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## History Course Descriptions

### Note:

Sophomore standing is a prerequisite for all courses numbered 300-399. Junior standing is a prerequisite for all courses numbered 400 or above.

HIST 195, 295, 395, 495 – Special Topics (1-12)

HIST 198, 298, 398, 498 – Tutorial (1-3)

HIST 100 – World History (3) Applying a cross-cultural, comparative approach to understanding social, political, economic, and cultural developments, this course surveys significant themes in historical development from ancient to modern times. Fall and Spring. Gen Ed: XC credit.

HIST 101 – Europe from 1500 to 1815 (3) Major developments and issues in European history from 1500 to 1815. Fall and Spring. Gen Ed: WC credit.

HIST 102 – Europe since 1815 (3) Major developments and issues in European history from 1815 to present. Fall and Spring. Gen Ed: WC credit.

HIST 201 – United States to 1877 (3) Major development and issues in American History to 1877. Fall and Spring. Gen Ed: AH credit.

HIST 202 – United States since 1877 (3) Major developments and issues in American History since 1877. Fall and Spring. Gen Ed: AH credit.

HIST 203 – United States to 1877 (4) Major developments and issues in American history to 1877. Gen Ed: AH & FW credit.

HIST 204 – United States Since 1877 (4) Major developments and issues in American History since 1877. Gen Ed: AH & FW credit.

HIST 225 – East Asian History (3) This course is an introduction to the history of East Asia from the emergence of ancient cultures to the present. Its main focus will be on the political, cultural, and social developments of China and Japan, with some attention to Korea and Taiwan. Gen Ed: XC credit.

HIST 230 – Introduction to Africa (3) Introduces students to Africa by exploring the continent's diverse history, geography, politics and cultures through lectures, novels, and film. Gen Ed: XC credit.

HIST 301 – Ancient and Medieval Europe (3) Emergence of western values, ideas, and institutions in classical Greece and Rome, the rise of Christianity and development of European civilization through the crisis of the later Middle Ages.

HIST 302 – Fighting Words: History & Story (3) Course introduces majors to the theories and methods that historians employ as they seek to construct plausible and compelling interpretations of the past. Prerequisites: HIST 101 or 102, and HIST 201 or 202. Fall and Spring.

HIST 304 – The History of American Women I (3) Women in America from colonial times to 1890: legal positions, social roles, employment, education, reform movements, suffrage, women's organizations. Gen Ed: AH credit.

HIST 305 – Modern American Women (3) Women in America from 1890 to present; legal positions, social roles, employment and unionization, education, reform movements, suffrage, women's organizations. Changing ideals of American womanhood, women's lib, future of American women. Gen Ed: AH credit.

HIST 308 – Canadian History (3) Canada from voyages of Jacques Cartier and colonization by Samuel de Champlain to present. Emphasis on modern period and problems of two nations in a single state.

HIST 309 – Colonialism In The Caribbean (3) Explores the impact of race, class, and colonialism on the development of Caribbean society. Examines the political geography of the pre-Hispanic Caribbean, the political and technical developments in the Iberian Peninsula that made colonialism possible, patterns of settlement, the rise of the plantation system, the connections between slavery and capitalism, the birth of African-American

culture, the social structure of plantation society, slave resistance, and the process of emancipation.

HIST 310 – Cultures of Mexico & Central America (3) Cultures of Mexico and Central America from conquest to present day. Emphasis on effects of conquest and colonial governmental systems on indigenous cultures. Cross listed with ANTH 360.

HIST 311 – Indians and Iberians (3) A history of Latin American focused on the exchange and transformation of native American and Spanish cultures to form the Hispanic American world. Areas of emphasis will include pre-conquest Spain, pre-Columbian Indian Civilizations, the Spanish conquest, the establishment of a new, cross-cultural society, and the break between Spanish American and Spain up through the 19th century.

HIST 312 – Latin American in the 20th Century (3) Major developments in Latin American history during the 20th century. Country and area studies. U.S. - Latin American relations.

HIST 313 – The Middle East: 632 - Present (3) Survey of the Middle East and its civilization from the origins of Islam to the Gulf War. Emphasis will be on the heritage of Islamic, Arabic and Persian civilizations, the rise and fall of the Ottoman Empire, the arrival of western imperialism, oil politics, social change and regional conflict in the 20th century.

HIST 314 – Vietnam War (3) Origins of the war in Vietnam from the tradition of resistance by the Vietnamese people against foreign intruders and the development of the Cold War in Asia: the war as perceived by the American experience.

HIST 316 – Modern China (3) Origins and development of modern Chinese society and state since early 19th century; social and economic evolution, revolutionary and reform movements and influence of foreign powers.

HIST 318 – Pre-modern Japan (3) Course covers Japanese history from the prehistoric period to the Tokugawa period, paying particular attention to the development of political institutions, cultural and intellectual trends, and the long-term transformation of the economy and society.

HIST 319 – Modern Japan (3) Course traces Japan's Historical development from the Meiji Restoration (1868) to the present, exploring the process of modernization, the growth of the imperial state, the Second World War, defeat and occupation, and post-war recovery.

HIST 321 – Ancient Greece and Rome (3) This course examines the Mediterranean world from 1550 BC to AD 500. It is divided into a unit on Greece and a unit on Rome. In addition to considering the ancient Mediterranean's political history, the course will focus on the region's cultural legacy.

HIST 322 – Ancient Middle East (3) This course examines the Middle East from 3100 to 332 BC. It is divided into three parts: 1) Mesopotamia; 2) Egypt; and 3) the Holy Land. It presents the region's political and cultural traditions through primary and secondary sources.

HIST 323 – Middle East: Alexander to Islam (3) This course examines the Middle East from 332 BC to AD 570. It is divided into three parts: 1) the Hellenistic Age, 2) the advent of the Romans, and 3) the Orient in Late Antiquity. It looks at the influence of Alexander the Great, the spread of Greek culture, Christianity in the East, and the conflict between Rome and Persia.

HIST 325 – American History in Literature (3) Examination of a specific period in United States history through the reading of four to six substantial literary works for their historical content and context.

HIST 326 – Egypt in Late Antiquity (3) Course covers Egyptian history from the collapse of the New Kingdom to the Arab Conquest. Major topics include the Saite Renaissance, cooperation and confrontation with

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Persian, Greek and Roman occupiers, and Coptic Christianity.

HIST 330 – Black Diaspora: 1500 to Present (3) A social, economic, political and cultural survey of the migrations (forced and otherwise) of black Africans to, and between, the Americas and Europe over the past 500 years.

HIST 331 – Africa to 1870 (3) Explores African history from the emergence of the earliest human societies through the mid-nineteenth century, with particular focus on the period after 1400. Considers the developments of lineage societies and centralized states, the trans-Saharan trade, the Atlantic slave trade, the spread and influence of religions such as Islam and Christianity, and Africa's encounters with other parts of the world.

HIST 332 – Africa since 1870 (3) Explores modern African history, paying particular attention to imperialism and its impact on African societies and cultures, the rise of nationalist and independence movements, independence and the creation of nation-states, and recent and contemporary politics, society, and culture.

HIST 341 – Colonial American History (3) Explores the history and culture of early America as described by both participants and historians. Considers the development of early American society and culture from 1598 to 1763. Religion, gender, class, social status, economics, war and Native-European relations will be examined.

HIST 342 – Revolutionary America (3) Explores the colonies in the English Atlantic world and the individual and collective decisions to break away from Great Britain. Considers how independence, revolution, and war allowed the former colonies to create a new and fragile Republic.

HIST 351 – Medieval and Renaissance England (3) Examines the History of England from the Medieval period through the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, paying special attention to the manorial system. Feudalism, the growth of Parliament, the emergence and structure of the Tudor state, the Protestant Reformation, the rise of Puritanism, and the flowering of Elizabethan culture.

HIST 352 – Revolutionary England (3) Examines the history of England from the beginning of the Stuart dynasty to the beginning of Industrialization, paying particular attention to the origins and progress of the Civil War, and Interregnum, the Restoration, the Glorious Revolution, the financial and consumer revolutions, and the movement for reform.

HIST 353 – Renaissance & Reformation (3) This course examines the intellectual, cultural, religious, social, economic, and political dimensions of two profound transformations in European history: the Renaissance and the Reformation, roughly spanning the years 1350 to 1650.

HIST 354 – The Enlightenment (3) This course examines in detail the process by which Enlightenment culture took shape, spread, and evolved during the eighteenth century. Between the publication of Newton's *Principia Mathematica* in 1685 and the outbreak of the French Revolution a century later, the political, social, and economic assumptions of European thought were radically revised. This intellectual revolution in turn ushered in new forms of sociability and ultimately new political orders.

HIST 371 – The First World War (3) The causes, course and consequences of the First World War; Origins of the war in imperialism and Balkan nationalism; the July Crisis and war of illusions; total war; revolution in Russia, and the consequences to Europe, the middle East and the global balance of power.

HIST 372 – Civil War America (3) The Civil War era in history and memory. Emphasis on politics, society, and culture as well as military affairs.

HIST 373 – World War II (3) Causes, events and result of the traumatic watershed in world history. May be European, American or Asian in focus as announced each time it is offered.

HIST 376 – The U.S. in the 1920s & 1930s (3) Emphasis on domestic issues in the United States from 1919 to 1939. Topics include prosperity of the twenties, the Depression and the New Deal.

HIST 377 – The United States Since 1945 (3) Explores the history of the U.S., the end of World War II. Examines the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War, the turbulent 1960s, the political and economic crisis of the 1970s, the Regan Era, and the politics of personal destruction in the 1990s. It highlights the increasingly close connection between domestic politics and foreign policies affairs, as well as the growing racial and ethnic diversity of the American population.

HIST 379 – History of New York State (3) Political, economic and social developments from colonial times to present. Relationship of state history to major issues and events in American life. Fall and Spring.

HIST 381 – Modern British Isles (3) British from 1832 to the present. Emphasis on evolution of institutions of government, patterns and consequences of economic development, and changing structures of society.

HIST 384 – France Since 1789 (3) Emphasis on great revolution of 1789. Traditions, political changes and development in 19th and 20th centuries. France's role in world wars of the 20th century and their aftermath.

HIST 387 – History of U.S.S.R. (3) Development of Soviet Union: economic and social developments, political structure, role of Communist Party, expansion of Russian control and influence through the breakup of the Soviet Union.

HIST 389 – Modern Germany: Bismarck to Hitler (3) Modern German history from unification and industrialization to defeat in the First and Second World Wars; the collapse of the Weimar Republic, the rise of the Third Reich, and the division of Germany.

HIST 400 – Honors Thesis I (3) Senior project which demonstrates mastery of skills of historical inquiry, and critical and analytical expertise. Project is begun in first semester and completed in second (Honors Thesis II).

HIST 401 – Honors Thesis II (3) Completion of project begun in Honors Thesis I. Prerequisite: Permission.

HIST 402 – Early American Indian History (3) Explores the history of the people who lived, flourished, "adapted, constructed, retreated and resisted" in the North American continent from pre-history through the removal policies of the 1830's.

HIST 419 – U.S. Foreign Relations 1763-1901 (3) Examines the history of U.S. foreign relations, between the conclusion of the Seven Years War in 1763 and the decision of American policy makers to pursue overseas expansion at the end of the nineteenth century. Explores U.S. territorial expansion. Native American and Mexican resistance, the diplomacy of the Monroe Doctrine and the American drive for overseas economic expansion after the Civil War.

HIST 420 – U.S. Foreign Relations 1890-2000 (3) Explores the history of U.S. foreign relations from the beginning of the nation's overseas economic expansion during the 1890's to the present. Investigates the causes and consequences of the major wars fought by the U.S. during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the origins and effects of the Cold War on U.S. foreign relations, and the impact of economic globalization on the conduct of U.S. foreign policy and on the nation's domestic politics, society, and economy.

HIST 421 – Race & American Film History (3) Course explores the issue of race, broadly defined, in the history of the US cinema. Consideration of relevant contemporary social and cultural issues will supplement close viewing of a number of American films spanning the years from 1915 to the present.

HIST 450 – Modern American Oral History (3) Introduces students to oral history by having them produce an oral interview related to a focused historical topic. Explores the methods and theories of oral historians. Places the oral interview within a larger historical context. Cross listed with ANTH 364.

HIST 451 – Witchcraft in Early America (3) Explores witchcraft in early America, paying special attention to the social, religious and gendered

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contexts of witchcraft and to the legal and cultural dimension of witch-hunting.

HIST 452 – Work in American History (3) Considers diverse workers and work settings of Americans from the seventeenth century to the present. Emphasizes the transforming of work and its relationship to political and economic change, labor movements, and personal or community experiences of work.

HIST 453 – Nature in American History (3) An introduction to North American environmental history. Explores the interaction between human beings and their environment, specifically how that environment shapes human expectations, possibilities, and behavior, and how humans have understood the workings of nature and their appropriate role in it.

HIST 455 – Religion in American Culture (3) Historical examination of the various expressions of religious belief and practice in American culture. Focuses on the creation of a Protestant establishment in the colonial period and the challenges posed to that establishment by democracy, science, multiple competing cultures, and even the mainstream of American culture.

HIST 457 – Early American Thought (3) Examines the main currents of American thought from the colonial period through the mid-nineteenth century. Explores the Puritan origins of American culture, the growth of republican political theory in the Revolution, the impact of democracy on intellectual and cultural endeavor, and the development of transcendentalism as a cultural movement.

HIST 458 – Modern American Thought (3) Explores the main currents of American thought from the Civil War to the present. Pays special attention to the secularization of American thought as expressed in Darwinism and Pragmatism, the development of Progressive social theory, the positivistic and relativistic impact of modernism, and the fragmentation of intellectual life in the post-war period, and the emergence of post-modern critiques.

HIST 459 – American Victorian Culture (3) Course charts the rise, extent, and ultimate eclipse of the “genteel” American tradition in the period between 1815 and 1890, through an exploration of cultural production, reception and consumption.

HIST 461 – Imagining Life Beyond Earth (3) Examines ideas and beliefs about life beyond Earth as expressed in western culture from the ancient Greeks to the present.

HIST 462 – Hero in Classical Antiquity (3) Course considers the evolving concept of the hero in classical antiquity, paying particular attention to the transformation of the heroic ideal during the Hellenistic Age and within Christian communities.

HIST 480 – Senior Seminar In History (3) Capstone course for the History Major. Students design and conduct significant research project and draft significant research paper. History Majors only. Fall and Spring. Gen Ed: WI credit.