

## Graduate Courses Offerings - Fall 2009

### **HIST 501 The Nature of Sex**

**K. Brown**                      **R 1:30-4:30PM**

What is natural about sex, gender, sexuality, and reproduction? This course examines a range of social science, feminist, and historical theories that try to make sense of some of the most intimate and seemingly timeless features of the human experience: the difference between the sexes, the relationship between gender and anatomical sex, the variation in sexual identity and sexuality even among members of the same sex; and the emotional and social dynamics of reproduction. Among the topics we will consider are the relationship between public and private life; the historic connections between patriarchy and capitalism; reproduction as a social and cultural as well a biological phenomenon; class, race, ethnicity, and religion as alternative sites of identity; citizenship, legal personhood and contract; the dynamics of empire and conquest; feminism; sexuality; the history of the body; visual culture; postmodernist, poststructuralist, and postfeminist ways of thinking about sex and gender; the current debates about the meaning of marriage; and the challenge presented by transgender lives. The course is designed for graduate students but open to undergraduates with the permission of the instructor.

### **HIST 523 Medieval Jewish Culture: Nature and the Supernatural in Pre-Kabbalistic Jewish Thought**

**T. Fishman**                      **M 2-5PM**

Through close reading of non-kabbalistic texts, the course will explore medieval Jewish interpretations of nature's marvels, and its techniques for manipulating nature in order to improve living conditions, to maintain health, and to stimulate changes in the realm of the supernatural. Primary source readings in Hebrew and Aramaic. Undergraduates require instructor's permission.

### **HIST 610.301 The Literature Of 19<sup>th</sup> Century American History**

**S. McCurry**                      **T 1:30-4:30PM**

This course offers a graduate level introduction to the literature of nineteenth century U.S. history. It uses a reading list of recently published and classic texts to help students map the critical questions and debates that have shaped the field. The list is also designed to represent key methodological developments, including in gender and transnational histories. The course proceeds as a reading seminar. It meets weekly. The standard writing requirement is a book review and a historiographical paper on a topic of the student's choosing. Students are also welcome to write their second-year research paper in conjunction with the seminar.

### **Hist 610.302 Cultural Encounters: The U.S. in the World**

**K. Peiss**                              **W 2-5PM**

U.S. cultural historians have increasingly moved in the direction of transnational studies, raising new questions about American culture and offering fresh insights into other fields, including political and diplomatic history. This course examines recent cultural histories that integrate the modern United States in the rest of the world. Readings will reflect a variety of historical subjects, theoretical frameworks, and interdisciplinary methodologies, as well as a set of primary documents and artifacts. Topics include: cultural studies of empire and international relations; business and consumer culture; travel and tourism; entertainment and media; anthropology, museums, and other disciplines of cross-cultural knowledge production and dissemination; borderlands; the relationship of domestic and foreign, intimate and public. Students will write several historiographical reviews and a research proposal.

### **Hist 610.303 20th Century American History**

**T. Sugrue**                              **M 2-5PM**

This is an intensive reading seminar on major themes in American political, social, and cultural history from the 1890s through the 1980s. Topics include Progressive reform; consumer cultures; expertise, bureaucracy, and the

state; sexuality and gender; immigration and ethnic identities; the Great Depression and the New Deal; urban and suburban transformations; liberalism; McCarthyism; civil rights; and radicalism and conservatism in the 1960s.

### **Hist 620.301 Imperial Russia**

**P. Holquist**            **T 1:30-4:30PM**

This course is designed to familiarize students with the historiographical terrain and key works in imperial Russian history. It is intended both for students whose primary field is Russian and for those who are doing a secondary field in Russian history. Knowledge of Russian is not required. Those students focusing on Russian history will be expected to do readings in Russian; the syllabus for those students whose primary field is not Russian history will not require Russian-language readings. Students will read a set of core works each week, but additional readings will be adapted to individual students' interests and exam focus. Topics covered will include the rise of Imperial Russia as a continental land empire; the establishment, maintenance, and abolition of serfdom; the geo-politics of Russia's rise as a great power in the European system; the ideology of the court and nobility; critiques of the imperial system, both conservative and radical; the emergence of the intelligentsia and its worldview; the nature of the Russian empire in comparison with other colonial states; and the system's end in revolution and war. Assignments will include discussion papers; a bibliographic review; and a final 20- to 25-page paper on a major issue or theme in the field.

### **Hist 620.302 Economic Ideas from Adam Smith to Marx**

**J. Steinberg**            **R 1:30-4:30PM**

This seminar traces the evolution of the main economic ideas of classical economic liberalism from Adam Smith through Malthus, Ricardo, Say, List to John Stuart Mill and Karl Marx. The course will consider how and why Smith's description of markets became the orthodoxy and what assumption about "universal laws," universal human nature and the definition of rationality have to be made for that description to be reliable. We shall read together the main works of these thinkers and at the end consider Avner Offer's *The Challenge of Affluence* (2006) to help us re-think the problems of classical liberalism in the globalized capitalist system of today.

### **Hist 670.401 History and Historiography in Transnational Asia**

**F. Dickinson**            **R 1:30-4:30PM**

This seminar aims to reconceptualize conventional notions of East Asia and restore the region to a central place in the history of the early modern and modern worlds. It will do so, first, by introducing a handful of recent scholarly works on East Asia that attempt to rethink orthodox themes of historical inquiry, such as geography, nation, industrialization, women, trade, empire, etc. Second, it will look at how East Asianists have, over the last decade, contributed to one of the most exciting new scholarly trends, transnational history--the study of political, economic, social and cultural developments across national boundaries. We will discuss the strengths and weaknesses of this trend and attempt to determine what, in fact, constitutes a "transnational" perspective.

### **Hist 700 The Study of History**

**K. Brown**                **W 10-1PM**

Weekly readings, discussions, and writing assignments to develop a global perspective within which to study human events in various regional/cultural milieus, c. 1400 to the present. This seminar is required for all PhD students. Course is taken in the Fall and Spring of the first year of graduate study. Grade is awarded upon completion of both semesters.

### **Hist 710.301 Legal Revolutions in America, 1750-1877**

**S. Gordon**                **R 1:30-4:30PM**

This reading course will explore the enormous changes in American life and law that sustained the political, social and religious revolutions of the late eighteenth century through Reconstruction. All kinds of hierarchies

were challenged (and many of them rebuilt) in the revolutionary epoch that unraveled British control, established new governments, and eventually created a new legal culture. The shattering of that culture and its reconstruction in a more powerful national government demonstrated the vulnerability as well as the versatility of the American revolutionary settlement.

**Hist 740.301 Middle East Race and Ethnicity**  
**E. Troutt-Powell T 1:30-4:30PM**