

Graduate Course Offerings - Fall 2008

Hist 608 Proseminar in Urban Studies

Michael Katz T 6-9

This seminar is required for students in the Urban Studies Graduate Certificate Program. They will be given preference for enrollment, which will be limited to 15. The course is designed for Ph.D. students who intend to do urban-related research. It is not open to undergraduates. Master's Degree students will be allowed to enroll only in special circumstances and with the permission of the instructor. To earn credit for the Graduate Certificate Program, students must enroll for both fall and spring semesters. Other students may take only the fall semester. Enrollment for the spring semester alone is not permitted. In the fall, the seminar will focus on inter-disciplinary readings concerned with the history of American cities in the twentieth-century. In the spring, students will write a major research paper and meet with scholars and practitioners who exemplify a variety of careers in urban research.

610-301 Readings in 19th Century American History

Steven Hahn M 2-5

610-302 Religion in Early America

Michael Zuckerman W 2-5

This class will certainly seek to span time, place, and denominations, but it will not attempt a comprehensive survey of American religion. It will focus instead on relatively recent works (and perhaps some older ones) that provide models and point directions for understanding American religious life in the 250 years from the first settlement in Virginia to the time of the Civil War. Alternatively, students with a decently defined line of research in early American religion may use this course to pursue it

Hist 620-301 Early Modern European Empires

Antonio Feros T 130-430

This one-semester seminar on early modern European imperialism is designed to give students interested in the history of early modern Europe, the Atlantic world, the history of Africa and colonial Latin America a general understanding of early modern ideologies and institutions that enabled Europe to colonize parts of Africa and the Americas. Throughout the semester we will examine several important topics: medieval precedents of early modern imperialism; theories of empire and monarchy; ideologies of conquest and colonization; models of conquest and colonial exploitation; and the relevance of race and slavery in understanding European influence in Africa and the Americas.

Hist 620-302 A History of Cultural History

Ann Moyer W 2-5

What is cultural history: a set of research methods? questions? topics? interpretive assumptions? metanarratives? In this course, we will address these questions through a historical approach. We will examine some of the major writings of the early cultural historians of the nineteenth century, chart the broad expansion of cultural history in the twentieth, and discuss some of the implications for doing history in the century that lies before us. We will devote particular attention to the central importance of the era of the European Renaissance (and the history of early modern Europe) in the development of cultural history. In that process we will survey a range of the interdisciplinary themes, issues, and methods that have come to be known as cultural history, and the ways in which fields such as history, literary studies, the history of art, and anthropology have intersected over the years in the study of Europe 1300-1600. Authors will include: Burckhardt; Huizinga; Cassirer; Panofsky; Gombrich; Yates; Geertz; Ginzburg; Foucault; Greenblatt.

Hist 620-401 Historiography of Imperial and Soviet Russia

Kevin Platt

W-2-5

The course is designed for graduate students with at least advanced reading knowledge of Russian: seminar discussion will be conducted in English, but a fair amount of reading will be assigned in Russian. We will cover the development of Russian historical research and writing from the start of the eighteenth century to the present, focusing on major texts, schools and figures. Alongside this traditional historiographical architecture, segments of the course will be devoted as well to a variety of theoretical models and approaches to research, including: institutional history, cultural history, poetics of history, philosophy of history, "invention of tradition," trauma studies, and others.

Hist 630-301 Narrative and Historical Writing

Thomas Childers T 130-430

This course focuses on how historians write, how they select evidence, craft structures of analysis, and shape narratives. It is not a course on theory or, strictly speaking, methodology. It is instead an examination of the forms of historical writing, from grand narrative to micro-history. Today much of the reading public perceives scholarly writing as hopelessly tedious, jargon-ridden, and inaccessible, while professional historians tend to view "popular" history, or narrative in general, with condescension. (Gordon Wood, "Novel History," New Republic). Some worry that academic historians are writing for an ever more specialized and hence ever smaller audience. "Clio," Simon Shama has suggested, "has a problem," (New York Times Magazine), a view echoed by James McPherson ("What's the Matter With History?" (Princeton Alumni Weekly),) and Patricia Nelson Limerick, ("Dancing with Professors: The Trouble with Academic Prose," New York Times Sunday Book Review). Why *is* so much scholarly writing so bad? What is the relationship between narrative and analysis? What are the narrative options historians have as they set out to translate their research into prose? How, in short, do they construct their stories?

We will read a number of articles dealing with narrative and theory as well as a variety of texts in American, European, and World historiography, among others: Natalie Davis, The Return of Martin Guerre, Richard Price's Alabi's World; John Demos's The Unredeemed Captive. The course will also offer an opportunity for students to work on writing projects, either specifically for this course or for others, circulating drafts, and discussing them with the class.

Hist 630-302 African Presence in Latin America

Ann Farnsworth-Alvear R 130-430

Hist 630-303 Folklife Studies

Robert St. George R 130-430

Hist 630-304 The Chinese in Eurasian History

Arthur Waldron T 130-430

An examination of the gradual development of the Chinese in the larger Eurasian context, with an emphasis on people rather than state structures (though these will be considered). Topics will include the origins of the people who are today Chinese (we will look at the most recent DNA studies), the development of the Chinese language, and the evolution of patterns of settlement and material culture from the late neolithic, again using the most recent scholarship. Other topics will include the formation of family structures, patterns of social interaction, values and religions, and patterns of state formation. Emphasis will be on interactions, e.g. with the earliest horse nomads, with the Turkiic civilizations, with the Tibetans and with the Manchus,, and the ways in which these affected both people and state structures. Initial attention will be devoted to the period from about 1200 BCE to 1900 CE, examined thematically, but later the course will turn to the dramatic changes that began with the abdication of the last dynasty, the Qing, in 1912 and the ensuing attempt to create a polity that was both "Chinese" and entirely "new."

Hist 630-401 Muslim, Christian, and Jewish Relations in the Middle East and North Africa

Heather Sharkey T 130-430

This seminar addresses several recurring questions about Muslim, Christian, and Jewish relations in the modern Middle East. How have Islam, Christianity, and Judaism influenced each other in the region historically? How have Jews, Christians, and Muslims fared as religious minorities? To what extent have communal relations been characterized by harmony and cooperation, or by strife and discord, and how have these relations changed in different contexts over time? To what extent and under what circumstances have members of these communities converted, intermarried, formed business alliances, and adopted or developed similar customs? How has the emergence of the modern nation-state system affected communal relations as well as the legal or social status of religious minorities in particular countries? How important has religion been as one variable in social identity (along with sect, ethnicity, class, gender, etc.), and to what extent has religious identity figured into regional conflicts and wars?

History 700 The Study of History

Kathy Peiss W 10-1

This seminar is an introduction to historical thinking for entering graduate students. We begin with works that probe the boundaries of the discipline of history and consider its defining attributes. We then turn to a series of problems that all historians encounter in their work, as they define the scale of their projects, focus on change or continuity, come to terms with evidence, etc. We will consider several conceptual frameworks that have proven especially fruitful in recent historical work, including Marxist, poststructuralist, and postcolonialist theories. We end the semester discussing the politics of history and our own practices as teachers and scholars. This is not a seminar in historiography *per se*. Rather, my intention is to help you develop the critical tools, familiarity with broad historical and intellectual developments, self-awareness, and sensibility you will need as an historian. The fall semester is a readings course devoted to that purpose. In the second semester, you will be applying those skills to developing, researching, and writing a significant article on a subject of your choosing.

Hist 710 Research Seminar in American History

Sarah Igo T 3-6

In this research seminar, students will first and foremost be working on honing their research skills and writing a substantial, article-length essay on a topic of their choosing in 20th century U.S. history. This is not a comprehensive reading course, but especially in the first half of the semester we will be reading a selection of model articles from a number of different historiographical traditions for both insight and inspiration.

Hist 720-301 Research in Early Modern Urban History

Margo Todd M 2-5

The first part of this course will be devoted to reading in recent secondary literature on the urban history of early modern Europe, with a quick comparative look at towns in early Anglo- and Spanish America. The second part will focus on research methodology and sources for urban history, early modern paleography (secretary hand), and the production of a short (conference-length) research paper.

Hist 720-302 Research Seminar: Europe 1945-1991

Benjamin Nathans R 130-430

This seminar provides a forum for the research and writing of a substantial and original paper. It also develops the skills of giving and receiving constructive comments on the written work of fellow historians. The first several weeks will be devoted to a common set of readings beginning with Tony Judt's *Postwar: A History of Europe Since 1945* (2005), which students are encouraged to read over the summer. Each member of the seminar will embark on a research topic based on primary sources and approved by the instructor. Where needed, students will also receive guidance from another faculty member in the relevant sub-field. Topic statements, bibliographies, outlines, and a sample primary source (with accompanying analysis) will be

submitted according to a series of deadlines early in the term. During the middle of the term the seminar will convene irregularly but students will meet individually with the instructor. Toward the end of the term, the seminar will again convene for several sessions devoted to group discussion of drafts of student papers, including readers' comments distributed to the seminar as a whole. Final papers will be due during exam period.