

Department of History
History Course Descriptions
Summer 2016

HIS 1060-010

Islam and the West

MTWRF 10:30 am – 12:20 pm

Dr. Hibba Abugideiri

This course explores the historical cross-cultural influences and conflicts between “the Islamic world” (primarily in the area that is today the Middle East) and “the West,” with particular emphasis on the modern period (post 1800). We will do this by examining various aspects – like science, literature, architecture, religious and political ideas, popular culture and the US media – in order to determine the shifting directions cultural influence has historically moved over time between these geographic entities and why.

Attributes: Core History

HIS 1165-010

TOPIC: Global Markets: Equity & Inequity

MTWRF 12:30 – 2:20 pm

Dr. Lawrence Little

This course examines empire and inequality in the modern world and emphasizes the ideological, economic, political, and cultural causes and consequences of colonization from 1500 to the present. The course places equal emphasis on the various ways that people throughout the world resisted colonial rule and oppression.

Attributes: Core History

HIS 1250-010

TOPIC: Ancient Civilization

MTWRF 10:30 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.

Dr. Kelly-Anne Diamond

This course is intended to be an introduction to the empires of the ancient Near East from approximately 1500 BCE up to the conquest of Alexander the Great (c. 330 BCE). From the borders of Iran and Afghanistan in the east, to the Levant and Turkey in the north, and to Egypt in the south, we will look at the most up to date political narrative and the latest archaeological and textual discoveries. Major themes include the evaluation of the main sources used to reconstruct these societies and political systems, existing historical problems, and scholarly debates (or controversial material). We will also concentrate on the obstacles posed by various interpretative practices and methodologies. This course will include two quizzes, a midterm and final exam, and a research paper. All primary sources will be read in translation.

HIS 2998-020

TOPIC: History of American Law

MTWRF 10:30 am – 12:20 pm

Dr. Emil Ricci

Law has always been an important part of American society. Beginning with the first English colonies in America, the colonists developed a set of laws and legal institutions which gradually changed to meet the conditions of a new social and political order. English common law initially served as a foundation for governing the lives and social relations of colonial Americans, although it was not the only source of law in the new world. After the American Revolution, the common law would still be important, but by the early nineteenth century, federal and state constitutional law, statutory law, state and federal court decisions, and rules enacted by government agencies would create a distinctive legal culture. Beginning with colonial society, the course examines the development of American law through the vast economic, social, and political changes of the nineteenth century, focusing upon industrialization, slavery, the Civil War, Reconstruction, labor issues, and the rights of newly freed African-Americans.

The twentieth century focuses upon economic regulation, the New Deal and Franklin Roosevelt's efforts to change the Supreme Court, the Warren Court, the Civil Rights and anti-Vietnam War movements, and the interplay of law and politics in shaping American life. Topics such as constitutionalism, statutory development, property law, contracts, and the importance of judicial decisions will be discussed. Students will be required to read the main textbook entitled American Legal History: Cases and Materials, Fourth Edition, by Kermit L. Hall, Paul Finkelman, and James W. Ely, Jr., as well as excerpts from The Federalist Papers. In addition, selected articles from The American Journal of Legal History will be assigned. Two short Papers, each Five (5) Pages will be required, as well as a Comprehensive Final Examination.