



UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT of HISTORY

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COURSES

Spring 2006 Graduate Course Descriptions

All courses numbered 500 and above are graduate courses.
Undergraduates need the instructor's permission to enroll. Graduate students may also take 400 level courses for graduate credit.
(See Undergraduate Descriptions for a listing of all 400 level courses).

208 College Hall
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Philadelphia, PA 19104-6379
T 215 898 8452
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Hist 510-301 American Vernacular Architecture

M 1-4 ----- R. St. George

This research seminar examines basic themes in the historical development of American vernacular architecture or, more broadly, cultural places: the diverse ethnic architectural traditions; the motivations and meanings of various attempts at reforming architecture as a means of recasting society; and from these reform positions, much of their persuasive power rooted in critiques of the city's crowds and moral decadence and the country's backwardness and entrenched conservatism, emerged the dominant spatial tactic deployed today: the suburban way of life. The course will explore select aspects of the vernacularization of suburban experience: the tract house, the automobile, the shopping mall, the supermarket, the lawn.

Hist 525-401 God and Nature: The Encounter between Judaism and Early Modern Science

D. Ruderman ----- R 1:30-4:30

Readings of texts chosen to shed light on the relationships between Judaism, magic, and science, primarily in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. An attempt to compare the Jewish pattern of response to science, medicine, and the natural world with Protestant and Catholic responses in the age of "The Scientific Revolution." Knowledge of Hebrew recommended but not required.

Hist 530-401 20th Century African American History

B. Savage ----- W 2-5

This course will study major historical works on African American history for the post-1890 period. Emphasis on intellectual, political, and cultural history, and special attention to current debates about the relevance of this history and race generally to studies and students of United States history.

Hist 610-301 The Atlantic World

K. Brown ----- T 1:30-4:30

[Hist 610-302 American History the Survey: What it is About and](#)

How to Do It

B. Kuklick ----- M 4-7

This course will take up, for prospective teachers and scholars, the way in which the survey of US history -- from 1500 to 2005 -- is conceived and taught. We will focus on the secondary literature, and how to appraise its value; on the ways to synthesize the information in this literature in constructing a coherent course or courses; on dilemmas of understanding and conceptual issues of periodization; on story lines; and on the actual substance of the history. In addition to other material, in pursuit of these aims, we will be reading over the semester a draft of my text *From Sea to Shining Sea*. Check my website for a complete syllabus.

Hist 610-401 Gender, Race and Nation in Civil War America

S. McCurry ----- R 1:30-4:30

This graduate level course invites students to engage a series of issues about nationalism, state formation, and citizenship which presented themselves forcefully in the United States in the mid-nineteenth century in the context of civil war. At that crucial moment, as historians have long recognized, a process of state building in the United States driven by a military campaign of unprecedented scope, combined with the evolution of the war into a process of state-sponsored slave emancipation, ultimately reconfigured the nation itself, and remade the terms of political membership (citizenship) within it. Less well understood, or more parochially treated, is the process of (failed) nation building put underway simultaneously in the Confederate States, the massive expansion of state power that involved the racial state and white citizenship envisioned there, and the significance of those developments for region and nation in the post-war period. Finally, neither of these regional literatures has yet to grapple meaningfully with the question of gender and nation: the gendered apparatus of nation-making, the configuring of women within the state and their relation to state authority, or the hard boundaries of male citizenship that emerged in the period of constitutional revision in the post-emancipation period. Using the Civil War as a pivotal moment, the course ranges back to the early national period and forward to the late nineteenth century to trace out the nexus of gender, race, and nation in the Civil War era.

Hist 610-402 Readings in American, Economic, Industrial and Labor History

W. Licht ----- T 1:30-4:30

Topics to be considered in this reading seminar on American labor and industrial history include: capitalist transitions in the antebellum countryside and city with early industrialization; working class ideology and mobilizations in the antebellum and Civil War periods; labor history from the ground up and working class protest movements in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; transformation of work under corporate capitalism, hegemonic and dialectical views; labor history through the lenses of immigration, ethnicity, gender, and race; the depression of the 1930s, the New Deal and the rise of mass production unionism; the post New Deal political economic order and organized labor; workers in contemporary America, deindustrialization and the eclipse of trade unionism; and Philadelphia as a case study. Several films

will be shown and at least one field trip is planned.

Hist 620-301 Court Society and Court Culture in Early Modern Europe

Chartier/Feros ----- T 2-5

The objectives of this seminar are 1) to reflect on the relationships between court as a social milieu, "court society" understood as a specific political and social formation, and the civilizing process" that, according to Norbert Elias, characterized early modern Europe; 2) to compare different forms of court societies - particularly Italy, Spain, England, and France; 3) to analyze the specificity of court sociability and court psychology; 4) to present the relations between the early modern court and scientific, literary, and artistic productions. The seminar will be taught in the Lea Room of Van Pelt Library, Tuesday 2-5 p.m. It will be based on an active use of the Library's bibliographic resources, reading and discussion of primary sources and specific case studies

Hist 620-302 Twentieth Century European History

T. Childers ----- T 1:30-4:30

Hist 620-401 European Integration

R. Granieri ----- W 2-5

Defining Europe's boundaries has never been a simple issue, and that question gained added significance after 1945, when the decline of Europe from its position of global dominance inspired a revival of plans for European political and economic integration. This seminar will survey the latest scholarship on the political, economic, social, and cultural implications of European integration in historical perspective, addressing questions such as the shape of European institutions, the role of the nation state, the place of Europe within the Atlantic Community, the role of Europe in the Cold War, and the future of the European Union.

Hist 700-301 Proseminar in History

B. Nathans ----- R 10-1

Continuation of History 700 which began in the Fall. No new admissions.

Hist 720-301 Research Seminar in Early Modern British History

J. Rudolph ----- M 2-5

The focus of this seminar will be on the research and completion of a publishable essay concerning the history of the British Isles in the early modern period; depending on student interest, these parameters may be broadly conceived to include topics in the history of the British Atlantic, or in early eighteenth-century politics and culture. Students will conduct primary research in Philadelphia-area manuscript and rare book collections, as well as available online collections. Students will receive an introduction to paleography, and attention will be paid to possibilities and strategies of research in the British archives. The seminar will meet to engage in collaborative discussion of research and, toward the end of the semester, to discuss and critique draft essays. The fall proseminar in Early Modern British History (Hist 620-304) serves as a prerequisite for this course; any student wishing to join the seminar without this prerequisite will need to consult with the instructor.