

FALL 2017 HIST 492: Capstone Seminar

HIST 492.001 **CRN 67685** **Wednesday, 2:00 to 4:50 pm: B-374 Clark**
Dr. Thomas Cauvin

Between Memories and Identities: International History of National Monuments (1914-2017)

This course explores the history of national monuments in an international and transnational context from the First World War until the recent controversies over Civil War monuments in the United States. Monuments are crucial sources for historians to study the construction of public memories and political identities. In addition to the different approaches to studying monuments (Nora, Young), the course will offer a comparative study of the uses of monuments (celebration, mourning, and identity-building) and their evolution in the public space.

HIST 492.002 **CRN 73551** **Monday, 9:00 to 11:50 am; B-374 Clark**
Dr. John Didier

How to Be an Emperor or Empress (Asia)

Being an accomplished emperor or empress is a tricky business. Writing and speaking well are also tricky. While the cost of being a poor emperor/empress --- usually involving loss of throne, empire, life, or all three -- probably exceeds the cost of being an unattained writer or unpolished speaker, being a poor empress/emperor of one's own life and an unaccomplished writer or speaker either singly or in tandem can leverage very unhealthy forces to act unpropitiously on one's life. Thus, what are the true purposes of our exercises in this course? We wish to learn to become good emperors / empresses of our own lives and environs. To do this we must understand and utilize both power and its utility. The latter, in this world, surely involves the complex use of the word, both written and spoken. Thus do we read about empresses and emperors, and, here, about particularly Asian empresses / emperors, and thus do we then write and talk about them. Written assignments include four five- to six-page reading response papers; keeping two weekly reading journals to be turned in alternatively each week for review; and a term paper of approximately 15-20 pages, properly footnoted and including a formal bibliography, to be presented to the class orally and submitted in written form during the final weeks of the semester.

HIST 492.005 **CRN 79383** **Tuesday 9:00 to 11:50 am; B-374 Clark**
Dr. Carrie Pitzulo

American Sexualities: Identity, Regulation and Liberation in the Twentieth-Century

Sex and sexuality are often perceived to be natural and unchanging facets of human life and society. But like society itself, sex has a history. This course will examine the changing ways that Americans have defined, regulated, practiced, and theorized about sexuality in the twentieth-century. We will also consider the historiographic trends that inform our knowledge of the past. Throughout, we will explore the societal expectations of acceptable and deviant sexualities, challenges to the status quo, technological, medical, and scientific impacts on American sexual culture and practice, as well as the influence of popular culture and politics.