

Spring 2024 History Course Catalog



Undergraduate Courses from 201 - 492



HISTORY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



T,R,
11:00 - 12:15

John Didier

HIST 201-002: Seminar: Chinese Civilization

In HIST 201, Spring 2023, we will study the development of the written word in the historical development of Chinese civilization. We will read short translated sections of Chinese primary sources in all of historical narrative, philosophical expression, and literary expression, spanning the period of roughly 800 BC to 900 AD, witnessing thereby the maturation of the Chinese written word and self-awareness in all major aspects of expression and reflecting on the historical Chinese people's understanding of their own present and past in those periods. We will also read a concise modern survey text of Chinese history that in very lively fashion outlines the essentials of Chinese history of these periods. Assignments will include weekly brief precis of perhaps 2 double-spaced pages (400-500 words) that outline our readings in primary sources that week and occasionally leading classroom discussion of our primary source readings. There will be no lengthy papers or examinations assigned



T,R
8:00 - 9:15
Joon Kim

HIST 252: Asian American History

Asian American historical experience in the United States from 1850s to the present time.



HIST 255: Native American History

M,W,F
3:00-4:15

**Doreen
Martinez**

History of Native American peoples in the United States to the present, including origin stories.

Blaze Your Trails: War and Diplomacy, Borderlands, Religion, Women



HIST 304: Women in Ancient Greece and Rome

M,W,F
11:00 - 1:50

**Kristin
Heineman**

This course will focus on the lives of women in Ancient Greece and Rome, from early archaic periods, through antiquity. As this subject relies on relatively limited sources, we will examine the portrayal of women in art, history, philosophy, theatre, and archaeology. Additionally, this course will examine the social construction of gender and gendered roles in Ancient Egyptian, Greek, and Roman cultures. In so doing, we seek to understand the relationship between these and other cultural discourses, such as identity, sexuality, and power. You will evaluate a range of sources, both literary and material, in order to understand the conceptions of gender and sexuality that were developed by these distant societies; in so doing, you may gain new insights into contemporary culture's construction of gender.



T, R,
9:30 - 10:45

**Nicole
Archambeau**

HIST 309: Medieval Christianity, 500-1500

In readings about saints, miracles, and cross-religious encounters, we'll explore the lived experience of medieval Christians throughout Europe. We'll consider how people learned about and internalized the sacraments and beliefs of Christianity and how the liturgical calendar influenced their lives throughout the year.



M,W,F
10:00 - 10:50

**Erin
Jordan**

Blaze Your Trails: War and Diplomacy, Religion and Women and Gender

HIST 310: Medieval Europe

This course surveys the history of Western Europe from the year 1000 to the beginning of the Early Modern Period (c. 1500). It examines the foundations and evolution of medieval society by tracing the main political, economic, social, religious and intellectual developments of the period. In particular, we will explore the impact of Christianity, the emergence of monarchy and the feudal state, and the re-emergence of the city and the revitalization of commerce. We will also explore the cultural and intellectual currents of the period, assess the interaction between western Europe and its neighbors, and examine the numerous dichotomies created and perpetuated by medieval society, i.e. men/women, peasant/noble, religious/secular, etc. In addition to the examination of the medieval period, this course also explores modern attitudes towards the medieval period, exploring the various new interpretations presented by scholars during the last decade.



T, R
10:00-10:50

Ann Little

Blaze Your Trails: Empire, Colonialism, & Borderlands; Race & Ethnicity; Revolution

HIST 341: Empire, Race, Revolution--America 1700-1815

What did the American Revolution mean in American history and in the broader Age of Atlantic Revolution? An in-depth exploration of the history and memory of what one historian has called "the first American civil war" from the perspective of the winners and losers alike.



T, R,
11-12:15

**Derek
Everett**

HIST 347: United States 1876 -1917

The best of times, the worst of times? Between 1876 and 1917, the United States experienced incredible economic and industrial development, the shine of the Gilded Age. It developed a more influential federal government at home and abroad, emerging as a global power while reimagining the relationship between citizens and their institutions. Yet it was also a time of dramatic income inequality, racial restrictions and violence, environmental degradation, and more. We will explore the best and worst of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, exploring the growing pains and triumphs of a maturing nation.



T, R,
2-3:15

**Adam
Thomas**

HIST 349: United States Since 1945

At the end of World War II, the United States faced a hopeful future. What followed was an era strong on promises but ambiguous on accomplishments. A burgeoning consumer culture promised the good life for all Americans; yet the wall between the haves and have-nots grew even more impenetrable. The Civil Rights Movement sought equality for all Americans; yet integration failed to alter the basic assumptions and structures of white supremacy. The Cold War eroded definitions of victory and defeat. But not all promises went unfulfilled. Americans of all stripes enjoyed unprecedented affluence. America's quest for outer space—the source of some of most inflated, visionary, and seemingly unattainable rhetoric—ultimately landed men on the moon and showered the country with technology that would drive the economy for decades. Amidst the bold promises and their imperfect fulfillment, this course will interrogate rhetoric and reality in the second half of the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. Students will probe the debate between the two master narratives of postwar history—the Cold War and mass consumption—through a broad reading of the evolving secondary scholarship and, especially, primary sources, including film, television, and material culture.

Blaze Your Trails: War and Diplomacy; Race and Ethnicity; Environment

HIST 352: American West Since 1900



T, R,
12:30-1:45

Adam Thomas

During the twentieth century, the western United States transformed from a place of myth and nostalgia—a rural backwater with little economic, political, or cultural power—into a dominant region that shaped the fate of the entire nation. Modern America was Western America. The reversal of longtime patterns of influence from east-west to west-east was one of the most important changes in American history, altering both the West and the rest of the United States. This course will investigate the many trends that precipitated that shift, most notably the expansion in power and influence of the federal government, technological innovation, industrialization, urbanization, and the natural environment. It will emphasize the contestation of property rights, resources (especially water), identity, and modernity.

Blaze Your Trails: War & Diplomacy; Revolution; Empire, Colonialism, & Borderlands

HIST 357: The American Military Experience



M, W, F
1-1:50

Mike
Mansfield

This course is a survey of the role of the Armed Forces in American society. This includes an examination into the development of military traditions, institutions, and practices.



M, W, F
11-11:50

Mike
Mansfield

HIST 366: African American History to 1865

This is a survey course of the role of African Americans in American life from the 17th century to end of the Civil War, with emphasis on the institutions and events of the 1800s. Given the nature of the African American experience, attention will be paid to the historical roots of slavery in America and the origins of segregation.



T, R,
2-3:15

Tracy
Brady

HIST 370: United States History through Film

In this class, students will explore Hollywood's changing depictions of historical events across time. For example, we examine how (and why) Hollywood depictions of slavery and enslaved people have changed from over 100 years ago with Birth of a Nation to 2013 with Twelve Years a Slave. Or how can The Great Train Robbery (1903), Shane (1953), Blazing Saddles (1974) and The Hateful Eight (2015) all tell the story of the American West? The class will focus primarily on discussion of films, journal articles, books, film reviews and various primary sources. So come watch some movies with us!



M, W, F
2-2:50

Mike
Mansfield

HIST 371: Civil Rights in America

A survey of the various civil rights movements in American history, including the efforts of African Americans, women, Chicanos, Native Americans, and the LGBTQ community to gain equality.



T, R,
11-12:15

Tracy
Brady

HIST 372: US History and Television

In 1947, there were approximately ten television broadcasting stations, and seven thousand televisions sets in the U.S. By 1950, Americans had purchased over seven million televisions sets. Today, in what some media scholars have called “the Platinum Age of Television,” Americans watch an abundance of television on their phones, tablets, computers, and, yes, even on television sets. In this class, we will investigate the history and evolution of television as entertainment and as a form of communication. We will examine changes over time in various genres as well as exploring how and why representations of Americans and American life have evolved, with a particular focus on race, gender, and sexuality.



M, W, F
9-9:50

David
Korostyshevsky

HIST 380A5: Alcohol and Drugs in US History

Frances Willard, the indefatigable leader of the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union, condemned alcohol and opium as the “twofold curse of civilization” (1889). This course uses alcohol and opium as a bifocal lens to interrogate the tensions, contradictions, and ambivalences that characterize modern concepts of addiction and approaches to dealing with the “addict.” Even as we encounter the historical use of other intoxicating substances, alcohol and opium bring to the fore entrenched binaries inherent in the history of addiction, including sobriety/addiction, legal/illegal, behavior/disease, choice/compulsion, and treatment/punishment. Using transnational and global perspectives to contextualize substance use disorders in the United States, this course tracks the evolution of addiction concepts from intemperance to brain disease. In the process, we will learn how the medicalization of intoxication interfaces with American and international drug control regimes and underwrites enduring race, gender, and class disparities that characterize mass incarceration and the treatment of substance use disorders.



T, R,
11-12:15

Nicole
Archambeau

HIST 392: Seminar in Historical Methods

Through the theme of food history, we will explore what makes History a unique discipline. We'll explore the fields of history and how those fields influence historical questions. We'll practice the methods of analysis that let us enter the historical conversation. And we'll develop writing skills for evidence-based research proposals and projects.

Blaze your Trail: War and Diplomacy, Empires/Colonialism/Borderlands and Religion



T, R,
12:30-1:45

James
Lindsay

HIST 436: The Holy Land-Ancient to Modern

Some history courses focus on a broad region over decades, even centuries. This course examines the history of a very small and contested region over a span of more than 3,000 years. Issues we will investigate include: the importance of physical geography, material culture, the Bible, and other ancient texts for understanding the history of ancient Canaan (biblical Israel & Judah) in the context of the ancient Near East; competing conceptions of the Holy Land in the Jewish (Eretz HaKodesh), Christian (Terra Sancta), and Islamic (al-Ard al-Muqaddasa) traditions in antiquity and the middle ages; competing conceptions of the Holy Land in the context of the modern Middle East.



T, R,
9:30-10:45

John
Didier

HIST 451: Medieval China and Central Asia

This course focuses on medieval – or “middle-period”—China and Central Asia, which in this current iteration of the course will cover temporally approximately the years 221 BC to 976 AD. In fact, then, the course covers both the early-imperial and medieval-imperial periods of Chinese history. There are various approaches to periodizing Chinese history, the most apparent being the demarcation between pre-imperial and imperial China, which can be located specifically at 221 BC, the point at which our study in this course begins. This imperial period, if considered simply, lasted until 1911-1912 AD, when the tumultuous and complex post-imperial modern period began. But even within the imperial period (221 BC – 1911-1912 AD) there are vast complexities, including two periods of disunity, or interregna (specifically 220-589 AD and 907-976 AD), and there are also periods of alien control of either the North or the entirety of China that provide further complexities within the long imperial history. Furthermore, the pre-imperial / imperial / post-imperial (modern) demarcation of periods overly simplifies Chinese history by pretending that this history's most seminal facet is its form of government. As we shall witness this semester, indeed far more critical are the intellectual, social, economic, financial, legal, literary, artistic, cultural, military, and other histories that so often are conveniently subsumed within that simple political history.



T, R,
9:30-10:45

Hong
Xiang

HIST 453: Modern East Asia through Film

Films produced in and about East Asia are not only reflections of the region's history and culture, but also offer penetrating looks at the region's social concerns such as evolving gender norms, generational relations, workplace dynamics, and political conditions. Through examining films produced from the 1930s to the present, explore the ways in which film has served as a discursive medium to produce the representations and perceptions about modern East Asia. Sections may be offered: Face-to-Face, Mixed Face-to-Face, or Online.



M,W,F
11-11:50

Eli
Alberts

HIST 465: Pacific Wars- Korea and Vietnam

This course will cover the Korean and Vietnam Wars, beginning with the reconfiguration of power in Asia that resulted from the Japanese de-colonization of the Korean peninsula and Indochina (the French name for its former colonies in what are now the countries of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia). While some accounts of these wars describe them from only one perspective, through the eyes of US soldiers and/or policy makers, in this course we will explore these conflicts from the perspectives of the multiple actors and nations involved. In addition to reading about specific battles, we will also examine the various military, political, intellectual, cultural, and diplomatic back stories that resulted in two of the major wars of the second half of the twentieth century—national struggles in Korea and Indochina against Western and Japanese imperialism, French attempts to recolonize Indochina after World War II, the rise of communist powers in Asia, competition between the US, Soviet Union, and China, the emergence of a Cold War mindset in Washington policy circles, as well as the aftermath of these divergent but related military and diplomatic conflicts.



T, R,
12:30-1:45

Michael
Childers

HIST 470: World Environmental History since 1500

At the start of the century, Nobel Prize-winning atmospheric chemist Paul Crutzen asserted that the planet had entered into a new geological epoch – the Anthropocene. In the years since, historians have grappled with the term, using it to describe human's oversized influence on the planet's environment. Delving into the past five hundred years of global history, this course will explore whether the Anthropocene is an appropriate concept in understanding and explaining world environmental history.



M,W,F
1-1:50

Eli
Alberts

HIST 473: The Mongol Empire

Trace the emergence and significance of the Mongol empire, the largest transcontinental empire in history. Examine the rise of the empire under Genghis Khan, his unification of the multiple polities on the Mongolian steppe, and the conquest of lands extending from Asia to eastern Europe.



T,R,
12:30-1:45

Doug
Yarrington

HIST 474: Human Rights in the Americas, 1945-1990

This course will examine the creation of international human rights norms in the 1940s as well as the impact and contestation of those norms in the Americas throughout the Cold War. We will focus especially on issues of torture in Brazil, the interrelationship of human rights activism and historical memory in Chile, the issue of the disappeared in Argentina, the question of genocide in Guatemala's civil war, and the Sanctuary movement's mobilization around the right to asylum in the 1980s. Themes include the prominence of Latin American women in human rights advocacy, the importance of transnational connections in defending human rights, the tensions between sovereignty and human rights enforcement, and the variation in historical actors' understanding of "human rights." Students will have the option of either participating in groups projects or writing an individual term paper.



T, R,
9:30-10:45

Sarah
Payne

HIST 478: Heritage Resource Management

Why do we care about the past and what does it mean to protect it? In this course, we'll investigate these questions by exploring the field of Heritage Resource Management (HRM). HRM is an interdisciplinary practice that uses the methodologies of history, architecture, archaeology, ethnography, landscape architecture, and other methodologies to identify, preserve, interpret, and/or mitigate damage to heritage resources. Heritage resources can be tangible or intangible—communities come together to determine if a resource has value and decide to preserve it through formal or informal systems. The class combines lectures, readings, and classroom discussions with practicing the very management theories and methods we learn about in a real-world HRM service learning project.



T, R,
2-3:15

Leisl
Carr-Childers

HIST 480 A9: Community Oral History

Sometimes the best history is that of your own community. This course introduces students to the basic concepts and methods behind oral and community history. Students will learn about oral history as a research and archival technique that preserves the remembrances of everyday individuals and how to engage with community members and intergenerational storytelling. From proper interviewing and digitization practices to historical artifact collection and legal considerations, students will learn about and engage in the practices of community oral history on a project. This course is part of the Digital/Public History Concentration and is a History program elective.



T,R,
9:30-10:45

Douglas Sheflin
(Primary)
and
Kristin Heineman

HIST 481 A8: Comparative History of Democracy

This course is a comparative study of democracy as it developed in Classical Antiquity and in the United States. The central premise is that we can better understand the nature of democratic thought and democratic political systems if we develop a framework to investigate two distinct eras when central issues like empire, race, citizenship, and "the other" - and the impact these issues had on democracy - became prominent. As a comparative history course, we will devote shared time to the two case studies, which will afford us the opportunity to think not only about debates regarding these challenges to democracy but also how two distinct bodies politic engaged these debates and resolved them (or tried to in their own ways). This format will allow us to both learn something about each specific system as well as hone our skill in synthesizing what we comprehend about each case and applying it to our own understanding of democracy. The focus on democracy aligns with CSU's annual theme and should prepare us to contribute to larger discussions on democracy that occur on campus, in the community, and beyond. As importantly, learning about the changing ideas and practices will shed light on where the United States stands now as a democratic nation.



Monday
12-2:50

Adam
Thomas

HIST 492: Capstone True Crime

Over the past decade, a proliferation of podcasts, streaming documentaries, and popular-press books have fed a quickly growing American appetite for stories about criminals and the crimes they commit. From Unsolved Mysteries to Serial, interest in true crime has transformed from a fringe topic into mainstream entertainment. But a morbid fascination in true crime is an age-old American tradition, one that seeks out the aberrant both for titillation and a genuine curiosity about the fragility of the human condition. True crime is history, reliant on the historian's methods of disciplined research and carefully crafted narratives. Through a broad reading of primary evidence and secondary analysis, this seminar will investigate criminals, crimes, and notions of true crime throughout history, especially in terms of race, class, gender, and sexuality. This is a chance for crime junkies and other historians to research their favorite murders, crimes, and the criminals who commit them, because someone always knows something.



Thursday
12:30-3:20

Erin
Jordan

HIST 492-02: Capstone Magic and Witchcraft in the Atlantic World

This course examines the related phenomena of magic and witchcraft as they evolved in Europe and the Atlantic World from the Late Middle Ages through the Early Modern Period. It focuses on the beliefs that informed society's understanding of religion and the supernatural, tracing the process by which the accepted magic of the medieval period morphed into witchcraft, a category of behavior that was almost uniformly condemned and eradicated. In the process of this investigation, we will engage a variety of historical methodologies and interpretive frameworks that will assist in forming a better understanding of the people and practices of pre-modern Europe as well as areas in the Americas that they colonized. In addition to developing a basic understanding of these two categories of behavior and their role in pre-modern society, we will also examine the very rich and often contentious historiography that has emerged over the last few decades.



T, R,
9:30-10:45

James
Lindsay

HIST 492-03: Capstone Christianity in the Near East to 800

This capstone seminar explores Christian history, thought, and practice in the Near East to 800. We will read a variety of monographs and English translations of Greek, Latin, Syriac, and Arabic primary sources on the following topics: key church fathers who shaped Christian thought and practice in the Near Eastern territories of the Roman/Byzantine Empire; Mary in early Christian faith and devotion; Cyril of Jerusalem's (d. 386) catechetical lectures; Egeria's account of her pilgrimage to the Holy Land in the 380s; John Chrysostom (d. 407) on Jews and Judaizing Christians in 4th-century Antioch; Cyril of Scythopolis (d. 558) on desert monasticism in the Holy Land; Christianity in the Near East under the new Islamic Empire (630s-800); John of Damascus (d. 749) on the veneration of icons in 8th-century Syria. Students will write analytical essays on the monographs and primary sources we will read for the seminar as well as a 15-20-page research paper based on relevant primary sources from the period. During the final weeks of the seminar students will present their research findings to the seminar for peer critique and comment.



Wednesday
1-3:50

Ann
Little

HIST 492-04: Capstone Nature and the Natural in Early America, 1492-1876

Explores research in early American environmental history in order to prepare students to write their own Capstone research papers in the field. Topics will include plants and animals; disease; sex and reproduction; slavery; and war, among others.