Fall 2019 History Major Cornerstone & Capstone Course Descriptions

HIST 1800: Introduction to Global History

The first cornerstone course for history majors applies a broad perspective to the global past in order to illuminate how common historical patterns and processes as well as unique elements shaped the human experience. Using a thematic approach, all topical variations of this course highlight cross-cultural interactions among societies, and, when relevant, how historical processes that began centuries ago still impact the contemporary world.

(Recommended for first-year and sophomore students, with a minimum of 3 credits of any history course.)

Section 001: Settler Colonialism, 17th c-present - Professor Kent
This course examines the impacts of settler colonialism experienced by Native Americans and native South Africans. Settler colonialism differs from imperialism and "mere" colonialism in a variety of ways and has profoundly different effects in the long run. This course will examine how it operated in the United States and South Africa and analyze its impact over the course of three centuries.

Section 002: Global Environmental History - Professor Sutter
This course will examine one of the most important dimensions of the history of the world since 1500: the growth of the human presence upon the planet and the acceleration of human impacts, direct and indirect, upon environmental systems. We will focus on themes such as population growth and migration, natural resource use, industrialization, urbanization, energy systems, hunting and fishing, food and agricultural modes of production, disease, colonialism and imperialism, the rise of environmental thought and politics, disasters, and climate change.

HIST 3020: Thinking and Writing in History

This second cornerstone course for history majors centers on the essential skills all historians use. Students will advance their reading, sourcing, and research techniques, hone critical, analytical, and synthetic skills, navigate scholarly discourse, and practice historical writing. As this simultaneously satisfies the College's upper-division writing requirement, all sections involve substantial, regular, and varied writing assignments as well as instruction in methods and the revision process. All topical variations of this course are limited to maximum of 18 students in order to focus on supporting students as they learn to write - and think - like an historian. (Recommended for sophomores or juniors, HIST 3020 may be taken concurrently with, but not prior to, HIST 1800.)

Section 001: Earth Day - Professor Young
Twenty million Americans participated in Earth Day activities on April 22, 1970 - a larger turnout than for any other protest in the turbulent 1960s that preceded it. But numbers don't tell us the whole story of why this marked a key moment in the history of American environmentalism or in broader U.S. political, social, and cultural history. We'll use the first Earth Day as a lens to examine the coalescence of ideas, individuals, and movements around (and beyond) issues of nature in the late 20th century. To do so, we'll explore a variety of original primary sources and map the scholarly conversations about environment and history. Students will have the opportunity to pursue related research questions, agendas, and evidence that speak to individual interests.

Section 002: Nations and Images in South Asia - Professor Chester
This seminar focuses on nationalism in South Asia. We will discuss forms of resistance to British imperialism and the ways that resistance led to the independence of India and Pakistan. We will pay special attention to Mahatma Gandhi and to the role of goddesses, maps, and violence. Assignments (including a research journal, paper drafts, and other intermediate work) are designed to help students create a research and writing process that works for them, building progressively toward their final research paper.

Section 003: Yoga: A Global History - Professor Gautam
This course focuses on the history of yoga from its origin in the spiritual traditions of India to its spread in the West and beyond. The worldwide spread of yoga, particularly in the last century, has made it a truly global phenomenon. In the process, it has not only transcended all ethnic, religious, and national boundaries, but has also undergone subtle and often unnoted changes of immense significance. Given its near universal reach, only a global approach to its history can allow us to understand the real nature and significance of its presence in the world today. We will start off the course with a reading of some relevant parts of Patanjali's Yoga Sutras-the original book on yoga-and then closely follow its evolution as it expands throughout the world.
HIST 3XXX: Senior Seminars

These capstone seminars are designed for advanced history majors to pull together the skills they have honed in previous classes towards producing historical knowledge about a particular area of interest. Each course section will have a specific field of focus, and include readings and discussion in a small (18-student) seminar setting. These and other class activities and assignments will support the central goal: for each student to develop an individual research project on a topic of their own choosing, based on primary sources and related to the area of focus for that course section, and write a substantial and original paper. (Completion of HIST 3020 is required for history majors to enroll in a senior seminar.)

HIST 3012: Seminar in Modern European History
The Age of Empire - Professor Ciarlo

This seminar explores what historians have called the "Age of Empire"—those four decades before the First World War (1875 to 1914), when much of Africa and Southeast Asia fell under the direct or indirect rule of European nations. What was behind this "new imperialism?" To answer this question, we will tackle such topics as international rivalry in the "Scramble for Africa"; the economics of empire; theories of imperial expansion; racism in colonial contact; the myth of empire in European national identity; the role of social class and gender in colonialist ideology, and especially, the 'culture' of imperialism in everyday life of Europeans. We will read a range of textual and visual sources in our explorations. This will include recent histories of imperialism, but also primary sources and documents from the era, such as treaties, adventure stories, travel writing, children's books, and even advertising.

HIST 3415: Seminar in Recent American History
American Society and Culture, 1940-1960: The Culture of Politics, and the Politics of Culture - Professor Pittenger

This course will be an interdisciplinary inquiry into the nature of American life during the era of World War II and the early Cold War. Unlike a traditional history course that might focus mainly on the political, economic, and military events of these years, we will consider those factors as the backdrop for our central concerns: the politics of culture and the impacts of cultural and social changes on politics. Themes include the impact of the war on movies, music, and the popular mood; interactions of race and culture (Japanese-American life in Seattle and in the internment camps, Jackie Robinson and the racial integration of professional baseball); popular perceptions and political implications of the atomic bomb; postwar suburbanization, gender roles, and the emergence of television; the Beat rebellion in the arts and popular culture; the racial and generational politics of jazz and rock 'n' roll; modernist painting; juvenile delinquency movies; and the impact of McCarthyism on Hollywood and its movies. Amid the tremendous diversity of events, movements, and trends during the 1940s and 1950s, we will look for unifying themes and lines of development that may give these years coherence and comprehensibility as a historical period.

HIST 3800: Seminar in Global History
Cinematic Narratives of World War II - Professor Wei

This is a course on World War II, the most destructive armed conflict in human history. The seminar is designed to deepen our understanding of this momentous event primarily through an examination of history films. History films are works of history that offer an argument about the historical moments and events they describe. As such they should be understood as part of the on-going discourse on a historical subject. It behooves students and scholars to understand history through the visual medium since this is the way the public mainly learns it today. The question for us is what are they learning from history films? In answering this pertinent question, students will strengthen their critical thinking ability in general and their historical analysis skills in particular.
Fall 2019 History Lower-Level Elective Course Descriptions

HIST 2015: Themes in Early American History
**Early American Encounters - Professor Anderson**
This course examines early interactions between Native Americans and Europeans in North America from a comparative perspective. We'll be focusing on the Spanish in New Mexico, the French in Canada, and the English in the Chesapeake and New England up to the end of the seventeenth century. Major themes include the nature of Native societies before and after Europeans arrived; the similarities and differences to be seen in encounters between different groups of Europeans and Indians; and evidence of adaptation, cooperation, and conflict. There will be lots of discussion, and the written assignments will include worksheets on documents, short (3- to 4-page) papers, and a take-home final examination. In order to help class members hone their skills in critical thinking and analysis of evidence, we'll be exploring a variety of materials—books, articles, historical websites, documents, visual sources, and films.

HIST 2220: History of War and Society

Section 001: **Global Warfare in India - Professor Gautam**
This course focuses on history of war and society in India/South Asia from a global perspective. This course is intended for students with little or no prior knowledge of the region. Starting with a discussion of the nature of Alexander's invasion of India in 326 BCE, the course shifts its focus to the rise of Islam and the subsequent Arab-Turkish invasions and conquests in India. It then goes on to deal with the rise of maritime trading and naval powers—Portugal, Spain, and Britain—which set off fierce colonial wars that eventually led to the colonization of India by the British East India Company. As part of the history of the British Empire and its legacy, we also focus on the geopolitical Great Game over Afghanistan and Central Asia between Britain and Russia, and later between the US and the Soviet Union. The course concludes with a discussion of the Indian epic, the Mahabharata, and the idea of war as fate. The aim of this course is to understand our current global world in historical perspective.

Section 002: **Soviet Union and World War II - Professor Hatch**
This course examines the impact of war on the shaping of the Soviet Union, with emphasis on WWII. In answering the question, "How was the Soviet Union able to emerge victorious in WWII when, roughly twenty years earlier, its predecessor state, Imperial Russia, was defeated in WWI?" we will address the political, social, economic and cultural developments under communism that presaged this outcome, and which together comprise the "Stalinist" system created of the 1930s, and the impact of WWII on Soviet society (including gender roles), the military, and the Soviet Union's international standing.

HIST 2616: History of Gender in America:
**Gender & Sexuality – Professor de los Reyes**
In this course, we will discuss shifting gender roles and sexual expectations throughout U.S. history. We will examine how particular historical moments molded the concepts of femininity and masculinity and how the ideas of race, ethnicity, religion, class, and sexuality affected the construction of gender. This discussion will lead us to examine first-hand accounts and elements of popular culture, including film, music, and advertising. As a result, we will develop and sharpen the tools that will help us think and write critically and analytically in other aspects of our daily lives.