

Department of History

History Course Descriptions

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. Gen Ed: XC credit. Fall and Spring.

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

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

HIST 106 – Europe Since 1815 (4) Major developments and issues in European History from 1815 to present. Emphasizes speaking, reasoning and research. Gen Ed: FS & WC credit.

HIST 110 – Europe since 1500 (3) This hybrid course is a comprehensive, thematically organized overview of European history from the sixteenth century to the present. It is designed to meet the needs of students in the General Education Program. Gen Ed: WC credit.

HIST 111 – European History and Geography (3) This course considers the grand sweep of European history and geography from the rise of near Eastern civilizations to the present, paying due attention to the West's political economic, social, and cultural development, as well as its relationship to the rest of the world. It is designed to meet the needs of students in the Childhood Education Program. Gen Ed: WC. Spring.

HIST 120 – Survey of American History (3) This course is a comprehensive, thematically organized overview of American history. It is designed to meet the needs of students in the General Education Program. Gen Ed: AH credit.

HIST 121 – U.S. History and Geography (3) This course is a comprehensive overview of American history and geography from pre-Columbian times to the present. It is designed to meet the needs of students in the Childhood Education Program. Gen Ed: AH credit. Fall.

HIST 201 – United States to 1877 (3) Major developments and issues in American History to 1877. Equivalent to HIST 203 and 205. Gen Ed: AH credit. Fall and Spring.

HIST 202 – United States Since 1877 (3) Major developments and issues in American History since 1877. Equivalent to HIST 204. Gen Ed: AH credit. Fall and Spring.

HIST 203 – United States to 1877 (4) Major developments and issues in American history to 1877. Equivalent to HIST 201 and 205. Emphasizes writing, reasoning and research. Gen Ed: AH & FW credit.

HIST 204 – United States Since 1877 (4) Major developments and issues in American History since 1877. Equivalent to HIST 202. Emphasizes writing, reasoning and research. Gen Ed: AH & FW credit.

HIST 205 – United States to 1877 (4) Major developments and issues in American History to 1877. Equivalent to HIST 201 and 203. Emphasizes speaking, reasoning and research. Gen Ed: AH & FS credit.

HIST 225 – East Asian History (3) 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 226 – East Asian History (4) Introduction to the history of East Asia from the emergence of ancient cultures to the present. Emphasizes writing, reasoning and research. Gen Ed: FW & 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. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

HIST 302 – Fighting Words: History & Story (3) Introduces majors to the theories and methods that historians employ as they seek to construct plausible and compelling interpretations of the past. Prerequisite: 9 credits of history. 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, and women's organizations. Gen Ed: AH credit. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

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

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. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

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. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

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. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

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. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

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. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

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 perceived as both a Vietnamese and American experience. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

HIST 315 – Modern Japanese Women's History (3) Examines the development of gender roles in Modern Japan, particularly in relation to the economic and political developments of the Tokugawa, Meiji, Taisho and Showa periods, and the various responses those changes evoked among women. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

HIST 318 – Pre-modern Japan (3) 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. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

HIST 319 – Modern Japan (3) 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. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

HIST 321 – Ancient Greece and Rome (3) 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. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

HIST 322 – Ancient Middle East (3) 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. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

HIST 323 – Middle East: Alexander to Islam (3) 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. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

HIST 326 – Egypt in Late Antiquity (3) Covers Egyptian history from the collapse of the New Kingdom to the Arab Conquest. Major topics include the Saite Renaissance, cooperation and confrontation with Persian, Greek and Roman occupiers, and Coptic Christianity. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

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. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

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. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

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. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

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. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

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. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

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. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

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. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

HIST 353 – Renaissance & Reformation (3) 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. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

HIST 354 – The Enlightenment (3) 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. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

HIST 370 – African American History (3) Explores African American History from the end of the Civil War to the 1990s, paying particular attention to the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Taught once every three semesters.

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. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

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. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

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. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

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

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. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

HIST 378 – Adirondack Environmental History (3) Student research projects explore interrelationships of natural and cultural history in the Adirondack Park, with particular attention to the social, economic, and cultural factors that shape, and reshape, land use over time. The Park as a place constitutionally protected "forever wild" will be considered in the contexts of larger theoretical discussion about wilderness and protection of other American wild places.

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. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. 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. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

HIST 386 – Imperial Russia (3) Examines major developments in the history of the Imperial Russian state, focusing on the rule of the Romanov dynasty from 1613 to 1917. The failure to move from a feudal state to a modern social, political, and economic entity created mounting tensions, revolution, and destruction of the old regime. The course examines autocracy, political polarization, serfdom, Russia's relationship to the West, and its geographic-cultural location. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

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. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

HIST 388 – Potsdam in Europe (3) Examines the development of the Potsdam/Berlin region as a major European center, paying attention to cultural, political, and military affairs. We will analyze themes such as religious tolerance and the Enlightenment, as well as the Nazi and Cold War years. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

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. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

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). Prerequisite: Permission.

HIST 401 – Honors Thesis II (3) Completion of project began in Honors Thesis I.

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 1830s. Prerequisite: junior standing.

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. Prerequisite: junior standing.

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 1890s 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. Prerequisite: junior standing.

HIST 421 – Race & American Film History (3) 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. Prerequisite: junior standing.

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. Prerequisite: junior standing.

HIST 451 – Witchcraft in Early America (3) Explores witchcraft in early America, paying special attention to the social, religious and gendered contexts of witchcraft and to the legal and cultural dimension of witch-hunting. Prerequisite: junior standing.

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. Prerequisite: junior standing.

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. Prerequisite: junior standing.

HIST 454 – Energy in American History (3) Survey of human life in America that focuses on the role of energy in societies and cultures that have been established here. Prerequisite: junior standing.

HIST 455 – Religion in American Culture (3) Historical examination of the various expression 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. Prerequisite: junior standing.

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. Prerequisite: junior standing.

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. Prerequisite: junior standing.

HIST 459 – American Victorian Culture (3) 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. Prerequisite: junior standing.

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. Prerequisite: junior standing.

HIST 462 – Hero in Classical Antiquity (3) 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. Prerequisite: junior standing.

HIST 463 – Ancient Magic (3) Examines the Egyptian, Greek, and Roman concepts of magic, comparing them with medieval and modern Western ones. Prerequisite: junior standing.

HIST 464 – Technology in History (3) Examines the relationship between technologies and societies in history by looking at the place of technology in western civilization, and to a lesser extent, globally since the medieval period. Prerequisite: junior standing.

HIST 465 – Holocaust and History (3) Places the complex developments and events referred to as the Holocaust in the broad context of modern European history. Examines cultural, political and cultural developments in firsthand accounts in classic and contemporary scholarship, and in novels. Prerequisite: junior standing.

HIST 466 – Espionage and the Cold War (3) Examines the dynamics of espionage activity in Europe from the Nazi era to the end of the Cold War. The focus is on why and how Nazi, Soviet and Western intelligence agencies gathered information about each other as well as on ideological, political, economic, and logistical dimensions of reconnaissance work during the period. Prerequisite: junior standing.

HIST 467 – Imagining Asia (3) Explores the ways in which Trans-Pacific migration and trade, war and diplomacy have shaped American society and culture and how race has been seen in deeply generated ways. Prerequisite: junior standing.

HIST 468 – Japanese History Thru Manga (3) Uses Manga and Anime along with Classical Japanese Literature to explore Japanese history. Prerequisite: junior standing.

HIST 469 – Ideas & Culture in Modern Europe (3) Introduces students to the main aspects of Modern European Intellectual History from the Enlightenment to the present. Prerequisite: junior standing.

HIST 470 – African Environmental History (3) Historical examination of Africa's diverse human and natural environments. Considers interactions between human and natural worlds with issues such as urbanization, agricultural strategies, deforestation, and the role of the supernatural in African environmental knowledges. Prerequisite: junior standing.

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. Prerequisites: HIST 302 and upper division course in area of seminar focus. Gen Ed: WI credit. Fall and Spring.

HIST 540 – Readings in American History (3) Programs of individual study, designed with the advice of the instructor, on selected topics in American history. May be taken more than once. Prerequisite: senior or graduate standing.