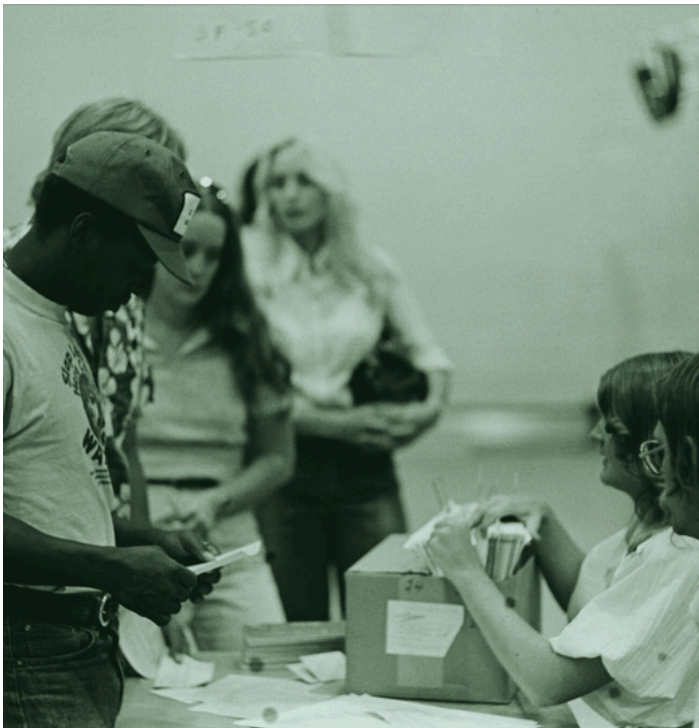


Spring 2025

History Course Catalog

Upper-division history course offerings



HISTORY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Blaze Your Trail: Revolution, Empire, Colonization**HIST 302-001: Roman Empire**

This course will examine the history of the Roman Empire from the beginnings of the Augustan principate (31 BC), through the Roman peace of the first and second centuries, the turmoil of the third century, the restoration of the empire under Christian rulership in the fourth century, and the fall of the western empire in the fifth century. We will explore the major political events of the period and their chronological framework and will also examine broader social and cultural questions that relate to Rome and the Mediterranean world.

MWF
9-9:50Kristin
Heineman**Blaze Your Trail: Revolution, Empire, Colonization, Religion****HIST 308-001: Ancient Christianity to 500 A.D.**

This course examines the development of Christianity from its origins until the 4th century AD. While surveying major events and figures, from Jesus to Augustine, the course investigates the historical, social, political, linguistic, and intellectual circumstances that led to the extraordinary success of this particular messianic movement. The primary goal of the course is to understand what took place in this complex period, without consciously importing later ideas or imposing later value judgments upon the materials. It is thus concerned more with history and the history of ideas than with today's religious perspectives as such, although the study can have great relevance for understanding certain attitudes in modern circles interested in Christian and Jewish heritages. Grasp of the method of historical investigation is of primary importance.

MWF
11-11:50Kristin
Heineman**Blaze Your Trail: Women & Gender, Religion****HIST 312-001: Women in Medieval Europe**

This course investigates the position of women in Europe from 500 to 1500, exploring the ideas and attitudes that shaped their experience across social divisions. Drawing on a range of primary and secondary sources, it explores the various roles assigned to women, their relationships to those around them, and their ability to influence and inform culture. It examines the lived experience of individual women, from Queens and Abbesses to slaves and peasant women, as well as the beliefs about gender, sexuality and the body endemic in Medieval society that informed their experiences.

MWF
11-11:50Erin
Jordan

Blaze Your Trail: Revolution, Empire, Race and Ethnicity, Borderlands, Women & Gender**HIST 331-001: The Soviet Union**

The Soviet Union has been described as an evil empire, a utopian dream gone awry, a model of modernization, and a colonial enterprise. In this course we will subject these characterizations to scrutiny as we examine the history of the Soviet Union. We will take a multi-faceted approach, exploring the political, economic, cultural, institutional, and social forces that once constituted Soviet civilization. We will address questions including but not limited to the relationship of utopian ideology and state-sponsored violence; ethnic diversity and the key role of Bolshevik nationality policy in the consolidation and ultimate collapse of the Soviet Union; the role of visual propaganda in a society with historically low literacy rates; the evolving status of women and the family in Soviet society; the importance of literature as a mode of resistance to political repression; and the degree to which the Soviet Union was in fact a “socialist” or “communist” state. Whenever possible, we will relate these topics in Soviet history to current events, most urgently in connection with Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in 2022 and the ongoing war.

Blaze Your Trail: War & Diplomacy, Race & Ethnicity**HIST 345-001: Civil War Era**

How did the United States survive its greatest challenge? This course explores the crises that threatened to destroy the Union in the mid-nineteenth century, and the military campaigns that ultimately held it together. It also illuminates the war’s impact on diverse people across the country, both near to and far from the battlefields, and the postwar efforts to restore stability to the traumatized country. Lectures, assigned readings, and research papers will also illustrate the war’s legacy, reverberating into our own times.

Blaze Your Trail: Environment, Race & Ethnicity**HIST 347-001: 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.

TR
2 - 3:15Deborah
YalenTR
2 - 3:15Derek
EverettTR
9:30 - 10:45Derek
Everett

Blaze Your Trail: War & Diplomacy, Race & Ethnicity, Environment**HIST 349-001: 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: various civil rights movements, the Cold War, the Space Race. Against a backdrop of unprecedented power and affluence, Americans fought to expression their individual identities. 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 popular culture (especially film, television, and music) and material culture. At the same time, students will interrogate the challenges of researching and interpreting the very recent past and assess the usefulness of the field.

MWF
1 - 1:50Adam
Thomas**Blaze Your Trail: Borderlands, Race & Ethnicity, Environment****HIST 352-001: American West Since 1900**

The history of the American West consists of so much more than cowboys. (But don't worry, they're in still in there!) To study the twentieth century American West is to understand the larger historical national and global changes that impact our lives today. We will cover numerous topics including the evolution of the National Parks and National Forests, the growth of tourism, the development of conservation and environmental movements, the nuclear West, as well as the numerous fights for civil rights in the West, especially Latinx and Native American movements. The class will also spend time exploring portrayals of the West in popular culture. (Clint Eastwood, anyone?)

MWF
1-1:50Tracy
Brady**Blaze Your Trail: Environment, Race & Ethnicity****HIST 354-001: American Architectural History**

This course is foremost a history class that uses the built environment as its primary text. It investigates architecture as artifact and treats buildings, neighborhoods, and cities as texts recording the cultural, political, and economic circumstances in which they were constructed. Yet like all texts, familiarity with the language is necessary for comprehension. This course seeks to unlock that language. As such, this is not a design class. Instead, it will focus on the development and analysis of American architecture. Through studying the language of architecture, historians can "read" buildings and landscapes, offering a more vibrant and informed interpretation of history than the written record alone can provide.

MWF
10-10:50Adam
Thomas

Blaze Your Trail: War & Diplomacy, Race & Ethnicity**HIST 357-001: The American Military Experience**

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.



TR
12:30 - 1:45

Mike
Mansfield

Blaze Your Trail: Women & Gender, Race & Ethnicity, Religion, Colonialism**HIST 369-001: History of Sexuality in America**

Examines laws and customs meant to regulate sexuality as well as actual sexual behavior in American history, 1492-present. What sexual custom did Native Americans and the Mormons have in common? How did the puritans pioneer divorce laws in the U.S.? How was sexuality central to American slavery? What is the real history of abortion and abortion rights in the U.S.? How did same-sex relationships move from criminal behavior to normative? Learn more about our past, our present, and possible futures in this class.




TR
11 - 12:15

Ann
Little

Blaze Your Trail: Women & Gender, Race & Ethnicity**HIST 371-001: Civil Rights in America**

Through discussion, current events, public history, and young adult literature, this course introduces students to the formation, growth, and currency of various civil rights movements in American history, with a particular focus on the efforts of African American, women, Latinx, Native American/Indigenous, and LGBTQ+ communities. Connecting history with contemporary issues of race, ethnicity, gender, immigration, class, sexuality, and intersectionality, we will work to explore: How does our telling of this history better shape our understanding of current political and cultural debates? How does history and story help to better inform our conversations about equity and civil rights today?



MWF
10 - 10:50

Jessica
Jackson



HIST 392-001: Seminar in Historical Methods: How to Master Ancient and Medieval Chinese Primary Sources

In this fully discussion-oriented course students will explore ancient and medieval Chinese primary historical sources in translation (texts of ca. 500 BC – AD 1000), focusing on realistic understanding of such texts and the history that they reveal through objective questioning and analysis, in relief against companion modern narrative histories of China that provide objective context for understanding the nature of the sources. Students will write brief essays and papers questioning variegated sources and employing critical analysis to determine how to approach them to tease out both their possible objective validity and subjective biases, and then, thematically across texts, synthesizing a viable understanding of targeted historical issues and periods.

TR
12:30 - 1:45

John
Didier



HIST 392-002: Seminar in Historical Methods: Human & Non-Human Animals in History

With a focus on environmental history and human and non-human animal relationships through history, this course is an introduction to historical methods including asking historical questions, proficiency in analysis of primary sources, placing sources into historical context, making historical claims, and the use of primary sources. We also will interview several CSU History Department faculty about their research to understand how historians make decisions about their research, writing, and teaching.

TR
2 - 3:15

Ann
Little

Blaze Your Trail: Religion, Empire**HIST 432-002: Sacred History Hebrew Bible and New Testament**

This course examines competing conceptions of sacred history in the formative Jewish and Christian traditions. We will examine these issues through a comparative analysis of biblical figures that both traditions venerate. We will also examine competing conceptions of Jesus in Judaism and Christianity. In addition to relevant excerpts from the Hebrew Bible and New Testament, students will be expected to analyze post-biblical rabbinic midrash and classical patristic commentary on these scriptures, for it is only through this interpretive literature that we can understand the historical development of traditional Jewish and Christian conceptions of sacred history.

TR

12:30-1:45

James
Lindsay**Blaze Your Trail: Religion, Empire, War & Diplomacy****HIST 451-001: Medieval China and Central Asia**

This course focuses on medieval -- or "middle period"—China and Central Asia, covering approximately the years 600 to 1300 AD. In native Chinese dynasties this includes the Tang and Song. Except as they offer us skeletal structures providing framework and demonstrating certain human social, cultural, and political trends, in this course we are concerned less with dynasties per se than we are with human context or culture, and, more specifically, changes in human culture and patterns of organization largely due to intense interactions between civilizations. This interest in turn involves us in studies of material culture; artistic, literary, and intellectual developments; military organization and campaigns; political organization and politics; technological developments; as well as economic and financial concerns.

TR

9:30 - 10:45

John
Didier

Blaze Your Trail: War & Diplomacy, Empire**HIST 455-001: Tokugawa and Modern Japan 1600- Present**

Japan is often presented to us as a land of vast cultural homogeneity where timeless and unique traditions – the martial arts, sumo, harmonic societal relations to name a few– coexist with cutting–edge, futuristic technological innovations. However, many of the so–called “traditional” elements of Japanese culture are nothing but modern inventions, forged by late nineteenth–century ideology and passed as uncontested truths vouched by respected historical precedent in order to foster a sense of “national” unity and identity. In this course we will focus on issues related to Japan’s historical developments in “feudalism,” Confucianism, constitutionalism, imperialism, liberalism, socialism, fascism, totalitarianism, militarism, democracy, capitalism, and post–modernism. Contemporary issues related to war, peace, and Japan’s international role will also be discussed.

HIST 463-001: Science and Technology in Modern History

In this course, we will explore the history of science and technology, from a global perspective, over the past thousand years. You will learn about and critique the notion of the scientific revolution as a purely European enterprise. Get ready to examine the interconnections between technological advances and scientific discovery as well as the development of specific disciplines– Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Engineering, Computer Science–that have come to be known as STEM. At its core, the course is about the nature of our understanding of reality (life, nature, the universe), the order of knowledge (why certain ways of knowing have gained a privileged position and others were cast aside or fell to a diminished status), and the current organization of the modern university system itself.

MWF
10 - 10:50Hong
XiangMWF
11 - 11:50Eli
Alberts

Blaze Your Trail: War & Diplomacy, Race & Ethnicity**HIST 464-001: Pacific Wars: Philippines-WWII**

Starting with Matthew Perry's forced opening of Japan in 1853, through the Philippines Insurgency of 1899, and ending with the defeat of Japan, this class will examine the diplomatic, ideological, political, cultural, and military aspects of the war in the Pacific. In addition to discussing the specific battles and campaigns, we will also look at the back stories, examining the politics behind these conflicts, and personal experiences of those who fought.

MWF
1 - 1:50Mike
Mansfield**Blaze Your Trail: War & Diplomacy, Race & Ethnicity, Religion****HIST 467-001: Modern Jewish History**

This course explores Jewish political, social, economic, and cultural life globally from the eighteenth century to the late twentieth century. Major topics include the struggle for civic emancipation and social acceptance in Europe; the tensions between religious faith and the lure of secularization; the status of Jewish women; political radicalization as a solution to the "Jewish Question," including socialism, communism, and competing visions of Zionism; immigration and acculturation; language debates; antisemitism and right-wing politics; World War II, the Holocaust, and post-war recovery; the establishment of modern Israel and its evolving status in the global order;* and the experience of Jews in Soviet bloc countries during the Cold War. The geographical scope of the course will be comprehensive, but particular emphasis will be placed on Eastern Europe, which long constituted the demographic center of gravity of world Jewry in the modern era. We will conclude the course by examining the relationship of Jewish history and memory, and the multiplicity of Jewish identities in the 21st century.

*Please note that while HIST467 will address the long-standing Israel-Palestine conflict, course content is transnational in scope and spans over two centuries. As with all classroom interaction, discussion of the relationship between the past and painful events in our own time will be conducted according to CSU's principles of community and academic freedom, in an atmosphere of mutual respect for differing perspectives, constructive dialogue, and empathy.

TR
11-12:15Deborah
Yalen

Blaze Your Trail: War & Diplomacy, Empire**HIST 473-001: The Mongol Empire**

Learn about the Mongol empire, the largest contiguous transcontinental empire in history. How did Genghis Khan first consolidate his power and unify the multiple groups on the Mongolian steppe and then conquer lands extending all the way to eastern Europe? Mongol rule fostered trade and travel, an incredible exchange of knowledge, and gave rise to the modern world.

TR
2 - 3:15Eli
Alberts**Blaze Your Trail: War & Diplomacy, Race & Ethnicity, Women & Gender****HIST 474-003: Human Rights in the Americas, 1945- 1990**

This course examines the creation of international human rights norms in the 1940s as well as the impact and contestation of those norms in the Americas during 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 “disappeared” in Argentina, the question of genocide in Guatemala’s civil war, and the U.S. 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.

TR
11 - 12:15Doug
Yarrington

Blaze Your Trail: Environment**HIST 476-001: History of America's National Parks**

In 1872, the U.S. Congress established Yellowstone National Park as “a public park or pleasuring-ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people.” Today, the National Park System include 424 units, stretching from the Atlantic coast to the coral reefs surrounding Hawaii. This class explores the history of America's National Parks from their creation through the struggles in managing them.

Students will engage with and discuss historical documents and books in grappling with the historical questions what are the National Parks for? A seemingly simple question with a very difficult answer.



TR
12:30 - 1:45

Michael
Childers

HIST 477-002: Teaching History

This course delves into the complexities of teaching history through three major themes: (1) the Politics of Social Studies Curriculum; (2) Teaching Controversial Topics; and (3) Building Hyperlocal, Place-Based Curriculum. Part I of the course will focus on the political dynamics of curriculum design and implementation; we will critically examine the politics of social studies curriculum and explore how historical narratives are shaped by societal values, power structures, and educational policies. Part II will be dedicated to teaching controversial topics and facilitating open discussions about sensitive issues in history. We will learn strategies for navigating challenging conversations and fostering respectful dialogue in classrooms and beyond. Part III will focus on building hyperlocal, place-based history curricula that connect us to our communities. We will explore methods for integrating local history and cultural heritage into teaching and empowering students to engage with and reflect on the significance of local space and place.

Designed for all future educators looking to develop skills applicable in classroom settings, as well as anyone aiming to effectively engage with public audiences, this course will include readings, discussions, case-studies, service-learning opportunities with secondary history teachers/students, and hands-on opportunities building research-based curriculum.



MWF
11 - 11:50

Jessica
Jackson



HIST 479-001: Practice of Public History

Most simply defined, Public History is any kind of history that is produced for an audience beyond an exclusively academic one. There are many career opportunities for historians who wish to work with the public in settings outside of the classroom—this course will introduce students to the range of work historians do as public historians. This course will combine field trips, discussions with guest professionals, lectures, readings, class discussions, in class assignments, stakeholder and community engagement and real-world service learning assignments all designed to give students the chance to practice doing public history.

MWF
2 - 2:50

Sarah
Payne



Blaze Your Trail: War & Diplomacy, Race & Ethnicity, Borderlands, Colonialism

HIST 492-001: Capstone: Interpreting Modern East Asia

This Capstone seminar is designed to introduce students to the field of East Asian studies by providing interpretive frameworks, a broad overview of scholarship, and sources on modern East Asia. It introduces broad conceptual works that have influenced the study of East Asia. It also includes reading materials that deal with different themes such as religion, gender and sexuality, ethnicity and borderlands, immigration and colonialism. Students will engage in reading, analytical writing, and weekly discussion. Students will also complete a 15-20-page research paper on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor.

M
12-2:50

Hong
Xiang



HIST 492-002 Capstone: History of Democracy in the U.S

The health of America's democracy has been the subject of significant public debate since the nation's inception but events in the recent past have rekindled concerns about the nation's democratic systems in the face of political polarization. Much of this focus has addressed issues related to individual rights, executive power, the role of the judiciary, and increasing incidents of political violence. The resulting emphasis on assessing democracy – both as a political system and one that has left many Americans confused and frustrated – has produced remarkably vibrant and often incredibly insightful examinations of what it means to be an American. This class investigates shifting ideas of democracy throughout the nation's history to explore how democracy in the United States has changed, what those changes say about the nation and its people, and how we might use that knowledge to understand present challenges.

R
12:30 - 3:20

Douglas
Sheflin



W
2 - 4:50

Diane
Margolf

HIST 492-005: Capstone: Renaissance Lives, Individuals and Society in Italy, 1400-1600

Is the individual person a useful category of historical analysis? What can we learn about history through the lives, experiences, and first-hand accounts of individuals from the past? In this seminar, students will explore these questions by focusing on individuals in Italy during the Renaissance – men and women, elites and commoners, spiritual and secular. We will examine how such individuals recounted their lives in letters, memoirs, trial records, and other primary sources. We will also examine how historians use such primary sources to develop interpretations of Italian society during the Renaissance, and of the Renaissance as a distinctive period in European history. Course assignments will include readings and discussion; written responses to assigned readings; oral presentations; and research based on primary and secondary historical sources.



T
12:30 - 3:20

Tracy
Brady

HIST 492-007: Capstone: The American West in Popular Culture

The popularity of “all things western” has ebbed and flowed over time, but it has been a constant presence ranging from the 19th and early 20th centuries Buffalo Bill’s Wild West shows to today’s Paramount Plus television drama Yellowstone. In this capstone, students will explore the ways in which Americans have mythologized the West. Most importantly, we will examine how and why representations of the West in popular culture have changed over time. We will focus a great deal on how the West has appeared in film and television as well as paying some attention to its appearance in literature, video games, advertising, and other aspects of American popular culture.



TR
2 - 3:50

Alexander
Pittman

EDUC 465-001: Teaching Social Studies

Methods of teaching social studies; sources of information, teaching materials, and literature for social studies teachers.