information and background on modern Chinese history. The course will be structured around weekly readings and discussions, a series of short essays, and a final research project of the student's choice.