HISTORY

Chair, Professor Raffael Scheck
Professors Paul Josephson, Elizabeth Leonard, Raffael Scheck, Larissa Taylor, James Webb, and Robert Weisbrot; Associate Professors John Turner; Assistant Professors Elizabeth LaCouture, Daniel Tortora, and Arnout van der Meer

History provides the opportunity to understand the diversity of human experience through the study of one’s own and other cultures and societies as they have evolved over time. It is also a rigorous intellectual discipline involving research techniques, problem solving, the critical evaluation of evidence, and intensive writing. The department offers a wide variety of learning experiences, including lectures, individual tutorials, discussion groups, 300-level seminars, and senior research seminars. Students are expected to take courses in many areas of history in order to achieve a broad training in the discipline. A number of distinguished academic historians began their training at Colby; in addition, many majors find that history is excellent preparation for careers in secondary education, business, law, publishing, and other professions. In recent years, media research, preservation, and museums have offered new opportunities for persons trained in history.

Requirements for the Major in History

Eleven semester courses in history (of at least three credits each), to include History 200 (Introduction to History); History 276 (Patterns and Processes in World History); a senior research seminar; and at least two courses in each of three areas: Category I (Africa, Asia, and world history); Category II (Europe, Russia, and the USSR); and Category III (the Americas). In each of these three areas, at least one course must be at the 200 level or higher; additionally, one of the courses must be in early history and one must be in modern history, as designated by the department (a detailed list of the distribution of courses among the fields is available on the department website). Because of Category I’s geographical scope, complexity, and extraordinary cultural and historical diversity, students are strongly encouraged, but are not required, to take a minimum of three courses in Category I.

Of the 11 courses for the major, at least two must be at the 300 level. History 200 and 276 are prerequisites for all 300- and 400-level courses unless special permission is granted to take one or both of them later. All majors must take a designated senior research seminar taught by a departmental faculty member, which also may count toward fulfilling an area requirement and in which they write a major research paper. Students who choose to do honors in history during their senior year are still required to complete the senior seminar requirement. Many of these students choose to do the senior seminar in their junior year.

Up to three semester courses in history may be taken from historians at other colleges and universities in the United States and abroad. Please consult with the department chair if you have questions about nondepartmental courses that are approved for the major.

The point scale for retention of the major applies to all courses in history. No requirement for the major may be taken satisfactory/unsatisfactory. No course will count for the history major if the grade is lower than C-. Seniors with a GPA of 3.75 or higher in history courses will graduate with “Distinction in the Major.”

Honors in History

Admission to the year-long honors program requires at least a 3.5 grade point average in the history major and approval by the department. These projects signify a serious engagement with independent scholarship; interested students should plan to devote a large portion of their academic time to the project during their senior year. Students should begin planning for the honors project by the end of the spring semester of their junior year and, at the discretion of the history professor who agrees to act as honors advisor and following approval of a detailed research proposal by the department faculty as a whole, may be admitted in the first semester of the senior year to the honors program. A total of up to eight credits may be given for the year, including January Program credit. The honors thesis must receive at least an A- grade for the student to graduate with “Honors in History.” For specifics on the procedures and expectations for Honors in History, as well as guidelines for writing the research proposal, please refer to the History Department’s website.

Course Offerings

[H]106  Greek History  Listed as Ancient History 158.  Three or four credit hours.  H.

HI111f  The West from Antiquity to 1618  An interdisciplinary survey of European history from ancient Mesopotamia to the religious wars. Larger themes include the evolution of legal systems and the development of kingship; relations between church and state; the legacy of Rome and rise of cities; Crusades; discoveries in the New World; and the Renaissance, Reformation, and religious wars. Focus is on the interpretation and analysis of primary sources, class discussion, and development of writing skills. Throughout we will examine changing attitudes toward gender and sexuality; concepts of persecution, repression and tolerance; reactions to disease; and the results of economic disparity.  Four credit hours.  H.  TAYLOR

HI112s  A Survey of Modern Europe  An introduction to four centuries of an eventful and exciting history that has shaped not only Europe
but the world of today. It includes an analysis of social structures, the role of the state, claims to political participation, intellectual currents,
and a synthesis of everyday life and large-scale historical events changing at different paces.  Four credit hours.  H, I.  SCHECK

[HI120]  Made in China  Long before Walmart stitched the "Made in China" label into your T-shirt and Apple slapped a similar sticker on
your iPhone, China was known for its stuff—for producing, trading, and consuming luxury items and everyday goods. Introduces students to
China's long history of material culture covering "things" from ancient Bronze Age vessels to Mattel toys and offering a historical perspective
on such contemporary issues as China's growing economy, labor practices, Chinese consumerism, and U.S.-China trade relations.
Students will develop basic skills in critical thinking, historical argument, research, and writing.  Four credit hours.  H, W1.  LEONARD

HI120Af  Spotlight on History: The Lincoln Assassination  On April 14, 1865, John Wilkes Booth shot Abraham Lincoln while the
president was enjoying a play at Ford's Theater. The crime threw the nation—torn by civil war—into further chaos and, by bringing Andrew
Johnson to the presidency, exerted a powerful effect on Reconstruction specifically and American history more broadly. Students will learn
about the assassination and about the discipline of history: how historians do research using a variety of sources, analyze their findings,
write in discipline-specific ways, and situate their scholarship within the pertinent literature. Students will also learn how to use the College
libraries' abundant resources in the most effective way.  Four credit hours.  H, W1.  LEONARD

HI120Bs  Spotlight on History: America's First Ladies  Since the founding of the United States, dozens of women have served as the
nation's first lady. Long ignored as legitimate subjects of historical interest, these women have recently enjoyed fresh attention as historians
have acknowledged their unique proximity to the men who served as president and their potential to influence the policies their husbands
pursued in office. Students will learn about the first ladies and about the discipline of history: how historians do research using a variety
of sources, analyze their findings, write in discipline-specific ways, and situate their scholarship within the pertinent literature. Students will also
learn how to use the College libraries' abundant resources in the most effective way.  Four credit hours.  H, W1.  LEONARD

HI131f  Survey of U.S. History, to 1865  A general overview of key issues and events in U.S. history from the age of settlement through
the Civil War.  Four credit hours.  H, U.  TORTORA

HI132s  Survey of U.S. History, 1865 to the Present  The rise of national power and its implications for American democratic values.
Four credit hours.  H.  WEISBROT

[HI136]  American Superpower, 1945-1970  Examines the evolution of postwar America with attendant questions of economic growth
and the challenge of poverty, national security in the nuclear age, rising protests and social justice, and cultural change and social order.
Examines students to diverse primary sources; hones critical thinking and interpretive skills; helps students write and speak clearly,
consciously, and precisely; and, in conjunction with complementary courses in this cluster, draws connections between different disciplinary
perspectives of a subject that can enrich understanding. Part of the three-course Integrated Studies 136 cluster, "America in the Postwar
H, U.

HI141s  Genocide and Globalization: 20th-Century World History  The terms genocide and globalization aptly describe the long 20th
century in world history, which begins in the 19th century with the "opening" of China and Japan, German unification, and the onset of
imperialism. By focusing on the roots and the context, the history of the 20th century as well as present tensions in the Middle East, Ukraine,
South China Sea, etc. are easier to understand. The focus will shift from national (Germany, United States, China) to regional (Europe,
Africa, Americas, Asia) to global perspectives. Introduces the major relevant ideologies and systems, such as nationalism, National-
Socialism, fascism, communism, capitalism, social-democracy, imperialism, decolonization, total war, genocide, and globalization.  Four
credit hours.  H, I.  VAN DER MEER

[HI154]  Roman History  Listed as Ancient History 154.  Three or four credit hours.  H.

HI173f  History of Latin America  Listed as Latin American Studies 173.  Four credit hours.  H, I.  FALLAW

[HI183]  History of the Premodern Middle East  The history of the Middle East from the rise of Muhammad to the rise of the Ottomans
and Safavids. The spread of Islam, the development and application of religious and political authority, the Umayyad and Abbasid dynasties
and their successors, the development of Islam in both its formal and more folk forms, the development of literature, art, science, and
society. Gives a broad and deep understanding of the Middle East that will allow for more nuanced interpretations of current events
grounded in an understanding of the long historical context.  Four credit hours.  H, I.

HI184s  History of the Modern Middle East  The history of the Middle East from the post-Suleymanic Ottoman Empire to the present.
Examines the fall of the Ottoman and Safavid empires, the rise of Western dominance, the struggle for independence, attempts at reform,
the Arab-Israeli conflict, oil, the Iranian revolution, the Gulf War, the rise of Islamist movements, and ongoing repercussions. Particular focus
on the interplay between religion and politics and the nature of power and authority. Designed to give the historical background necessary for understanding current events in the Middle East in their proper context.  

Four credit hours.  

HAYES

HI197f  History of Modern China  
The history of China, from the Qing conquest in 1644 to the present. Examines China’s quest for wealth and power in a global context, from its origins as an early modern multiethnic empire to its place today as a major world power. Important themes include the growth of urban mass culture, changing ideas about gender, the place of ethnic minorities, and the function of revolution and mass movements. Students will develop skills in primary source analysis, classroom discussion, and crafting written historical arguments.  

Credit cannot be earned for both this course and History 250.  

Four credit hours.  

HI197f  Modern African History  
Designed to introduce students to major events, patterns, and themes in African history since 1800 CE. Through lectures, readings, films, and discussion sections, we will explore the dynamics of African politics and society from the abolition of the Atlantic slave trade through the present. Students will explore major themes in African history including political development, gender and sexuality, political and social struggle, economic development, and cultural production.  

Four credit hours.  

HI200fs  Introduction to History  
Required of all history majors and designed to help develop understanding of what it means to pursue authentic knowledge about the human past. Explores why historians do what they do and what it is they think they are doing. Develops some of the basic tools necessary to be a good historian, including research, writing, and methodological skills. Reveals the diversity and vitality of historical scholarship and helps students master its basic goals and techniques.  

Four credit hours.  

H.  

LEONARD, SCHECK

HI211s  Lawgivers, Pharaohs, and Philosophers: Ancient Civilizations  
Study of ancient civilizations (from c. 3100 BCE to 350 BCE) beginning with the first urban developments and legal systems of Mesopotamia, extensive study of ancient Egypt from the First Dynasty of the Old Kingdom through the New Kingdom, Bronze and Archaic Age Greece, and the classical age. Emphasis will be on the concept of civilization, construction of laws and kingship, gender and ethnic diversity, and how the cultures of ancient civilizations influenced political, cultural, and economic developments in the Western past.  

Four credit hours.  

H.  

TAYLOR

[HI212]  Medieval England, 1066-1485  
The history of England from the Norman Conquest until the end of the Plantagenet dynasty in 1485. Topics include the impact of the Norman Conquest, the Anarchy, the spread of the king’s justice and the church/state controversy, Magna Carta and the rise of parliament, women and gender, the Hundred Years’ War, religion and culture, and the mystery surrounding the last Yorkist king, Richard III. Previously listed as History 312.  

Four credit hours.  

H.

[HI216]  Church History and Theology in Medieval Europe  
Introduces students to the history and theology of Christianity from ancient through medieval times, ending with the Lutheran Reformation. After an introduction to the Bible and the earliest missions, we trace developments in doctrine, heresy, persecution, popular beliefs, gender, organizational structures, and relationships with other religions, specifically Judaism and Islam.  

Four credit hours.  

H.

HI224]  Germany and Europe, 1871-1945  
What went wrong with Germany from the first unification to the catastrophe of Nazism? Examining the question of German peculiarities within the European context and the debate on continuities in recent German history. Focus on critical reading and writing skills and on understanding historical processes including patterns of exclusion and intolerance.  

Four credit hours.  

H.

HI227f  Russian History, 900-1905: Orthodoxy, Autocracy, and Nationality  
The cultural and social history of Russia. Topics include Kievan Rus’, the rise of Moscow, the westernizing influence of Peter the Great, and the development of serfdom and autocracy. Focus on Russia’s self-identity as Western or Eastern and on the challenges of building civil society.  

Four credit hours.  

H, I.  

JOSEPHSON

HI228s  The Russian Empire: Soviet History and 20th-Century Revolutions  
The people of the Soviet Union lived through three revolutions (1905, 1917, 1991) and two world wars. Their leaders forced the pace of modernization and subjected their own citizens to class war, arrest, and execution. An exploration of the last days of Tsarism, of Leninism and Stalinism, and of the forces leading to the Gorbachev revolution and breakup of the Soviet empire.  

Four credit hours.  

H, I.  

JOSEPHSON

HI230A  Religion in the United States  
Listed as Religious Studies 217.  

Four credit hours.  

H.

[HI230C]  In Search of a Strong Man: Greece in the Fourth Century  
Listed as Classics 234.  

Three credit hours.  

H.

HI231f  American Women’s History to 1870  
An examination of key themes in the varied lives of women in America from colonial times to the end of the Civil War, such as their relationship to the public sphere and politics; women’s work in the contexts of household production, early industrialization, and slavery; women and citizenship in the new republic; and women, religion, and social reform.  

Four
HI232s  American Women’s History, 1870 to the Present  An exploration of critical topics in the history of women in America from Reconstruction to the present, including the struggle for suffrage, black women in the aftermath of slavery, women and the labor movement, the impact on women of two world wars, birth control and reproductive freedom, women's liberation, the feminization of poverty, and the backlash against feminism.  Four credit hours.  H, U.  LEONARD

HI233f  Native Americans to 1850  Through readings, discussions, and films, students will examine how native peoples actively sought to preserve their lands, cultures, and identities and will consider their social and cultural contributions to American life. Topics may include precontact Indian societies; contact and conflict with explorers, traders, missionaries, and settlers; warfare and society; the struggle against early American expansion; Indian removal in the East; and the Trail of Tears.  Four credit hours.  H, U.  TORTORA

HI234s  Native Americans since 1850  Through reading, discussion, and film, students will examine how native peoples actively sought to preserve their lands, cultures, and identities and will consider their social and cultural contributions to American life. Topics may include warfare and removal in the West, cultural repression, boarding schools, Indian soldiers and code talkers, urban migration, termination, Indian activism and revival in the 1960s and 70s, and the ongoing struggle for sovereignty, recognition, and prosperity.  Four credit hours.  H, U.  TORTORA

HI239  The Era of the Civil War  A social, political, and cultural survey of the Civil War, its origins, and its aftermath. Was the war a watershed in American history, as historians have commonly suggested? And if so, what kind of watershed?  Four credit hours.  H, U.

HI241  History of Colby College  Through readings, lectures, discussion, presentations, and independent research, students will learn about the history of Colby since its founding in 1813. Students will participate in writing the College's history by doing independent research projects on Colby’s past using the abundant resources in Special Collections and elsewhere. Who is your residence hall named after? Why are our sports teams called the Mules? How did town-gown relations change when the College moved to Mayflower Hill? Who was Janitor Sam? Who was Mary Low? Discover answers to these and a multitude of other questions you never thought to ask.  Four credit hours.  H.

HI242  Colonial North America  Through a continental perspective, explores the rich economic, social, and cultural diversity of the American colonies. We will consider the experiences, interactions, and conflicts of American Indians, Europeans, and Africans within the Spanish, French, Dutch, and English colonial empires in what is now the United States and Canada, from 1491 to the 1760s.  Four credit hours.  H, U.

HI245f  Science, Race, and Gender  Historical analysis of the concepts of race and gender in four different ways: their institutional basis, their scientific content, epistemological issues that surround notions of race and gender, and the cultural and social background of the scientists and science that developed from 1800 to the present. Consideration of importance of historical issues for contemporary society.  Four credit hours.  N, U.  JOSEPHSON

HI246s  Luddite Rantings: A Historical Critique of Big Technology  Adopting a technologically determinist argument, the instructor will subject to withering criticism the way in which Westerners, and in particular Americans, have embraced such technologies as automobiles, computers, reproductive devices, rockets, and reactors, with nary a thought about their ethical, moral, political, or environmental consequences. Students will be encouraged to argue.  Four credit hours.  H, U.  JOSEPHSON

HI247f  African-American History, from Slavery to Freedom  Explores the experience of blacks in American society from Colonial times through the present. Subjects focus on racism, slavery, the role of African Americans in shaping the nation's history, and the ongoing struggle for equality. In exploring these historical developments, the course aims to expose students to a range of primary and scholarly sources; to hone critical thinking and interpretive skills; to help students write clearly, concisely, and precisely; and to foster clear, logical, and informed exchanges of ideas.  Four credit hours.  H, U.  JOSEPHSON

HI250  History of Modern China  A survey of modern China from the late Qing Dynasty (18th century) to the present, examining how the idea and reality of “China” and “Chinese-ness” changed over time through exploring the relationship between ideological change and everyday life. Topics include the decline of empire and the rise of the nation-state, changing relationships between state and society, the development of ethnic, national and gender identities, urban cosmopolitanism, and communism and capitalism with Chinese characteristics. Previously offered as History 297.  Four credit hours.  H, I.

HI251  History of Southeast Asia: Crossroads of the World  An examination of the phases of Southeast Asian history beginning with the development of cities and states (prehistory to c. 800); the rise of the great Southeast Asian empires such as Angkor in Cambodia (ca. 800 to ca. 1400); the age of trade and the rise of great trading states (ca. 1400 to ca. 1800); and concluding with a discussion of Europe's
emerging power in the region in the 19th century. Includes important historical themes such as gender relations, trade, indigenous notions of power and prestige, and religious diversity. Previously offered as HI297 (Fall 2013).  

HI263s  Age of European Expansion in World History  Why did Europe expand while the Chinese and Islamic civilizations did not? Why did European overseas empires rise, persist, and fall? These questions are explored in this examination of a transformative era in world history: The Age of European Global Expansion. Follows the transformation of Europeans from explorers to colonizers; of relatively small European states to global empires; and of former colonies to independent nation-states. Places history in a global context by an extensive discussion of the assumed "great divergence" between the "West" and the "Rest". Emphasizes the cultural, social, economic, and political exchanges that came to shape the contemporary world.  

Four credit hours.  

H, I.  

VAN DER MEER


Four credit hours.  

H, I.  

WATKINS, VAN DER MEER

HI275j  Strongmen and Populism in Modern Spain and Latin America  Listed as Latin American Studies 275.  

Three credit hours.  

H, I.  

FALLAW

HI276fs  Patterns and Processes in World History  An introduction to patterns and processes in world history. Themes include the evolution of trade and empire, global balances in military and political power, impacts of disease, the evolution of capitalism, slavery and its abolition, global migrations, industrialization, imperialism, and decolonization. Students read essays and study maps of historical patterns and processes and write essays to hone their critical-thinking and writing skills.  

Four credit hours.  

H.  

WATKINS, VAN DER MEER

HI277s  History of the Maya from 200 B.C.  Listed as Latin American Studies 277.  

Four credit hours.  

H, I.  

FALLAW

HI283f  Golden Diaspora: Modern American Jewish History  An exodus from Jewish ghettos of Eastern Europe began just as Orthodox Judaism and communal traditions were buckling, and alternative paths to modernity and equality such as socialism, Zionism, secular learning, labor solidarity, and religious reform were surging. Through readings in primary and scholarly sources, the course will help students understand American history, Jewish history, and the history of immigration in relation to each other, and hone students’ ability to read critically, articulate sustained arguments, and write clearly, concisely, and precisely.  

Four credit hours.  

H, U.  

WEISBROT

HI285f  Foundations of Islam  A comprehensive introduction to the Islamic religious tradition focusing on the formative early period (seventh-11th centuries CE) and to contemporary interpretations and adaptations. Explores the nature of religion, religious knowledge, practice, identity, law, gender, and the nature of the divine. Analyzes the foundational beliefs, diversity, and social constructions within Islam by examining the early texts (the Qur’an, hadith/sunna), their interpretations, and their application through time. No prior knowledge expected.  

Four credit hours.  

H, I.  

HAYES

HI297j  Race and Democracy in the Nation’s Capital  Explores how race has shaped the history and present of Washington, D.C., the city that best captures America’s expansive democratic hopes and our enduring realities of racial inequality. We will examine how racial issues from slavery, Reconstruction, and civil rights to urban violence, the drug war, and education reform have shaped the nation’s first black-majority city. Students will analyze and interpret primary and secondary historical sources; learn to write and speak more confidently, clearly, and concisely; and edit a historical manuscript in progress.  

Three credit hours.  

H, U.  

ASCH

HI297Af  The Fall of Rome: The Transitions of Late Antiquity  Listed as Classics 297.  

Four credit hours.  

H.  

WELSER

HI297Bf  Nations and Nationalism in Asia  How Asia transformed politically from a collection of territorial empires, independent kingdoms, and European colonies to the modern nation-states that exist today. Begins by asking what "nation" means and how nationalist ideology came into being, and proceeds from there with thematic case studies from the histories of different Asian polities. The central goal is for students to think critically about the origins and development of the most basic structure governing the world we live in today.  

Four credit hours.  

H, I.  

THILLY

HI297Cj  The Western Front in World War I  The western front was the stage of the bloodiest days ever experienced by the French, German, British, Canadian, and American armies. It brought together soldiers and military laborers from all over the world and became a symbol of modern war. Begins with a week-long introduction at Colby and then moves to Dijon (France) for the remaining three weeks. Focus is on readings of war accounts and the interpretations of historians. Includes an excursion to the key battle sites and a day trip to the French Army Museum in Paris. Taught in English. Students will stay with host families in Dijon. Cost: approximately $3,100.  

Three credit hours.  

H.  

SCHECK

HI297Dj  Historical Roots of the Ukrainian Conflict  The current conflict in Ukraine has both geopolitical and civilizational roots, resting in part on conflicting interpretations of Ukraine’s history and identity. We investigate the genealogy of Ukrainian identity while examining the role of Ukrainian nationhood in the imperial projects and geopolitical rivalries of the European powers. Students evaluate the changing
relationship between individual and community identities over time and across multiple regimes, while critically analyzing contemporary debates, artistic representations, and commemorations of historical events in order to appreciate the significance of a contested Ukrainian identity. 

Three credit hours.  

H.  

MURPHY

HI298s  

African Monarchies in Historical Perspective  

An introduction to the development and evolution of monarchical systems in African history. Through themes such as state formation, gender, political economy, environmental history, and diplomacy, we will explore how monarchies emerged on different parts of the continent and how they differed in terms of legitimacy, power, and the ability to adapt to colonial and postcolonial dynamics.  

Four credit hours.  

WATKINS

HI298Bs  

Apocalypse: The History of the End of the World  

“There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red.” (Revelation, 6:12.) Why do people dream of the end of the world? What do visions of the end in different religions have in common, and how do they differ? How does belief in the violent destruction of the world relate to the way people behave in the world? We will read texts from Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Zoroastrian traditions, and look at modern scientific theories of the end of the universe and the love affair with the alien or zombie apocalypse in movies and popular culture.  

Four credit hours.  

HAYES

[HI306]  

Alexander the Great  

Listed as Classics 356.  

Four credit hours.  

H.

[HI311]  

Sainthood and Popular Devotion in the Middle Ages  

Examines the religious beliefs and practices of the people of the ancient and medieval world, looking beyond what was prescribed by the institutional church. How did religion structure people’s lives? Why did some go so far outside of the accepted norms that they were considered heretics? Examines the role of women and non-Christians in medieval religious life. After extensive reading and discussion of secondary sources, students work on their own research projects using primary sources and present their final product to the class.  

Four credit hours.  

H.

HI313f  

Women in Medieval and Early Modern Europe  

The history of women and gender from the late antiquity to the early modern period, with attention to women of all classes and categories of society: virgins, wives, and widows; saints, nuns, and mothers; queens, intellectuals, physicians, and brewers; prostitutes, magicians, and witches. Changes in legal, family, and economic status over time; working opportunities and restrictions; attitudes toward sexuality; the querelle des femmes; male views of women; writings by women; church attitudes.  

Four credit hours.  

H.  

TAYLOR

HI314s  

Italian Renaissance  

An interdisciplinary seminar on the history and culture of the Renaissance in Italy, with special attention to Florence and Venice. Topics include culture (art, literature, music); civic life; gender, family, and sexuality; humanism; religion and popular culture; politics.  

Four credit hours.  

H.  

TAYLOR

[HI315]  

The Reformation  

Why would someone be willing to kill or be killed for religious beliefs? The question is as relevant in the modern world as it was in the century of the Reformation. Using microhistories and mentalités as the basis for our study, this seminar will use discussion and extensive writing exercises to examine this issue as it related to the inquisition, anti-Jewish sentiment at the end of the Middle Ages, and the development of Lutheranism and the reformed religions. How did changes in belief restructure and challenge the very bases of European societies? What role did women play in religious change? We will also look at the beginnings of “toleration” and the ambiguous meanings of the word. Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing or a prior course in medieval history or religion.  

Four credit hours.  

H.

HI316  

Tudor England, 1485-1603  

Seminar examines a period of major change in English history, not only with a new dynasty, but also with the Renaissance and Reformation, social and cultural changes, parliamentary developments, poor relief, the beginnings of colonialism, and the problem of women, including the significant number of female monarchs, the women accused of witchcraft, and family life.  

Four credit hours.  

H.

HI317  

Universities, Cathedrals, Courtly Love: 12th-Century Renaissance  

An exploration of the 12th-century renaissance—the moment during which universities first develop, Gothic cathedrals and churches are built all over northern Europe, literature in the form of Arthurian legends, courtly love, and fabliaux reach all levels of society, and when speculative philosophy and theology engage the minds of the leading thinkers. Concentrating on Paris between 1100 and 1250, exploring the culture of this period through interdisciplinary studies.  

Four credit hours.  

H.

HI318  

Enlightenment and French Revolution  

A seminar focusing on the Enlightenment including its debates about government, human rights, education, slavery, capital punishment, and women’s roles in society. Explores the causes, events, and outcome of the French Revolution and its connection to the earlier American Revolution. Extensive discussion of issues relating to human rights, including issues of class, gender, race, and religion.  

Four credit hours.  

H, I.
[HI321] The First World War Covers the origins of the war, its impact on European societies, the experience of soldiers and of civilians on the home front, and the war's long-term legacy in Europe and the wider world. Focus on the meaning of total war, patterns of intolerance and persecution, the crusading spirit, and the sheer scale of violence. Includes an individual research component. Prerequisite: A W1 course. Four credit hours. H, W2, I.

[HI322] Europe and the Second World War Seeks a deeper understanding of the origins of the war, its military, civilian, and diplomatic aspects, and its effects. Starts with an intensive look at the First World War and its aftermath, because the Second World War is hardly imaginable without the "Great War." Includes targeted debates on crucial aspects of the war and a strong research component. Focus is on Europe, but global dimensions receive ample consideration. Goal is to understand historical processes in their dramatic and unsettling openness—important, as the outcome was initially hard to predict, leading many Europeans to make decisions based on false expectations. Four credit hours. H, W2, I.

[HI325] Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees in the 20th Century The detention camp was a prominent feature of the age of total war (1914-1945). In an age of mass armies, millions of people became prisoners of war. The fear of enemy aliens and "unreliable" populations led to the mass internment of civilians. Totalitarian regimes used concentration and forced labor camps to "reeducate," discipline, or decimate millions. How did international law try to adapt to these developments, and how did international organizations intervene? Internment experiences left a powerful legacy and inspired many works in philosophy, literature, and the arts. Focuses on Europe but makes rich global comparisons. Four credit hours. H, W2, I.

HI327f Daily Life under Stalin Many workers and peasants, and of course political elites, supported the Stalinist system, overlooking, discounting, or even justifying the great human costs of collectivization, industrialization, and the Great Terror as needed to create a great socialist fortress. An examination of the nature of regime loyalty under Stalin, making extensive use of primary sources. Prerequisite: Sophomore or higher standing. Four credit hours. H. JOSEPHSON

[HI336] After Appomattox An examination of America from the Confederacy's collapse in April 1865 to the Supreme Court's decision in Plessy v. Ferguson in 1896. What were the major issues facing the nation once the shooting war was over? What did Reconstruction accomplish? How much did emancipation change the lives of African Americans? Did women's activism on behalf of the war effort accelerate their expectations for equality in the postwar period? Where did all those soldiers go? We will address these and many other important questions. Enhances critical historical reading and thinking, excellence in research and writing, and competence in oral presentation. Four credit hours. H, U.

HI337s The Age of the American Revolution The American revolutionary period (c. 1760-1820), blending political, social, intellectual, and cultural history, from 18th-century America as a society built on contradictions (liberty and slavery, property and equality, dependence and independence) through the rebellion against Britain to the democratic, slave-owning, egalitarian, libertarian, and hyper-commercial world of the early republic. Four credit hours. H, U. TORTORA

HI342f Crisis and Reform: American Society and Politics in the 1960s The utopian hopes for government during the Kennedy and Johnson years, both in solving social problems and in containing communism around the world. Readings focus on the shaping of federal policies, their domestic and global impact, and the cultural and political legacy of this era. Four credit hours. H. WEISBROT

[HI350] Women and Gender in East Asia A seminar on the history of women, gender, and sexuality in China, Japan, and Korea. Offers students new insights into theoretical, cultural, and historical issues pertaining to sex and gender by looking outside contemporary and Euro-American contexts. Begins by examining early modern concepts of gender, culture, and the body and concludes with the rise of consumer capitalism and the "new woman." Readings cover a range of primary and secondary materials, including literature, visual and material culture, theoretical works, and historical monographs. Students will engage in active discussion, write an analytical essay, and complete an original research paper on a related topic. Four credit hours. H. I.

[HI352] Asian Migrations Since the Cold War, academics and policymakers have understood Asia as a map clearly delineated by the borders of modern nation-states and further divided into three Asias: South, Southeast, and East. Introduces migrations as a category of historical analysis to un-map Cold War-era understandings of Asia and generate a new trans-regional awareness of the Asian world. Examines the migrations of people, language and culture, capital, and things across Asia from early modern history through the Cold War. Students will engage with cutting-edge research on Asian migrations and contribute to this growing field with an original research project. Prerequisite: East Asian Studies 150, History 250, 276, or 350. Four credit hours. H, I.

[HI362] History of Egypt Focus on the cultural, social, and political development of Egypt from the seventh-century conquest to the fall of Mubarak. Particular points of focus are state formation, development of nationalism, definition of religious and political identities, power relations, the struggles for control over resources and for independence, and Egypt's place in the power matrix of the Middle East. Through reading primary sources and secondary scholarship, students will come to a deeper understanding of the nature of history and historical
processes. They will learn how to critically assess the arguments of history and the deployment of historical memory and how to articulate their assessments through writing papers and sitting exams.  

Four credit hours.  

H, I.

 HI364  Environmental and Health History in Africa  A seminar on major issues in African environmental and health history. Topics include the impacts of the horticultural, agricultural, and livestock revolutions; the "Columbian Exchange" and the "Monsoon Exchange"; the rinderpest pandemic; colonial-era campaigns to control sleeping sickness, TB, and malaria; the colonial-era transformations of African disease environments; African and Western conceptions of disease etiologies; the interface between allopathic, traditional, and religious healing; and postcolonial campaigns against HIV.  

Four credit hours.  

H.

 HI375  History of Religion and Unbelief in Modern Latin America  Listed as Latin American Studies 373.  

Four credit hours.  

H, W2, I.

 HI377s  Imperialism, Decolonization, and Modernity in Southeast Asia  Explores the fascinating multicultural history of Southeast Asia—crossroads of the world and one of the fastest growing economic and cultural regions in the world today—from the 18th century to the present. By studying the processes of exchange beginning in the period of colonization and imperialism, students will trace the emergence of Southeast Asian states—foremost Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar (Burma), Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam—and their hybrid national cultures through decolonization into our contemporary era.  

Four credit hours.  

H, I.  

VAN DER MEER

 HI381  Women and Gender in Islam  A comprehensive introduction to the construction of gender in the Islamic Middle East. Puts the lives of contemporary Muslim women and men into a deeper historical perspective, examining the issues that influence definitions of gender in the Islamic world. Through monographs, essays, novels, stories, and film, examines the changing status and images of women and men in the Qur'an, hadith/sunna, theology, philosophy, and literature. Traces changes and developments in those constructions of identity beginning with the rise of Islam and continuing through contemporary understandings.  

Four credit hours.  

H, I.

 HI388  History of the Crusades  Exploration of the historical circumstances of the Crusades primarily from a Middle Eastern perspective. The goal is to foster a broader understanding of the sociopolitical, religious, and economic forces driving the Crusades and their effects on the Middle East. Focus primarily on the Crusades of the 11th-13th centuries, but consideration is also given to their legacy and long-term effects. The nature of "holy war" from both Christian and Islamic perspectives, the nature of Christian-Muslim conflict, armed conflict in a premodern context, and whether there was such a thing as an East vs. West conflict.  

Three credit hours.  

H, I.

 HI389  History of Iran  Focus on the cultural, social, and political development of Iran from the rise of the Safavid dynasty to the election of Muhammad Khatami in 1997. Particular points of focus: state formation, the influence of the West on 19th-century economic and intellectual development, 20th-century internal struggles between the religious and political elite, the effects of oil and great power intervention, the rise of activist Islam and the revolution, the war with Iraq, and life after Khomeini.  

Four credit hours.  

H, I.

 HI394  Ecological History  A seminar on major issues in ecological history. Topics include the relationship between ecological science and environmental history; the early impact of the agricultural revolutions; the "collapse" of early civilizations; processes of deforestation and desertification; the rise of the conservation movement; ecological costs and benefits of technological efforts to engineer nature; biological innovations and chemical controls; the paradox of population growth; and the contemporary crisis of modern agriculture and diet.  

Four credit hours.  

H.

 HI397f  African Diasporas  Examines the migration of Africans within Africa and to other continents over the last two thousand years. Students will analyze the concept of "diaspora" through readings, films, and primary sources relating to religious and linguistic diffusion, trade, enslavement, war, identity formation, and nationalism.  

Four credit hours.  

H.  

WATKINS

 HI398s  Athenian Democracy as Reality and Idea  Listed as Classics 398.  

Four credit hours.  

H.  

WELSER

 HI398Cs  Crime and Punishment in Modern China  From the pirates and millenarian rebels of the 18th century to the heroin and gunrunning gangsters of World War II Shanghai, so-called "criminals" were central to the making of modern China. Students will explore what can be learned about modern Chinese history from the sources on crime and will contemplate the very notions of crime and punishment from the perspective of modern Chinese history. Particular emphasis on primary source analysis, crafting meaningful historical questions, and presenting clear and precise historical arguments.  

Four credit hours.  

H.  

THILLY

 HI398Ds  America in the Great Depression  The Depression of the 1930s was the most devastating economic collapse of modern times. How did it happen? The 1920s had been the most prosperous time in American history, and many expected living standards to soar ever higher. Instead the economy went into a tailspin that affected every group and region and posed a crisis of faith in capitalism. How did Americans cope and how did the experience shape their values and behavior? In what ways did the federal government respond, to what ends, and with what consequences? Exploring these questions will also help students to read critically and to write clearly, concisely, and
HI398Es Gender and Power in Modern African History An introduction to the dynamics of gender and power in modern Africa. Because African gender systems often differ dramatically from the binary gender system of modern North America and Europe, Africanists were on the cutting edge of broadening gender scholarship to include masculinities and multiple-gender systems. Explores major themes in the historiography of gender in Africa, including African gender systems, masculinities, labor, sexualities, colonialism, and kinship. Four credit hours. WATKINS

[HI413] Research Seminar: Joan of Arc: History, Legend, and Film A critical examination of one of the most famous figures in history within the context of 15th-century French history and particularly the Hundred Years' War with England. Focus will be on the role of narrative and interpretation in the understanding of history from the time of Joan of Arc to our own. Prerequisite: Prior course in medieval history recommended. Four credit hours. TAYLOR

HI414f Research Seminar: History of Fear in Europe, 1300-1900 An exploration of how fear and different forms of communication or rumor influenced the course of European history in the medieval and early modern period. Case studies involve instances of anti-Judaism and anti-Islam; reactions to leprosy and syphilis; misogyny and demonology; xenophobia; and fear of death in all its forms from 1321 to 1888. Explores how changing communications from oral to semilitate to journalistic culture influenced and changed history, marginalizing those outside the religious, gendered, ethnic, medical, and socioeconomic norms of society at a given time and place. Prerequisite: Prior course in ancient, medieval, or early modern history recommended. Four credit hours. H, TAYLOR

HI421f Research Seminar: Debating the Nazi Past Explores the political and social dynamics of the Third Reich, the charisma and importance of Hitler, the choices of ordinary Germans, the genesis and execution of the Holocaust, and the problems of postwar Germans in dealing with the Nazi past. Focus on critical research, reading, and writing skills and on understanding historical processes including patterns of exclusion and intolerance and charismatically underpinned violence. Four credit hours. H, I, SCHECK

HI432s Research Seminar: Native Americans in New England An exploration of the experiences of Native Americans in New England within the broader context of American and Native American history and culture. How have Native Americans confronted racism, ignorance, and indifference to preserve their cultures and identities? The literary, artistic, and social contributions of natives to New England and to American life are examined closely. Prerequisite: A W1 course. Four credit hours. H, W3, U TAYLOR

[HI443] Research Seminar: 20th-Century Environmental History Students will consider the role of scientists, engineers, state officials, and the public in shaping the natural world in the 20th century. The focus will include major hydroelectric, nuclear, agriculture, and transportation infrastructure in North America, Europe, and South America. Students will complete an original research paper. Previously offered as History 498A (Spring 2012). Four credit hours. H, U.

HI445 Research Seminar: Nuclear Madness An examination of the place of nuclear technologies in the modern world, using social, cultural, and institutional history and focusing on the USSR and the United States. Nuclear technologies are symbols of national achievement, yet significant scientific uncertainties accompanied their creation, they require significant public outlays, and they have led to dangerous pollution. What explains their great momentum? Four credit hours. H.

HI447 Research Seminar: The Cold War Soon after World War II the Soviet Union and the United States began a struggle for military, diplomatic, economic, and ideological supremacy. Why did this confrontation develop? Why did it risk mutual nuclear annihilation and dominate global politics for more than 40 years? How did it shape and reflect the societies and governments that waged it? In exploring these issues, the seminar aims to expose students to diverse primary sources; to hone critical thinking and interpretive skills; to help students write and speak clearly, concisely, and precisely; and to foster independent research through a semester-long project. Four credit hours. H.

HI461 Research Seminar: The History and Development of Islamic Law An examination of questions—how law comes to be, who has control over it, what makes it Islamic, how is it different from other systems—leading to a deeper understanding of the functions, diversity, and trajectories of Islamic law. We will explore the roots, historical paths of formation, and development of the major schools of Islamic legal thought and their arguments over and elucidation of Shari'a. This will shed light on current Islamist movements and their claims to that heritage and to the law. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor. Four credit hours. H.

HI472 Research Seminar: Daily Life under Khrushchev Nikita Khrushchev was Soviet premier from 1954 until Communist Party conservatives deposed him in 1964. He presided over a series of reforms under the banner of de-Stalinization. These reforms led consumers, intellectuals, and other citizens to anticipate the construction of communism within their lifetimes. In this seminar we examine daily life under Khrushchev. Readings consist of primary sources (in translation). Students will learn research and writing skills and complete an original research paper. Major foci include urbanization, political reform, the arts, consumer society, and the nature of Soviet socialism.
HI473f  Historical Roots of Violence in Modern Latin America  Listed as Latin American Studies 473. Does not fulfill the senior seminar requirement for the history major.  Four credit hours.  H.  FALLAW

FACULTY

HI483Jj  History Honors Program  Noncredit.  WEISBROT

HI483f, 484s  History Honors Program  Majors should begin to plan late in their junior year for admission into the History Honors Program. A detailed research proposal must be completed by the third week of the fall semester of the senior year. Requires research conducted under the guidance of a faculty member and focused on an approved topic leading to the writing of a thesis. Upon successful completion of the thesis and the major, the student will graduate "With Honors in History."  Prerequisite: Senior standing, a 3.5 grade point average in the history major at the end of the junior year, and permission of the instructor. Please see History Department website for complete information and research proposal guidelines.  Four credit hours.  FACULTY

HI491f, 492s  Independent Study  Individual projects in areas where the student has demonstrated the interest and competence necessary for independent work.  Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.  One to four credit hours.  FACULTY

HI497f  Research Seminar: Shi'ism  Covers the contours of Shi'i Muslim history, politics, doctrine, faith, and ritual to give an appreciation of their variety and complexity and an understanding of the place of sectarian diversity in the development of Islam as a whole. We will investigate the historical formation of the three major divisions in Shi'ism—Zaydi, Twelver, and Isma'ili—and their diverse expressions in communities across the world. In addition to following the readings, individuals will contribute to the class by giving presentations on a particular aspect of Shi'ism or a particular community, leading to a final research paper.  Four credit hours.  H, I.  HAYES