

Department of History

Fall 2025/2026 Courses

****Classics courses are listed after the History courses.**

****Graduate courses are listed after Classics**

HIST:200-001

Empires of the Ancient World

Prof. Kevin Kern

MWF 12:55pm-1:45pm

Through the use of examples drawn from diverse regions and historical eras, this course explores global encounters and parallel development among ancient societies, and the changes that these processes bequeathed to the modern world. It focuses on the major themes that show how connections between the worlds regions formed the basis of the increasingly globalizing economies and societies of the last five hundred years. These encounters include the spread of agricultural technology, the growth of urban trade areas and the connections between them, the spread of universal religions and philosophical traditions, and the rise of large state structures that enabled many of these developments. ****Gen Ed: Humanities, Global Diversity**

HIST:200-502 & 503

Empires of the Ancient World

Prof. Michael Selzer

Asynchronous-Online

History 210-002

Humanities in Western Tradition I

Prof. Michael Levin

MWF 12:55pm-1:45pm

In this course, we will discuss the question, What is "Western Civilization"? In other words, why do we in "the West" think the way we do? In this course we will use a combination of history, art, literature, and philosophy to explore the roots of our society. We will examine what has changed, and what has not changed, in our thinking about big questions: love, death, politics, and the meaning of life. This course covers material from ancient history through the Italian Renaissance. The emphasis of the course will be on class discussion of major texts. ****Gen Ed: Humanities**

HIST:221-001
Humanities in the World since 1300
Prof. Martha Santos
MWF 9:40am-10:30am

HIST:221-002
Humanities in the World since 1300
Prof. Martha Santos
MWF 10:45am-11:35am

This course examines how peoples from across the globe have understood and explained their identities, their encounters or conflicts with others, their environment, and their histories since 1300 and into the present. Through a focus on important developments in the arts, religion, culture, and politics during the early-modern and modern era, this course surveys how people across culture, place, and time have given meanings to their human experience. We will do this through analysis and discussion of primary sources, with lectures that provide context. ****Gen Ed: Humanities, Global Diversity**

HIST:221-003
Humanities in the World since 1300
Prof. Janet Klein
MWF 11:50am-12:40pm

HIST:221-004
Humanities in the World since 1300
Prof. Janet Klein
MWF 12:55pm-1:45pm

Course Description and Themes: This course covers the major global intellectual, political, and artistic trends since 1300, and the ways in which those trends in the humanities reveal the connections among continents, regions, and nations in the modern era. Although we will cover prominent and well-known figures, the focus of this course is broader than the “high” culture that the Humanities component of the General Education curriculum has customarily offered. Instead, this course understands “culture” as the daily practices of peoples and the meanings that men and women assign to them. The main themes for this course are: (1) the interconnectedness and mutual influence of cultures (and the humanities) arising from the expansion of global trade, and the sharing of ideas and experiences across time and space; (2) the conflict that emerges (ironically) from cross-cultural interaction; (3) how gender affects the experiences of men and women cross-culturally and how they, in turn, interpret those experiences; (4) the ways in which art, music and literature reflect the societies in which they were created. Course Goals/Learning Outcomes: (1) to expose students to various cultural traditions around the world and the exchanges among them; (2) to improve students’ analytical skills through the interpretation of primary texts in their cultural and historical context; (4) to improve students’ writing skills; (3) to improve students’ oral expression in class discussions. ****Gen Ed: Humanities, Global Diversity**

HIST:250-001
U.S. History to 1877
Prof. Gina Martino
TuTh 9:15am-10:30am

HIST:250-501
U.S. History to 1877
Prof. Gina Martino
Asynchronous-Online

This course explores American history, from the first interactions between Native Americans and Europeans to the Civil War and Reconstruction. Between 1492 and 1877, North America was the site of groundbreaking social experiments and innovative inventions. This era also saw the development of an Atlantic slave system, the death and dispossession of millions of Native Americans, and wars that turned neighbors and families against one another. In History 250, we will examine this dynamic, sometimes devastating period on small and large scales, exploring remote settlements and crowded cities. We will also investigate how popular movements drove major events and how individuals shaped societies as we attempt to better understand this period.

****Gen Ed: Social Science, Domestic Diversity**

HIST:308-001

Ancient Greece

Prof. Eugenia Gorogianni

MWF 2:00pm-3:15pm

This course is a multimodal survey of Ancient Greece from the prehistoric cultures of the Minoans and the Mycenaeans to the expansion of the Greek world to the East with the conquest of the Persian Empire by Alexander of Macedon. Our examination is informed by the archaeological and literary evidence as we trace the development of much admired and appropriated cultural forms and institutions, such as democracy, temple buildings, theater, and philosophy.

HIST 310 Historical Methods

Professor Martha Santos

MW 2:00-3:15 pm

This course is an invitation to explore the historical discipline and the practice of writing history. Over the course of the semester, we will familiarize ourselves with the objectives and methodology of historical research. The course will be organized around the general subject of modern Latin American history, but each student will choose a particular question or topic to investigate within this context to produce a research paper that is based on original source material. Students will then select primary sources with which they would like to work, and formulate research questions around which they will write the 10-12 page research paper that will be the final product of their work in this course. This course counts toward requirements for a major in History and programs in the College of Education.

HIST:321-001

Europe 1348-1610: From the Black Death to the Era of Religious War

Prof. Michael Levin

MWF 9:40am-10:30am

This course surveys the main events and developments in Europe from the arrival of the Bubonic Plague (1347-1348) to the “era of religious warfare” (1610, the year the king of France was assassinated by a religious fanatic). We will explore the transition from “medieval” to “early modern” Europe, and the social, religious, and intellectual movements that caused that transformation, including the Renaissance, the Reformation, and the discovery of the “New World.” We will study this period from a variety of perspectives, using a variety of sources.

HIST:337-001

France Napoleon to de Gaulle

Prof. Stephen Harp

TuTh 5:15pm-6:30pm

This survey of modern France starts with the Revolution, that is before Napoleon actually came to power in 1799, and ends with the present. It is designed to give students a small taste of all of the periods and most of the topics of modern French history. I’ve spent my entire adult life going back and forth to France and studying French history; I couldn’t be more enthusiastic about helping students discover the various ways that France has influenced modern American, European, and world history. Course requirements include a mid-term and a final exam as well as short papers on the reading assignments. In addition to a textbook and other readings, we’ll

consider the fascinating World War I letters between a captain in the French army and his spouse; a recent book about American soldiers and sex in France after D- Day; and the autobiography of the Vietnamese rubber plantation worker and communist Tran Tu Binh. ****Gen Ed: Global Diversity**

HIST:351-001

Global History: Encounters and Conflicts

Prof. Stephen Harp

TuTh 3:05pm-4:45pm

This course explores global encounters among societies, and the changes that have resulted. It focuses on major themes that show how connections between the world's regions created the modern world with its achievements and disparities. Examples of such forms of encounter include those hinging on labor (such as slavery, servitude, and industrial workers), food production and consumption (including the impacts of agricultural revolutions, the spice trade, and the Columbian exchange), and technology and the production of commodities such as textiles (including Old World trading routes, the Atlantic economy, and the origins of industrialization). Rather than attempt to cover the entire history of the world, which is clearly an impossible task, this course uses examples drawn from diverse regions and historical eras, to demonstrate the world's interconnectedness. The course provides relevant background as far back as prehistory, but the focus is on developments of the last six hundred years, particularly those pertaining to our modern global economy and society.

History 443-001/543-001

Churchill's England

Prof. A. Martin Wainwright

TTh 2:00pm-3:15pm

This course uses the life of Winston Churchill as a starting point from which to examine the history of Britain in the late-nineteenth through mid-twentieth centuries. It emphasizes the changes in world view that the British population experienced as its nation weathered the storms of two world wars and a precipitous decline in stature as a world power. It also focuses on cultural and social changes particularly as they related to popular culture, leisure time, class, and gender. The format for this course will rely on diverse forms of historical documentation, including videos, music, and travel guides to chart Britain's evolution during this period.

HIST:463-001/HIST:563-001

U.S. Constitutional History (1789-Present)

Prof. Gina Martino

TTH 10:45am-12:00pm

The Constitution of the United States is the foundational document of this country and has played a central role in many of America's most heated political and cultural debates. Americans often view the Constitution primarily as a remarkable achievement of the nation's founders. However, the Constitution has influenced society and has been influenced by society for over two hundred years. Through an examination of legal documents, newspapers, art, film, articles, and books, students will explore both the origins of the Constitution and more recent connections between the Constitution, the courts, and American politics, society, and culture. ****Gen Ed: Complex Issues Facing Society**

HIST:470-001/HIST:570-001**Ohio History****Prof. Kevin Kern****MWF 9:40am-10:30am**

Ancient earthworks, steamboats, Civil War, Yankee farmers, underground railroads, airplanes, factories, and American Presidents are just a few aspects of Ohio's rich history. In this course we will examine major social, political, and economic themes of Ohio's history while also exploring and evaluating (through electronic media and optional site visits) the state's prehistoric and historic landscapes, built environments, museums, and historic sites. In addition to attending lectures and completing reading and short writing assignments, students will compile an Ohio history portfolio or mini-internship and produce a final project. Although suitable for any history student, this course is also a requirement for some education majors. A particular emphasis will be on using Ohio as a learning laboratory for understanding, teaching, and enjoying history.

HIST:487-002/HIST:587-002**Science and Technology in World History****Prof. Kevin Kern****MWF 10:45am-11:35am**

This course examines the development and diffusion of science and technology in human history. It will focus on the rise and evolution of science and technology in both the Western and non-Western worlds by situating these phenomena in the political, economic, intellectual, global contexts. It will also examine how these developments influenced society, culture, and daily life.

Thematic in structure and interdisciplinary in approach, the course is intended to help students integrate history with other disciplines (e.g., philosophy, literary studies, anthropology, natural sciences) to trace not only the development and effects of certain specific technologies, but also the larger relationships between the Asian, Islamic, and Euro-American scientific traditions.

HIST: 499-001/599-001**Women and Gender in Middle Eastern Societies****Prof. Janet Klein****MW 3:30pm-4:45pm**

The roles of women in Middle Eastern societies have been contested both from within and also by outsiders, who have frequently misunderstood and stereotyped them. Students will explore the complex and multi-layered processes and dimensions-- including texts, cultural values and practices, institutions, and events-- which have shaped and continue to shape women's experiences in the different societies of the Middle East as well as the wider complexities surrounding gendered identities, power, and policies. We will examine texts and traditions that have influenced, or have attempted to influence, women's (and men's) lives (and by extension, society at large), and we will also consider women's lives in a comparative context in an attempt to discern the specific roles played by state policies, war, class, geography, religion, law, family structures, colonialism/imperialism, and nationalism. We will pay particular attention to the question of representation—how Middle Easterners represent gender dynamics in their own popular culture versus how mainstream media/film in the West portray them. This course offers students the chance to explore these issues and more through a variety of media—academic works, fiction, film, and other primary sources. Through the exploration of this topic, students will expand their critical-thinking and writing skills. ** Gen Ed: Global Diversity

****Classics Courses****

CLAS:230-501 & 502

Sports & Society in Ancient Greece and Rome

Dr. Evi Gorogianni

Asynchronous-Online

During this course, we will focus on the world of sports of the Ancient Greeks and the Romans and investigate the connections between sports and society. Our examination is informed by the archaeological and literary evidence for the types of sports that were popular in the ancient world, the sporting arenas, the occasions that called for sports, and the people who participated in them. We also investigate the social, political, mythical, and religious roles of sports in the ancient world, and compare these with the modern appreciation of sports. Throughout our investigation, we will discover that many of the social issues and challenges that ancient Mediterranean societies faced were reflected in sport, just like in our modern culture. This understanding will help us navigate our discussions of and approaches to current social issues and concerns.

CLAS:289-501

Mythology of Ancient Greece

Heather Pollock

Asynchronous-Online

In Mythology of Ancient Greece, we look at the nature of mythology, exploring mythmaking as a vital human function, and myths as elemental in the fabric of human culture. The exciting world of the Ancient Greeks is a fascinating place for this work: the gods and heroes of this rich culture are embedded in our Western Tradition 'membership'. Time does not suppress them; these archetypal stories are with us in our modern art, literature, films, poetry, and personal psychology. We will spend a little time with Joseph Campbell as we draw the hero out of ancient origins and into our current times. In this class we will embrace both the specifics of Greek Mythology and the universality of its characters and stories.

****GRADUATE COURSES****

HIST: 601-801

Graduate Research Seminar in History (4 Credits)

Prof. Gregory Wilson

M 5:10pm-8:30pm

Research seminar designed to train graduate students in the skills of researching and writing history, with a particular emphasis on completing the capstone project.

HIST: 631-801

Reading Seminar: Modern European History to 1815 (4 Credits)

Theme: Media and History

Prof. Michael Graham

Tu 5:10pm-8:30pm

This seminar, tailored for the History Department's M.A. program in Applied History, will focus on "The Second Information Revolution" - i.e. the development of the moveable-type printing press. After a (very brief) survey of what someone should really know before diving into the history of early modern Europe (no more than two weeks, accompanied by a survey-style text, since not all students will have had such a background), we will delve into 1) the technology itself, 2) the material conditions under which books, pamphlets and prints were made in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and then 3) the impact of this new technology. This third part will focus on scholarship concerning the role of print in the Reformation, the witch-hunt, the origins of the newspaper, the "public sphere" and the history of reading.

HIST 669-801 (4 Credits)

Reading Seminar in American History Since 1877

Prof. Gregory Wilson

W 5:10pm-8:30:pm

The purpose of this reading seminar is to introduce the practice of public or applied history. It is one of the core courses for the MA in Applied History and Public Humanities. Using a variety of materials and class discussions, we will explore the meaning of public history and some of the major activities, methodologies, theories, practical tools, and issues historians face in the field. We may also do site visits.

HIST:689-801

Historiography (4 Credits)

Prof. Stephen Harp

M 5:10pm-7:40pm

This course, required of all first-year M.A. students in History, is designed to make students aware of some of the methodological assumptions historians use. By grappling with the influential works about History, students should develop a deeper understanding of what we do as professional historians. Requirements include reading the assigned book each week, writing short reviews of readings and a final analytical essay, and participating fully in discussion each week.