

Department of History
Undergraduate History Course Descriptions
Summer 2022

HIS 1060-015

Topic: Islam and the West

MTWR 11:00-1:20 p.m.

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 media – in order to determine the shifting directions cultural influence has historically moved over time between these geographic entities and why.

Attributes: Core History, Arab and Islamic Studies, Peace and Justice, Distance Learning
Summer Session I

HIS 1075-025

Topic: Significance of Race in America

MTWR 1:30-3:50 p.m.

Dr. Angelo Repousis

Why were relations between Native Americans and whites violent almost from the beginning of European settlement? How could slavery thrive in a society founded on the principle that "all men are created equal"? How comparable were the experiences of Irish, Jewish, and Italian immigrants, and why did people in the early 20th century think of them as separate "races"? What were the causes and consequences of Japanese Americans' internment in military camps during World War II? Are today's Mexican immigrants unique, or do they have something in common with earlier immigrants?

This course deals centrally with the social process by which societies create racial and ethnic groups and define their place in relation to other racial or ethnic groups. Because the emergence of racial and ethnic groups is a historical process, the course will examine American history from the colonial period to the present in order to understand the changing ways that Americans have viewed each other and divided into groups. In short, the course will be rooted in specific processes in American history but will examine how America formed groups that are given power and prestige, recognized as "real" Americans, discriminated against, marginalized, enslaved, or killed.

Attributes: Core History, Distance Learning
Summer Session II

HIS 1155-030

Topic: American Empire

T R 5:20-7:00 p.m.

Dr. Eugene McCarraher

Should Americans think of the United States as an empire? Our economy, our conception of “freedom,” and our everyday lives have all depended on empire, but there has also been a long current of anti-imperialism in American culture. With readings ranging from Locke, William Penn, Chief Powhatan, Emerson, and Melville to Che Guevara, Martin Luther King, Jr.,

Fukuyama, and Friedman, this course considers the historical role of empire in our personal and social lives.

Attributes: Core History

Summer Session III

HIS 1250-015

Topic: Ancient Near East Civilizations

MTWR 11:00-1:20 pm

Dr. Kelly-Anne Diamond

This course is intended to be an introduction to the empires of the ancient Near East from approximately 1550 BCE to the end of the Babylonian Empire and the Persian conquest (ca. 539 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. We will also concentrate on the obstacles posed by various interpretative practices and methodologies.

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). Special attention will be paid to the role of the king and the ideology of kingship.

This course will include a map quiz, a midterm and final exam, a seminar presentation and four response papers. All primary sources will be read in translation.

Attributes: Core History, Distance Learning

Summer Session III

HIS 2993-030

History Internship

Dr. Whitney Martinko

TBA

Summer Session III

2998-035

Topic: US Constitution & Legal History

MW 5:20-7:00 p.m.

Dr. Emil Ricci

Over the past thirty years, American legal history has become a dynamic and popular field of academic study. At the same time, the United States Constitution—its drafting, ratification, and interpretation—has attracted the attention of many scholars. Many historians study the history of American law and the Constitution to better understand contemporary social, cultural, economic, and political questions. Similarly, historians examine the origins and development of American law to offer innovative perspectives which may help lawyers and judges resolve current legal disputes. As a result, a growing historiography has developed studying how legislatures, courts, administrative agencies, and constitutional debates have shaped American society and politics. This summer our class will focus upon how law has been an important part of American society. Beginning with the first English settlers 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, based upon court decisions, was brought to America, along with various customs and usages derived from English boroughs and villages. After the American Revolution, common law was still important, but by the early nineteenth century federal and state constitutions, statutory law, as well as federal and state court decisions became vital sources

of legal authority. By the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century, rules made by government agencies also contributed to a distinctive legal culture.

Beginning with colonial society, our course will examine the development of American law and the Constitution. We will focus upon the vast economic, political, and social changes of the nineteenth century: industrialization, slavery, the Civil War, Reconstruction, labor unrest, and the rights of newly freed African Americans. The twentieth century looks at the impact of the progressive movement, economic regulation, the New Deal and Franklin Roosevelt's efforts to change the Supreme Court, freedom of speech, civil rights, the feminist movement, and the Supreme Court under Earl Warren and Warren Burger. Some attention is given to the Rehnquist Court. Topics such as constitutional interpretation, statutory development, property law, contracts, due process, the commerce clause, the Fourteenth Amendment, and the importance of federal and state court decisions will be discussed.

Attributes: Cultural Studies, Distance Learning
Summer Session III

HIS 5515-030

TBA

Dr. Marc Gallicchio

Summer Session III

Independent Research