

Department of History
Graduate History Course Descriptions
Spring 2018

HIS8042-001

M 5:20-7:20

Dr. Paul Rosier

U.S. Since The New Deal

Our focus is the rise and fall of what historians have called “the New Deal Order”-- a liberal political economy that combined corporate capitalism, the welfare state, and a national security apparatus. We will explore New Deal social thought, the social, political and cultural dimensions of the Cold War and the Vietnam War, the rise of American conservatism, and a range of social movements, including African-American civil rights, Native-American sovereignty, feminism, and environmentalism. We will examine both historiographical debates of the period and historical documents that open windows onto American life. Our objective is to emerge from the seminar conversant with both historiographical and historical contexts of the period as well as develop/improve diverse methodological approaches to writing history.

HIS 8207-001

T 5:20-7:20 PM

Dr. Rebecca Winer

Women and Gender in Europe

Women and Gender in European History through the broad chronological sweep of ca. 400 to 1650 C.E. are the subjects of this course. Students will be introduced to the experiences of lay and religious women (nuns), noble women and peasants, urban and rural women, respected matrons and prostitutes/victims of human trafficking, queens and the enslaved, women of the dominant Christian culture and those of religious minority groups (Jews, Muslims and converts to Christianity stigmatized for their origins) as well as those accused of witchcraft. Ingenuity and hard work are required of the medieval and early modern historian of women and gender. Careful approaches must be used to make limited evidence reveal its secrets and tell its stories. Theoretical sophistication, openness to new interdisciplinary methodologies from Anthropology, Archaeology, Literature, Religious Studies, Statistics, and Women’s Studies/Feminist Theory are the hallmark of successful historians of Gender and Women in earlier periods. Indeed, because of the intellectual creativity of the field, this course should appeal to students of History, Gender, Women’s Studies and related fields from different time periods and different geographical locations. Much research on Women & Gender in Europe 400-1600 C.E. has been formative of theoretical approaches in other fields: long-range studies of women's work, family history, childhood, Religious Studies, and gender and medicine, for example, often begin in the European Middle Ages and Pre-Modern period. Non specialists are welcome as are high school and community college instructors seeking to introduce gender into their course plans.

HIS 8225-001
M 7:30-9:30 PM
Dr. Lynne Hartnett

The Enlightenment

Many scholars consider the 18th century Enlightenment as the beginning of the modern world. With the *philosophes*' irreverent critiques of established political, religious, and social authority on the eve of monumental political and economic revolutions, the Enlightenment has been credited, or blamed, for ideas and ideologies as diverse as liberalism, totalitarianism, capitalism, and atheism. Recently though, scholars have reevaluated the Enlightenment and derided its significance. This course will examine both traditional and post-modern conceptions of the enlightenment. It will introduce students to some of the leading thinkers of the Enlightenment as well as some of the most important and provocative scholarly reactions to this intellectual movement. The course will also raise questions and seek to identify answers about the ways in which class and gender both affected and were affected by Enlightenment ideals. Finally, we will analyze the extent to which elitist notions were challenged, reinforced, or redefined by and through the Enlightenment.

Requirements for the Course: Seminar Participation; Book Reviews; Research Paper

HIS 8454-001
T 7:30 PM- 9:30 PM
Dr. Elizabeth Kolsky

Empire and Decolonization

This course takes a global interdisciplinary approach to the study of European and American empires in Asia, Africa, and the Americas from 1492 to the present. We will use a variety of methods (historical, anthropological, literary) and media (visual, textual, film) to assist us in our investigation of the twin themes of empire and decolonization. The course is organized thematically within a loosely constructed chronological framework. Issues of central concern include: the means, motives and ideologies of European expansion; the political, economic, and cultural impact of empire; competing representations and perspectives on the colonial encounter; the relationship between capitalism and colonialism; ideas about "others" as expressed in terms of race, class and gender; the forging of anti-colonial nationalism and consciousness; the enduring effects of empire and the complex ways in which colonial legacies continue to shape our world today.

Paris, City of Order and Anarchy

LST 7203-001
T 5:20-7:30 PM
Dr. Alexander Varias

This course focuses on the history and cultural transformation of Paris since the French Revolution. The perspective will be on Paris as a city hovering between the fixation on order on the one hand and the forces creating volatility and chaos on the other. Creativity and art emerged from both aspects of the metropolis which was caught between tradition and the modern. Among

the subjects included in our scrutiny are: Paris in revolutionary times; the rebuilding of the city; Impressionism and the Eiffel Tower as emblems of modernism; literary and philosophical change; the city's experience during the two World Wars; and the challenges and visions of hope since. Requirements include oral reports, a book review and a research paper. There are no exams.

HIS 8703-001

W 5:20-7:20 PM

Dr. Whitney Martinko

Public History Practicum

Students in this course will research, write, and produce podcasts about the history of The Woodlands estate in Philadelphia. Most visitors to the Woodlands are familiar with the site's history as a historic cemetery, founded in 1840. The podcasts will aim to educate visitors about the site's previous history as the estate of William Hamilton (1743-1813). They will work in conjunction with The Woodlands staff to determine broad topics of interest to people who regularly visit the site for recreation and programming. The podcasts will help "people the spaces" of the Woodlands by telling the histories of the lives of people who lived and worked there. Students will seek to teach visitors about the site's history in the context of scholarly understandings of race, gender, labor and economy, urban development, and histories of food and horticulture. This course requires no prerequisites and is not limited to students in the public history track. Students will have the opportunity to do research in primary and secondary sources, work collaboratively to analyze evidence and interpret history, and improve writing and communication skills.

HIS 8800-001

R 5:20-7:20 PM

Dr. Paul Steege

TOP: History of Violence

This course is the first half of a two-semester research seminar. During the first semester, students will explore the methodological and historiographical issues connected to the study of the history of violence. In the second semester, students will draw on this historiography to craft an article-length research paper substantially based on primary sources (NOTE: students are NOT required to take both semesters of this seminar).

Students will read a range of materials from multiple disciplines in order to explore the history of violence and to locate it within distinct national and political contexts. Readings will most likely include books and articles by Hannah Arendt, Gyanendra Pandey, Randall Collins, Norbert Elias, Jan Philipp Reemtsma, E. P. Thompson, Giorgio Agamben, Alf Lütke, and Jill Lepore.

The first semester will culminate in an extended proposal/literature review that will serve as a foundation for the paper to be completed by students choosing to continue the course into the second semester. Several additional, shorter writing assignments will also be required over the course of the semester.

HIS 9006-001

Grad Internship in Public History

HIS9012-001

Directed Readings in History

HIS 9022-001

Permission of the Graduate Director required.

Thesis Direction I

HIS9032-001

Permission of the graduate director required.

Thesis Direction II

HIS 9042-001

Permission of the Graduate Director required.

Internship in Teach of History