

Department of History
Spring 2026 Courses

****Honors courses taught by History faculty are listed at the end of this packet.**

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

HIST 200-501; 200-502; 200-503

Empires of the Ancient World

Prof. Evi Gorogianni

Asynchronous Online

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 world's regions formed the basis of the increasingly globalizing economies and societies of the last five hundred years. These encounters include the spread of 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 Perspectives

HIST 200-504; 200-505

Empires of the Ancient World

Prof. Michael Selzer

Asynchronous Online

HIST 221-001

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 Perspectives

HIST:221: 002**Humanities in the World Since 1300****Prof. Martha Santos****TTh 10:45am -12:00pm**

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 Perspectives

HIST 250-001**U.S. History to 1877****Prof. Kevin Kern****TTh 9:15am-10:30am**

This course outlines the development of what is now the United States from the time of its earliest inhabitants to the Civil War and Reconstruction. Lectures, discussions, and audio-visual presentations will highlight major themes of this period, including Native-American cultures, European contact, conquest, and rivalries, the American Revolution and the origins of the United States of America, and the major social, economic, and political trends that characterized the United States during its often-turbulent first century after independence. At the same time, this course is designed to enhance critical thinking and writing skills through the use of discussion sections, interpretive essays, and essay exams.

****Gen Ed:** Social Science, US Perspectives

HIST 250-501**U.S. History to 1877****Prof. Lucius Wedge****Asynchronous Online****HIST:251-501****U.S. History since 1877****Prof. Gregory Wilson****Asynchronous-Online**

This is a 100% online course, equivalent to the traditional 3-credit introduction to the history of the United States from the end of the Reconstruction period to the recent past. The broad themes of freedom, equality, and power will serve as threads to tie together the many individuals, groups, movements, laws, events, and ideas encountered during the course. Assignments will involve reading, writing, analysis of historical sources, and on-line discussion designed to promote historical thinking – a critical approach to the past. You will submit all assignments online through The University of Akron's learning management system, Brightspace.

****Gen Ed:** Social Science, US Perspectives

HIST:251-502**U.S. History since 1877****Prof. Lucius Wedge****Asynchronous-Online**

HIST 310-001**Historical Methods****Prof. Gina Martino****MWF 9:40am-10:30am**

In Historical Methods, you will learn to practice the craft of the historian. Over the course of the semester, we will explore the art and the science involved in discovering and evaluating a diverse range of sources, constructing an argument, and finding your voice as a writer. As this is a course in historical methodology, you will work toward producing a final research paper using the research and writing skills you develop. Far more than simply a course on writing footnotes and bibliographies, this class emphasizes the experience of finding a topic that inspires you to learn more about it and sharing the results of your scholarly exploration through writing. This course counts toward the requirements for a major in History and programs in the College of Education.

HIST 324-801**Europe: WWI to the Present****Prof. Stephen Harp****TTh 5:15pm-6:30pm**

War, fascism, ethnic violence: many historians have labeled the history of twentieth-century Europe as a history of barbarism unleashed, a history of ideological extremism, and a time of terror. But twentieth-century Europe also witnessed times of peace and profound social progress. Indeed, the history of Europe after 1914 is the story of how a continent dominated by so much war eventually moved towards peace. Post-1914 Europe, then, is a history of parallels: Europeans pursued war and also alternatives to war; they committed acts of ethnic violence and also sought out racial harmony; they established authoritarian dictatorships while also pursuing democracy. In this course, we will survey Europe and its multiple histories from the outbreak of WWI to the present. In addition to a textbook and other readings, we'll consider Christopher Browning's *Ordinary Men*, Slavenka Drakulić's *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed*, and Richard Kuisel's *Seducing the French*.

**Gen Ed: Tier III Global Perspectives

History 340-003**Selected Topics: History (State of the Game: Ohio and the History of American Football)****Prof. Kevin Kern****TTh 2:00pm-3:15pm**

Ohio has played a fundamental role in the history of American football on all levels: high school, college, and professional. This course will not only trace the history of American football in Ohio from 1878 to the present, but will also investigate how the state's unique social, economic, institutional, and legal infrastructure contributed to its disproportionate influence on the history of the sport—and especially on the professional game. By the end of the course, students should understand the larger social, cultural, economic, and political issues that helped shape football in Ohio, and also how Ohio helped to shape football in the United States.

HIST 351-001**Global History: Encounters and Conflicts****Prof. Stephen Harp****MW 3:05pm-4:45pm**

This class in global history begins in the 15th century and ends in the 21st. To give coherence to such a broad sweep, we'll use commodities and trade to organize the material. In addition to a textbook, William McNeill's *The Webs of Humankind*, we'll read and discuss Paul Freedman's *Out of the East: Spices and the Medieval Imagination*, Kevin Grant's *The Congo Free State and the New Imperialism*, and Sven Beckert's *Empire of Cotton: A Global History*. We'll also discuss Prof. Gregg Mitman's new environmental history of Firestone in Liberia as well as his UA lecture this spring. Students will write three short papers and do two exams. Class sessions will be a mix of lecture and discussion of short primary source readings loaded onto Brightspace (in addition to the

longer course texts). Our theme will be simple; this was a world characterized by global encounters and conflicts long before “globalization” became a fashionable word in the 1990s.

HIST 424-001/524-001

The Renaissance

Prof. Michael Levin

TTh 10:45am-12:00pm

This course will examine the social, political, intellectual, and artistic developments in Europe during the period called “the Renaissance,” c. 1350-1600. The first half of the course will focus on the Renaissance in Italy, and in the second half we will look at how Renaissance ideas and culture affected the rest of Western Europe. We will discuss the meaning of the term “Renaissance,” both at the time and for modern historians. We will analyze various primary sources, and discuss alternate theories about what happened and why, and how it still affects us today.

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 470/570-501

Ohio History

Prof. Gregory Wilson

Asynchronous-Online

This course covers the span of Ohio’s history from prehistoric eras to the recent past. It focuses on issues including land and environment, Native American settlement, frontier life, industrial and urban growth, wars, technology, social and cultural issues, and political events. The class may include visits to local Ohio history sites.

HIST 496-001/596-001

Special Topics in History: Minorities, Borders, and Partitions

Prof. Janet Klein

MW 3:30pm-4:45pm

Imagine going to sleep one night and waking up the next day only to find that you are no longer in the country you were the night before, or that your country doesn’t exist anymore. Or imagine that—because your religious, racial, or ethnic identity is not imagined to be that of the dominant group—you are either subjected to violence or other types of oppression or made to leave, thus becoming a refugee across borders.

This course explores the history of nationalism and border-making as well as the construction of identities that nationalists have employed to rid their new territories of “threatening minorities.” We will begin our course by focusing on the ways in which colonial modernity in the Americas began the process of making permanent minorities and will then analyze case studies such as the end of the Ottoman Empire and the post-war divisions (zooming in on the Armenians and Kurds in particular and the Turkish-Greek population exchange), Jews in Europe, the partitions of Palestine, India, and Sudan, as well as apartheid in South Africa and segregation in the United States. Students will engage with primary sources, films, and secondary sources to navigate the dynamics of minoritization, imperialism, nationalism, citizenship, and securitization, and particularly the experiences of individuals and communities whose lives have been dramatically altered by these dynamics.

For History students this course will count towards Field I, Field II, or Field III. Let your advisor know which you choose.

This course also fulfills the Gen-Ed Global Perspectives requirement. Please contact your advisor about this. Your advisor may contact Dr. Katie Cerrone for instructions.

History 666-801

Reading Seminar: American History to 1877

Prof. Gina Martino

W 5:10pm-7:40pm

The seminar in early American history explores this transformative period that stretches from the earliest cultural encounters of the Colonial Era through the Age of Revolutions, the mid-nineteenth century, and the Civil War and Reconstruction. In addition to acquiring a greater understanding of the events of the period, you will investigate major themes, debates, and methodologies involved in the study of early American history. You'll also consider how to put this new knowledge into practice in an applied setting. Requirements include writing short reviews of readings, writing a final paper, and participating in class discussions.

Note: This course counts toward the Conflict and Memory theme for the degree and comprehensive exams.

****Classics Courses****

CLAS 230-501/CLAS 230-502

Sports & Society in Ancient Greece and Rome

Prof. Jami Craig

Asynchronous-Online

This course focuses on the world of sports of the Ancient Greeks and the Romans and investigates 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, and religious roles of sports in the ancient world and compare these with the modern appreciation of sports. Throughout the course, we discover that ancient Mediterranean societies faced many similar social issues and challenges that were reflected in sport, just like us, and which helps us infuse our discussions of and approaches to current social issues and concerns.

CLAS 289-001/CLAS 289-002

Mythology of Ancient Greece

Prof. Heather Pollock

TTh 12:15pm-1:30pm (-001); TTh 2:00pm-3:15pm (-002)

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.

CLAS 363-001

Women in Ancient Greece & Rome

Prof. Evi Gorogianni

MW 2:00pm – 3:15pm

Women in Ancient Greece and Rome" is a course, which examines the lives, livelihood, status, roles, and relationships of women in the Ancient World, drawing on textual and archaeological evidence, as well as theoretical advances in archaeological, anthropological, and literary theory which helps us populate the ancient world with women. This course returns us to the past and two cultures that are often credited with being the cradle of Western civilizations, explores ancient archetypes and compares them to ancient and modern realities.

****Honors Courses****

HONOR 350-005/HIST 340-002

Honors Colloquium, Social Science:

Salsa: History in Motion

Prof. Martha Santos

TTh 2:00pm-3:15pm

This colloquium provides an opportunity to examine and experience the history, aesthetics, and movement of salsa dancing, from its origins in the Afro-Cuban rhythms and dances of enslaved and formerly enslaved peoples to its modern emergence in the Latin neighborhoods of New York during the 1960s and 70s. In this course, we will use both our minds and our bodies as teaching and learning tools: through reading, discussion, and debate, we will analyze how the dances and rhythms encompassed in salsa emerged within histories of enslavement, colonialism, immigration, and globalization in the Hispanic Caribbean during the 19th and 20th centuries. Through body movement and dance, we will explore how historical actors used their bodies to navigate their experiences of oppression, immigration, and dislocation in the Caribbean and in New York. No dance experience required!!

This course counts for credits towards Field III (Global, Latin America, Africa, Asia, Middle East)

HONOR 350-006/HIST 340-003

Honors Humanities Colloquium: The History of Anti-Semitism

Prof. Michael Levin

TTh 2:00pm-3:15pm

Why do people hate Jews? Is anti-Semitism different from other forms of prejudice? And what does it mean to be Jewish in the first place? In this colloquium we will explore the historical roots of these questions, using various primary sources as a springboard for discussion. We will start in Biblical times, and cover such topics as the Spanish Inquisition, the Holocaust, and events in modern America. There will be guest lectures from other professors in the History Department, who will bring their own expertise and experiences to the class. The emphasis of the course will be on discussion, with a final project to be determined.