

## History Department Course Descriptions – Spring 2023

- **199 Introduction to African American History (McCommons) FSHT**

*Units: 1 - Fulfills General Education Requirement (FSHT)*

This course will introduce you to major questions, themes, and events in African American history. It will move from the late nineteenth century through the present, following the perspectives and actions of African Americans during the Civil War, Emancipation, the Jim Crow Era, the Civil Rights Movement, the Black Power Era, the 1980s and 90s, and into the 21st century. We will consider how major historical events were interpreted and influenced by African Americans as they navigated social, political, and economic change. The course will place a particular emphasis on the experience of African American women and Black athletes. Using primary and secondary sources, our main objective is to deepen our understanding of how African Americans actively shaped the past. Doing so enables us to understand the diversity and complexity of the African American experience, and to examine the historical and sustained impact of African Americans on contemporary society.

- **199 Global History of Early America (Mack) FSHT**

*Units: 1 - Fulfills General Education Requirement (FSHT)*

This course encourages students to imagine the major conflicts and issues that transformed early America from a diversity of global viewpoints. We will consider a vast period of time, tracing the United States' roots back to pre-contact America before Columbus' arrival in 1492, and concluding with the outbreak of the Civil War less than a century after the U.S. Republic's establishment. During this class, we will reflect on how global forces—such as new encounters and cross-cultural exchange across the Atlantic World, imperial conquest, colonialism, conversion, slavery and the Middle Passage, technological innovation, capitalism, and political revolution—shaped the course of American history. We will also reflect on the meaning and consequences of the American “experiment” worldwide. HIST 199 assumes that students have had no prior experience with college-level historical study. Rather than simply memorizing the important dates and names of an event like the American Revolution, students will come to understand how events were perceived from multiple perspectives. The course encourages students to imagine the past in all of its complexities and to consider how historical forces shaped (and continue to shape) our present-day world.

- **199 Civil War and Reconstruction (Frakes) FSHT**

*Units: 1 - Fulfills General Education Requirement (FSHT)*

This course explores the bloodiest war in our nation's history and what followed after the guns fell silent. We will begin by briefly examining the war's causes, understanding how secession came to happen and why war erupted. We will then spend half of the course studying the war itself—the fighting, the politics, the society, and the people—to gain a deeper understanding of how and why the war came to be so bloody, so long, and so contested. We will then spend the remainder of the course (roughly half)

interrogating the war's outcomes and consequences by studying the period of Reconstruction. Often misunderstood or deemed a failure, Reconstruction is critical to understanding the ultimate scope of the war, its accomplishments, and shortcomings. Students should emerge from this course with a deep understanding of one of the most critical periods in American history, one that still holds meaning for us today.

- **199 Revolution in Latin America (Morales) FSHT**

*Units: 1 - Fulfills General Education Requirement (FSHT)*

This course critically examines twentieth-century Latin American revolutions and their political, economic, and social causes and consequences. In addition, we will focus on the revolutions' cultural impact from a transnational perspective showing how they were connected to global processes like the cold-war, neo-colonialism, decolonization, imperialism, internationalism, and democratization.

- **199 Putin's Russia (Brandenberger) FSHT**

*Units: 1 - Fulfills General Education Requirement (FSHT)*

A survey of post-Soviet Russian history from 1991 to 2022 that focuses on political institutions and the relationship between state and society. Issues like Putin's superpresidency, ideology, "managed democracy," foreign policy and the fate of post-Soviet reform efforts are discussed, as are the roles played by oligarchs, the hydrocarbon economy and the Soviet legacy. Special attention is cast toward historicizing Putin's presidency and the nature of the Russian relationship with geopolitical rivals and the former Soviet republics (especially Ukraine).

- **212 Modern US Social Movements (Holloway) FSHT**

*Units: 1 - Fulfills General Education Requirement (FSHT)*

This class looks at the history of four social movements in the 20th century United States: the anti-abortion movement, the response to the AIDS epidemic, the disability rights movement, and recent movements for reparations. In addition to learning about these four movements, we will think theoretically and comparatively about scholarship on social movements, read historical scholarship as well as scholarship from other disciplines, and consider the relevance of scholarship about the past to understanding social movements in the present. Themes that we will consider across all of the movements are the role of protest, civil disobedience, and violence; the connections between protest, legal action, and partisan politics; and the role of religion, specifically Christianity. We will also consider the legacy and impact of the African American civil rights movement on each of these movements.

- **213 Lawrence vs Texas (Holloway) FSHT**

*Units: 1 - Fulfills General Education Requirement (FSHT)*

Examines the 2003 US Supreme Court decision that found laws criminalizing private consensual sodomy unconstitutional and the impact of historical scholarship in this landmark decision. In addition to an in-depth examination of the case, topics include the

history of sodomy laws, origins of the LGBT movement, the Lavender Scare of the 1950s, and the constitutional theories of liberty and privacy that formed the basis for the Courts opinion.

- **215 US and the World Since 1945 (Sackley) FSHT**

*Units: 1 - Fulfills General Education Requirement (FSHT)*

Survey of the history of the United States since World War II in transnational perspective. Topics will include the Cold War, the interrelationship between foreign policy and domestic politics, American involvement in the developing world, migration, citizenship, and economic and cultural globalization.

- **220 Reagan's America (Yellin) FSHT**

*Units: 1 - Fulfills General Education Requirement (FSHT)*

Survey of United States political and social movements in the late twentieth century. Does not focus exclusively on Ronald Reagan himself but rather the time period, the development of new conservatism in America, and the political climate that led to the Reagan Administration. Topics include The Great Society, race and racism, the rightward shift in American politics, second wave feminism and abortion politics, the rise of the 'moral majority,' AIDs, and welfare reform.

- **221 Classical Greece (Stevenson)**

*Units: 1*

The classical period in Greece will always be remembered for its awe-inspiring innovations in political systems, art, literature and philosophy. Democratic Athens cannot help but be at the center of the course, but we will also try to understand the context of Greek-speakers' classical achievements within their global context: how the independent city-state (polis) evolved, what role Persia and the Near East played in this development, and the conditions that led to the imperialistic decline of the independent city-state. Particular attention will be paid to the first written histories, Herodotus' and Thucydides', that not only chronicle the period lucidly, but also create a new type of political discourse. Archaeological evidence will also be explored in conjunction with the historical narratives.

- **239 History of the French Revolution (Watts) FSHT**

*Units: 1 - Fulfills General Education Requirement (FSHT)*

This course examines French society and politics from the fall of the French monarchy through the Revolution to the reign of Napoleon. It focuses on the ideas and events that propelled France from an absolutist monarchy to a democratic republic to a European empire. These political ruptures that reinvented France as a modern state took place alongside economic crises and many violent social conflicts. As we shall see, many things changed in the lives of French people and the institutions of France. Not only did

revolutionaries end the rule of absolute monarchy, they also eliminated the legal and social privileges of the nobility, craft guilds, and the church. They restarted the calendar at Year I. At different points along the revolutionary timeline, new and old social identities divided France, in particular, the sans-culottes and the aristocrat, secular rationalists and traditional Catholics, radical reformers and counter-revolutionaries.

- **243 Nazi Germany (Kahn) FSHT**

*Units: 1 - Fulfills General Education Requirement (FSHT)*

An exploration of the rise and fall of the Nazi regime, World War II, and the Holocaust, emphasizing how Hitler's rise to power impacted society, culture, and everyday life in Germany. Topics include: political and economic turmoil; international conflict, militarism, and warfare; the persecution of Jews, Roma and Sinti, homosexuals, and other minority groups; the role of women under Nazism; art, architecture, and propaganda; and postwar representations of the Nazi period in museums, monuments, films, and popular culture.

- **253 Opium Wars (Loo) FSHT**

*Units: 1 - Fulfills General Education Requirement (FSHT)*

The Opium War of 1839-1842 is the popular shorthand for the first Sino-British War, a pivotal event in modern Chinese history. It is the first war that China fought with a Western power in the modern era and is commonly cited as the beginning of China's One Hundred Years of Humiliation, a century in which China suffered greatly at the hands of rapacious Western imperialists and which continues to inform Chinese understandings of its place in the world today. This course examines this conflict in detail, while providing an introduction to the field of historical studies.

- **261 Modern Latin America (Morales) FSHT**

*Units: 1 - Fulfills General Education Requirement (FSHT)*

Introductory survey of Latin American history from independence; focus on the quest for political stability, economic development, and social change.

- **271 The Modern Middle East (Yanikdag) FSHT**

*Units: 1 - Fulfills General Education Requirement (FSHT)*

The subject of this course is the Middle East in the modern period; although we begin with the late 19th century, our brief examination of this time period is meant to provide the necessary context both for the Western encroachment into the region and the responses of the inhabitants. The course focuses on the issues that have defined the Middle East in the recent past and provides students with the historical context needed to understand the region, its peoples, and its conflicts in greater depth. Through political, social, and cultural history, the course seeks to examine this period as the latest phase in the evolution of Muslim societies in the region. We will consider the impact of outside powers on the region, the responses of the region's peoples to this challenge; the problems of political, economic, and cultural colonization and

decolonization; the ideological choices dominant in successive periods; and efforts to reassert Islamic identity in an era of globalization.

- **281 Africa, C. 1500 to C. 1900 (Summers) FSHT**

*Units: 1 - Fulfills General Education Requirement (FSHT)*

Introduction to economic, social, political, and intellectual history of Africa from time of trans-Atlantic slave trade to colonial conquest.

- **306 American Identities (Yellin)**

*Units: 1*

Thematic exploration of historical issues of identity development and construction in the twentieth-century United States, focusing on such questions as: What do historians mean by "identity"? How do they use categories like race, class, and gender to understand the American experience? How have they approached issues of status, power, and individuality?

- **398 Historiography (Loo)**

Introduction to principles and practices of historical writing. Although some attention is paid to the history of historical writing since classical times, focus will be on contemporary modes of historical writing.

- **399 Buying Stuff: History of Consumption, Thrift, Identity and Sustainability in the Modern World (Summers)**

What sorts of gender, class, ethnic or national identities and meaningful lives do people build and signal by buying cloth, soap, tea, curry, or other consumables? Drawing on an energetic field of case studies, this course will examine how historians have approached the history of consumerism from the early modern era to the present—and how such histories offer insights not simply into the practices of the past, but dynamics of power, economics, and environmental consequences that shape our present. We will discuss a range of historical approaches, the types of evidence and arguments deployed, and the visions of change and possibility glimpsed through both consumerism, and its thrifty or sustainable opponents.

- **411 Honors Thesis (Sackley)**

*Units: 0.5*

Preparation of research prospectus for honors research seminar under direction of appropriate faculty.

**Prerequisite:** Admission to the Honors Program