

Fall 2026

# History Course Catalog

Upper-division history  
course offerings

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## **HIST 301-001: Roman Republic**

This course traces the rise of Rome from its legendary foundations under Romulus to the collapse of the Republic in the first century BCE and the emergence of imperial rule under Augustus.

Beginning with Rome's early monarchy and the establishment of republican institutions, the course examines how a small central Italian community became the dominant power in the Mediterranean world. Particular attention is given to the political and economic structures of the Roman Republic, alongside the social, cultural, and religious forces that shaped Roman identity and expansion.

Major topics include the Punic Wars, the conquest and integration of the Mediterranean, the transformation of Roman society through slavery and wealth, and the intensifying conflicts between elites and popular leaders.

The course culminates in a sustained analysis of the Republic's crisis and collapse, exploring civil war, reform movements, and the careers of figures such as Julius Caesar. Students will consider competing interpretations of why the Republic fell and how its political culture laid the foundations for the Roman Empire.

**Class Meeting Days: Monday, Wednesday, Friday**

**Class Meeting Times: 11-11:50**

**Instructor: Kristin Heineman**

## **HIST 308-001: Ancient Christianity**

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.

**Class Meeting Days: Monday, Wednesday, Friday**

**Class Meeting Times: 1-1:50**

**Instructor: Kristin Heineman**

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## **HIST 309-001: Ancient Christianity**

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.

**Class Meeting Days: Tuesday, Thursday**

**Class Meeting Times: 11-12:15**

**Instructor: Nicole Archambeau**

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## **HIST 311-001: Medieval England**

This course will examine the history of England from 500 to 1500, tracing its evolution from a loose association of Celtic tribes to a uniform kingdom.

It will employ a range of sources, including documents, archeological remains, material culture and modern scholarship, in order to examine the influence of repeated invasions, the formation of its political structure, and the emergence of its unique legal system.

It will also explore the ongoing tensions resulting from internal and external colonization and the process by which religious uniformity was established under the Roman Catholic Church.

While much of our focus will be devoted to understanding what the crusades were and what they reveal about medieval society, we will also use the crusades as a vehicle to gain a better appreciation for how history is made, honing our abilities to analyze sources and think critically about the past in the process.

**Class Meeting Days: Monday, Wednesday, Friday**

**Class Meeting Times: 11-11:50**

**Instructor: Erin Jordan**

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## **HIST 320-001: Women and Gender in Europe, 1450 – 1789**

What do Alessandra Strozzi, Elizabeth I of England, and Marie Antoinette have in common? They all show up in HIST 320 -- and you can meet them there! Learn about these women, as well as their ordinary male and female contemporaries, in a class that focuses on women and gender in western European society from the late medieval period to the French Revolution.

**Class Meeting Days: Monday, Wednesday, Friday**

**Class Meeting Times: 2-2:50**

**Instructor: Diane Margolf**

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## HIST 324-001: Imperial Russia

In 1721 Peter I (“the Great”) named himself Emperor and declared that Russia would be an Empire. The empire lasted until the revolutions of 1917 but was never entirely stable. Russian rulers believed that autocracy was the key to good governance, yet the reigns of almost all the emperors/empresses were marked by coups d’état, peasant rebellions, and, later, assassination attempts. Russia’s expanding boundaries and growing multi-ethnic population made it even more difficult to rule. Given the many factors that were tearing the Empire apart, what held it together for so many years?

In this course, we will examine the nature of autocratic rule, imperial conquest and expansion, as well as dissent and opposition. We will also explore the identities and experiences of various social groups: the ruling elite, peasants, the intelligentsia, political radicals, workers, and the countless national, ethnic and religious minorities that populated the empire. A central theme throughout the course will be Russia’s ongoing attempt to define itself relative to Europe and “the West.”

Understanding the period 1721-1917 is particularly relevant today since Russia’s leader Vladimir Putin has taken an active role as a self-fashioned historian, reinterpreting the past to suit an imperialist political and military agenda. This occurred in spring of 2014, when Putin cited Russia’s imperial heritage as a partial justification for his illegal annexation of Crimea from Ukraine, an act that transformed post-Cold War geopolitics. In February 2022, Putin launched a brutal invasion of Ukraine, insisting that it was always part of Russia and that Ukrainians have no historical claim to national identity and autonomy. We will explore the uses and abuses of Imperial Russian history and historical memory from various perspectives throughout the semester. We will conclude with an assessment of how Russian Imperial history continues to shape national consciousness in Eastern Europe and Eurasia in the post-Cold War era.

**Class Meeting Days: Tuesday, Thursday**

**Class Meeting Times: 12:30-1:45**

**Instructor: Deborah Yalen**

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## **HIST 348-001: United States, 1917-1945**

This course will cover some of the most important and influential years in American history including two world wars, the worst depression in American history, the cultural conflicts of the “Roaring ‘20s,” the worst ecological disaster in the nation’s history, the defining moment for American liberalism, and America’s slow but steady climb to its place as global hegemon.

This era introduced America to the modern world, with all of its possibilities and problems, and we will delve into the widespread discussion, deliberation, and sometimes antagonism among Americans, primarily because the nation changed so quickly and so dramatically during the first half of this century.

Americans tried to come to terms with these changes by considering some of the very same problems that we face today. Questions of citizenship, the place of the federal government, America’s responsibility in the world, who fits and who does not in this country, and relations among Americans remain some of the most pertinent and profound issues in this country.

My hope is that we will better appreciate present circumstances by coming to a better understanding of their historical dimensions.

**Class Meeting Days: Tuesday, Thursday**

**Class Meeting Times: 2-3:15**

**Instructor: Douglas Sheflin**

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## **HIST 349-001: United States Since 1945**

This class examines the history of the United States during the post-World War II era to the early twenty-first century. The postwar period is a time of tremendous change, connecting directly with many aspects of our lives today.

We will explore topics such as the Cold War, African American Civil Rights, Women's Rights, LGBTQ rights, as well as other social/protest movements, the Vietnam War, the Watergate scandal, and the rise of the New Right.

Students will also practice critical thinking and writing skills by analyzing primary and secondary sources including historical documents, oral histories, journal articles and monographs, as well as popular culture forms of expression like music, film, and television.

**Class Meeting Days: Tuesday, Thursday**

**Class Meeting Times: 1-1:50**

**Instructor: Tracy Brady**

## **HIST 353-001: U.S. - Mexico Borderlands**

Between 1500 and 1821, the region that is now the U.S. Southwest and Mexican North lay at the furthest edge of several European empires, and yet it was intimately linked to events in faraway Spain, Britain, and France.

Since then, a national border has bisected the region, separating two culturally distinct nations, even as commerce, migration, and pollution—none of which stops at the international boundary—continue to connect both sides. In short, borders have historically both united and divided peoples, a paradox that has fundamentally shaped life for everyone in the region—and many outside it.

This is a reading- and writing-intensive course. Most class meetings will have a discussion component. We will read several books as well as some primary sources. Class participation will be part of the grade, as will regular pop quizzes.

**Class Meeting Days: Tuesday, Thursday**

**Class Meeting Times: 9:30-10:45**

**Instructor: Jared Orsi**

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## **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.

**Class Meeting Days: Monday, Wednesday, Friday**

**Class Meeting Times: 10-10:50**

**Instructor: Adam Thomas**

## **HIST 355-001: American Environmental History**

This course is designed to be an introduction to the study of environmental history with a specific focus on the United States from the colonial period to the present.

It assumes that humans are a part of the natural world, that natural conditions have significantly impacted human history, and that the study of human-environmental interactions, or how humans have shaped and been shaped by nature, is an innovative and insightful lens through which we can reconsider the nation's past.

It will help us to think in new ways about events that we have long known something about, whether English colonization of New England, the Civil War, the New Deal, or climate change. In doing so, we will better appreciate how thinking about how humans have interacted with their environments will help us to better understand the past and present as well as think about future challenges.

**Class Meeting Days: Monday, Wednesday, Friday**

**Class Meeting Times: 11-11:50**

**Instructor: Michael Childers**

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## **HIST 357-002: 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.

**Class Meeting Days: Tuesday, Thursday**

**Class Meeting Times: 11-12:15**

**Instructor: Mike Mansfield**

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## **HIST 363-001: Colorado History**

As Coloradans, we are interested in our state's history. The state university can be an important place for learning more about Colorado's past and present and its relationship to the nation and world. This course aims to provide Colorado residents, whether natives, newcomers, or visitors a deeper understanding of that history.

One objective of the course is for you to master the content of Colorado's history. The course will divide this content into three overlapping chronological themes: Land, Labor, and Leisure. We will begin by exploring geography of Colorado and the ways in which natives and newcomers imagined and lived on the landscape from about 10,000 years ago through the Colorado gold rush era.

Next we'll turn to the process by which Coloradans created an American state through their work in extractive industries that linked the state to national and global economies between the 1870s and World War II.

Finally, we'll look at how Coloradans reoriented their extractive economy to one based on service; as they did, outdoor recreation, tourism, and nostalgic renditions of the state's laborious past came to define Colorado from the late nineteenth century down to the present. Throughout, the course will emphasize the reciprocal relationship between Colorado's environment and people, which shaped the state's history in all of its phases.

**Class Meeting Days: Tuesday, Thursday**

**Class Meeting Times: 12:30-1:45**

**Instructor: Derek Everett**

## **HIST 367-001: African American History**

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.

**Class Meeting Days: Monday, Wednesday, Friday**

**Class Meeting Times: 10-10:50**

**Instructor: Alexander Pittman**

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## **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, 1492-2026.

What shocking custom did Native Americans and the Mormons have in common? How did the puritans pioneer divorce in the U.S.? How was sexuality central to American slavery? How did same-sex relationships move from criminal behavior to normative?

Ideas that made women and men sex radicals at different times throughout American history might make them sexual conservatives at other times, and vice-versa. Learn more about our past, our present, and possible futures in this class.

**Class Meeting Days: Tuesday, Thursday**

**Class Meeting Times: 12:30-1:45**

**Instructor: Ann Little**

## **HIST 392-003: Seminar in Historical Methods**

This course introduces students to the discipline of history, emphasizing the core concepts and methods of historical inquiry and writing. It familiarizes students with the interpretive challenges involved in analyzing and presenting the past, including issues of evidence, perspective, and narrative construction. Through selected readings, written assignments, class discussions, and hands-on archival work, students develop a range of foundational skills essential to historical practice. These include engagement with historiography, critical analysis of primary and secondary sources, research methodologies, and effective historical writing strategies.

**Class Meeting Days: Monday, Wednesday, Friday**

**Class Meeting Times: 1-1:50**

**Instructor: Michael Childers**

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## **HIST 392-001: Seminar in Historical Methods**

In This course introduces students to the practice of history, emphasizing the core theoretical frameworks and methods of historical inquiry and writing.

Students will become familiar with the interpretive challenges involved in analyzing and presenting the past, including issues of evidence, perspective, and narrative construction. Through selected readings, written assignments, class discussions, and hands-on archival work, students develop a range of foundational skills essential to historical practice. These include engagement with historiography, critical analysis of primary and secondary sources, research methodologies, and effective strategies to produce persuasive, evidence-based writing.

**Class Meeting Days: Tuesday, Thursday**

**Class Meeting Times: 2-3:15**

**Instructor: David Korostyshevsky**

## **HIST 400A-001: Topics in History: Plants and Animals in Europe**

We explore medieval ideas about nature including agriculture, wilderness, hunting, and health. The class will span roughly 400-1400 and include Europe and parts of the Mediterranean. We will read books and articles by modern historians and a selection of primary sources written by medieval authors. These will help us understand medieval attitudes toward and interaction with the environment.

**Class Meeting Days: Tuesday, Thursday**

**Class Meeting Times: 8-9:15**

**Instructor: Nicole Archambeau**

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## **HIST 400D-001: Topics in History: World / Transregional—Christian Monasticism**

This Topics in History: World / Transregional course explores the complex and fascinating history of Christian monasticism, from its origins in the ancient deserts of Egypt to its global impact today. Students will: discuss the philosophical questions raised by monastic life; read texts by monks and nuns, such as John Cassian, Benedict of Nursia, and Teresa of Avila; examine monastic contributions to art, music, and architecture; learn about influential women who founded monastic movements; and explore both the global reach of monasticism as well as its history in Colorado. The course will include guest lectures on a variety of topics, as well as conversations with monastic men and women from Colorado. At the end of the semester we will visit the Benedictine Abbey of St. Walburga in Virginia Dale.

**Class Meeting Days: Tuesday, Thursday**

**Class Meeting Times: 9:30-10:45**

**Instructor: James Lindsay (History) & Joel Bacon (Music) and Father Don Willette (Chair of Catholic Studies)**

## **HIST 414-001: Revolutions in Latin America**

Revolutions—sudden, dramatic transformations of social, economic and political structures, accomplished in part by popular mobilization—have played a crucial role in the history of Latin America. We'll begin the class by studying some theories of revolution and then move on to three case studies from the Cold War: Cuba, Chile and Nicaragua.

By the end of the course, students should have an enhanced appreciation of the connection between history and theory as well as issues relating to the social and political struggles of the non-Western world.

**Class Meeting Days: Monday, Wednesday, Friday**

**Class Meeting Times: 3-4:15**

**Instructor: David Yarrington**

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## **HIST 435-001: Jihad in Islamic History**

Competing conceptions of the ideology of “jihad in the path of God” in classical and modern Islamic thought and practice. Warfare and military conquest? An interior spiritual struggle to be a better person? Both? Something else?

This course examines how Muslims have answered these pressing existential questions in the context of the early Islamic imperial conquests, the Crusader period, the early modern Islamic empires, 19th- and 20th-century jihadist movements, and the post-9/11 world.

**Class Meeting Days: Monday, Wednesday, Friday**

**Class Meeting Times: 1-1:50**

**Instructor: James Lindsay**

## **HIST 452-001: China in the Modern World, 1600–Present**

This course explores the social and cultural history of China from the late imperial period to the present. Beginning in the seventeenth century, we examine the political, economic, and social structures of late imperial society and trace China's transformation into a modern nation-state.

Major themes include the relationship between state and society; the formation of modern political institutions; economic development and environmental challenges; shifts in kinship, family structure, and gender roles; and changing dynamics between elite and popular culture. Through primary sources and historical scholarship, students will analyze how ordinary people and political leaders shaped—and were shaped by—China's transition into the modern world.

**Class Meeting Days: Monday, Wednesday, Friday**

**Class Meeting Times: 10-10:50**

**Instructor: Hong Xiang**

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## **HIST 456-001: East Asia in the Age of Empire**

This course will explore the Japanese colonial empire, which rose to power in the late 19th century and collapsed in humiliation at the close of World War II.

We will focus on the logic, ideology, and religion of the Japanese colonial empire. Why did Japanese leaders choose the path of expansion so far beyond the home islands of the Japanese archipelago? How did the Japanese state define its mission? How did colonized peoples in Taiwan, Korea, and elsewhere respond, and what was life and culture like in the colonies?

The course will conclude with World War II in the Pacific, its aftermath, and the fate of the colonies after Japan's surrender.

**Class Meeting Days: Tuesday, Thursday**

**Class Meeting Times: 11-12:15**

**Instructor: Eli Alberts**

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## **HIST 475-001: Methods in Digital History**

This course introduces students to the theory and practice of doing historical research in a digital environment. By the end of this course students will have acquired a solid understanding of the framework of thought behind digital history, compiling and cleaning data, creating and interpreting digital visualizations, and digitally exhibiting historical interpretations.

In this class, students will analyze multiple documents to look for rhetorical patterns, build and analyze complex chronologies, gather and process spatial data, create digital maps and story maps, and run network analyses. **None of these activities require students to write any computer code.**

This course is part of the Department of History graduate program suite of methods courses and counts as an elective in the Master of Arts program. It serves students in the Liberal Arts Plan A (thesis) and Plan B (non-thesis) tracks and the Public History – CRM/Historic Preservation Plan B (non-thesis) specialization.

**Class Meeting Days: Monday, Wednesday, Friday**

**Class Meeting Times: 2-2:50**

**Instructor: Leisl Carr-Childers**

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## **HIST 476-001: History of America's National Parks**

This course focuses on the history of the National Parks – these spaces that many of us have enjoyed and plan on visiting again in the future – as it has unfolded over the last 150 years.

The National Park system holds an important place in the mythology of American exceptionalism and the parks themselves have become closely associated with American culture. Yet, park creation was messy. National Parks are not an exclusively American idea.

Parks have often been built by removing indigenous peoples from those spaces. Bureaucracy and red tape often typify park administration and federal guidance has frequently been contested and controversial.

Relatively few Americans visit the parks each year. Cuts to the budget for the National Park Service have left some to wonder if the system can exist in the decades to come. And still the parks remain an integral part of American culture, landscape, and history. They have a complex and conflicted history – our goal this semester is to better understand that history and what it can tell us about American history more generally.

**Class Meeting Days: Tuesday, Thursday**

**Class Meeting Times: 11-12:15**

**Instructor: Doug Sheflin**

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## **HIST 492-004: Capstone Seminar: The American West in Popular and Material 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 in both popular media and material objects. Most importantly, we will examine how and why representations of the West have changed over time.

We will focus a great deal on how the West has appeared in film and television as well as paying attention to its appearance in literature, video games, advertising, and in objects ranging a Disney’s Davy Crocket action figures to chunky wooden coyotes. Students will produce a significant work of research as their final project.

**Class Meeting Days: Tuesday**

**Class Meeting Times: 12:30-3:20**

**Instructor: Tracy Brady**

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## **HIST 492-002: Capstone Seminar: 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 behaviour 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.

**Class Meeting Days: Thursday**

**Class Meeting Times: 12:30-3:20**

**Instructor: Erin Jordan**

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## **HIST 492-003: Capstone Seminar: 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 and regions of East Asia.

Students are required to demonstrate their accumulated training in History through critical reading, analytical writing, and an original final project.

**Class Meeting Days: Monday**

**Class Meeting Times: 12-2:50**

**Instructor: Hong Xiang**