

Department of History

Fall 2022 Courses

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

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

History 200

Empires of the Ancient World

Prof. Eugenia (Evi) Gorogianni

TuTh 10:45am-12:00pm

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 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.

****Gen Ed:** Humanities, Global Diversity

History 200

Empires of the Ancient World

Mr. Jerrad Lancaster

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 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

History 200

Empires of the Ancient World

Dr. Anne Maltempi

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 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

History 210

Humanities in Western Tradition

Prof. Michael Graham

TuTh 9:15am-10:30am

This course will examine the evolution of Western Culture (the culture we all inhabit, for better or worse) from the beginnings of recorded history until about 1500. We will examine historical events, literature, intellectual trends, art and music in the effort to understand our own place in the context of human history. What are the sources of our ideas and assumptions? How have they changed over time? Are the questions we face today unprecedented, or have they been considered before? What does it mean to be "civilized"? These are the sorts of issues we will consider. This course will be taught in an integrated lecture/discussion format, and will involve some multimedia elements.

****Gen Ed: Humanities**

History 221

Humanities in the World since 1300

Prof. Martha Santos

MWF 9:40am-10:30am

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: (pre-Fall 2017): Humanities. Gen Ed (Fall 2017-present): Humanities, Critical Thinking**

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

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

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

History 251

U.S. History since 1877

Prof. Greg Wilson

MWF 12:55pm-1:45pm

This course serves as an 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, Domestic Diversity

History 310

Historical Methods

Prof. Michael Graham

TuTh 3:30pm-4:45pm

This course is designed to help students of history better understand and master the tools of the trade - research (finding source materials and framing the questions they can help to answer), and historical writing (including proper citation of sources and the peer review process). The "laboratory" within which we will work will be the seventeenth century (broadly conceived here as roughly 1580-1720) in Britain and (to a limited extent) its North American colonies. We will spend the first few weeks of the course familiarizing ourselves with the basic background of seventeenth-century British history, following that up with an exam to make sure you have attained some mastery of that knowledge. 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 paper which will be the final product of their work in this course. Along the way, there will be some shorter quizzes and writing assignments leading up to that, aimed at building up some basic historical writing skills, as well as laying a foundation for the final paper.

History 321

Europe 1348-1610: From the Bubonic Plague to the Era of Religious Wars

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.

History 323

Europe: From Revolution to World War, 1789-1914

Prof. Stephen Harp

TuTh 5:10pm-6:25pm

This class covers Europe during “the long nineteenth century” from the start of the French Revolution to the outbreak of the First World War. Although we will start with the bloodshed of the Revolution and end with that of the Great War, we also consider the evolution of human rights and notions of democracy, the ideologies of liberalism, conservatism and socialism, the development of imperialism, and a host of other topics. In so many ways, the nineteenth century shaped the world that we live in, so this class serves as an excellent foundation for any future work in modern world history. Course requirements include midterm and final examinations, as well as short papers on other readings, and participation in a mock trial in class. Course readings include a textbook, a primary source reader on European soldiers and civilians during the Napoleonic wars, German working-class autobiographies, and a history of King Leopold II’s exploitation of the Congo.

****Gen Ed:** Tier III Critical Thinking

History 351

Global History: Encounters and Conflicts

Prof. Stephen Harp

TuTh 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.

History 377

History of Women in Latin America

Prof. Martha Santos

MW 2:00pm-3:15pm

This course examines continuities and changes in the experiences of Latin American women, since the colonial period until the present, through the lens of gender. We will analyze norms and expectations about “appropriate womanhood” and how these concepts were related to social structures, including race, ethnicity, and class, and to changing political contexts. We will explore how women approximated, challenged, and transformed these gender definitions in their lives. Through a focus on female icons, such as Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Xica da Silva, Malinche, and Frida Kahlo, we will reflect on women’s roles in shaping the history of Latin

America and on the ways they have been represented in various media. Readings include testimonial literature, memoirs, novels, and church documents as well as monographs and scholarly articles.

****Gen Ed:** Global Diversity

History 440/540

Tudor and Stuart Britain, 1485-1714

Prof. Michael Graham

TuTh 12:15pm-1:30pm

This course, covering (roughly) 1485-1714 is an examination of the period in which "England," a peripheral island nation deemed past its prime by most European observers, was gradually transformed into "Great Britain," a budding imperial power which would soon dominate the international scene. This extraordinary transformation, the result of a combination of geographic chance, dynastic luck, and a cultural dynamism born out of religious, political and social conflict, will be our primary subject. Much of our attention will be devoted to the two major upheavals which so shaped that cultural dynamism - the Reformation of the sixteenth century and the Civil War/Revolution of the seventeenth century. Since no historical event or series of events occurs in a vacuum, we will also take note of other essential aspects of the story of Great Britain (including Scotland, Wales and Ireland) during this period, such as the end of the Wars of the Roses, the six marriages of Henry VIII, the "Elizabethan Renaissance," the failed Spanish Armada, the dynastic and then constitutional union of England and Scotland, the development of the printing industry, witch-hunt and the foundation of the American colonies. We will also try, as much as possible, to view history "from below" (from the perspective of the average man or woman living in the time being studied) as well as "from above" (the traditional perspective of high politics). Needless to say, we will spend a lot of time discussing those two things one is not supposed to bring up in polite company - religion and politics.

History 452/552

American Revolutionary Era

Prof. Gina Martino

TuTh 10:45am-12:00pm

History 452/552 explores the political, cultural, and military event known as the American Revolution. In this class, you will make complex historical connections about the American Revolution on large and small scales while strengthening your analytical skills and writing. Through a combination of readings, discussion, and lectures, we will explore the origins of the Revolution, the war that accompanied it, and the tumultuous nation-building process that created the United States.

Portions of the course will focus on traditional subjects associated with the Revolutionary Era—the Boston Tea Party, the Declaration of Independence, and figures such as George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. We will also dedicate a substantial amount of time to examining the roles of popular movements, women, slaves, and Native nations. Course assignments include short analytical papers and an original research paper based on primary sources.

History 470/570**Ohio History****Prof. Greg Wilson****MWF 10:45am-11:35am**

This course covers the span of Ohio 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.

History 483/583**History in Video Games****Prof. Martin Wainwright****MWF 11:50am-12:40pm**

This course analyzes computer and video games depicting historical themes. Although these games attempt to simulate history, problems of game balance, marketability, and developers' biases determine what aspects of history gamers encounter. Students will learn which approaches to history different development teams take and historians' perspectives on the major themes these games cover. Critical analysis will focus on the games' portrayal of different cultures and ethnic groups, gender, economic systems, religions, political ideologies, and technological development. Games examined will include grand strategy games, such as *Civilization*, the *Total War* series, and *Europa Universalis*; city builders, such as *Pharoah* and *CivCity: Rome*; economic games such as *Railroad Tycoon* and *Oregon Trail*; and action games, such as *Assassin's Creed* and *Call of Duty*. Students are required to purchase *Civilization VI* (with at least the *Rise and Fall* expansion).

Assignments will include a basic test on historical theories that we will be applying in our analysis of these games, mini-reviews of individual games, and a comparative analysis of games sharing a common theme. Students with programming experience may substitute a major modification (a.k.a. mod) of a game for part of the latter requirement.

History 487/587**Science and Technology in World History****Prof. Kevin Kern****TuTh 9:15am-10:30am**

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 EuroAmerican scientific traditions

History 499/599**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. This course offers students the chance to explore these questions 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.

History 669**Reading Seminar in American History Since 1877****Prof. Greg Wilson****W 5:10pm-8:30pm**

This reading seminar will examine some of the major events and issues in the history of the United States since 1877 from the perspective of public history. The course serves as one of the foundations for the Master's program. In general, public history refers to producing and studying history at work in the world. Academically, the seminar will analyze how historians and other experts, as well as the larger public construct and maintain ideas and interpretations about the past. Students will be required to read at least one monograph each week, write analytical summaries of these readings, and actively participate in discussion. There will be a final comprehensive essay as well. The class may meet at relevant public history sites in the region for discussion.

History 689**Historiography****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.

****Classics Courses:**

Classics 230

Sports & Society in Ancient Greece and Rome

Prof. Eugenia (Evi) Gorogianni

Asynchronous-Online

In Sports and Society in Ancient Greece and Rome, we 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 sports' social, political, and religious roles in the ancient world and compare them with modern attitudes. Throughout our investigation, we discover that ancient Mediterranean societies faced many similar social issues and challenges, which helps us infuse our discussions of and approaches to current issues concerning the sports world.

****Gen Ed:** Humanities

Classics 289

Mythology of Ancient Greece

Mr. Jerrad Lancaster

Asynchronous-Online

Mythology is the study of a body of stories that deal with a variety of topics from the nature of universe and the supernatural to specific practices of a given culture. Beyond providing entertainment and an endless supply of bed-time stories, mythology is a system of explanation, acculturation, and cultural reproduction (education). This course covers the myths of the Greek gods and heroes with reflection on what the stories can tell us about the Greeks and their culture. Also included are comparisons through the adaptations of Greek myth as seen in the Harry Potter movies. How J.K. Rowling incorporates Greek myth in her stories serves as a reflection of our own society

Classics 289

Mythology of Ancient Greece

Ms. Heather Pollock

TuTh 9:15am-10:30am

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.

****Honors Courses:**

1870: 350-001

Honors Humanities Colloquium: The History of Anti-Semitism

Prof. Michael Levin

MWF 12:55pm-1:45pm

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.

1870:370-004

Honors Natural Sciences Colloquium: American Eugenics

Prof. Kevin Kern

TuTh 10:45am-12:00pm

Should we be actively engaged in the business of breeding better humans? Members of the Eugenics Movement in the United States emphatically answered "yes" to this question, and actually met with some success in affecting public policy—from immigration restriction to the forced sterilization of "the unfit"—both in the U.S. and in Nazi Germany. In this course we will examine the idea and history of the eugenics in the United States, and will explore the intersection of scientific, political, social, ethical, and racial issues involved in this movement. We will also trace the long-term effects of eugenics on American life and science throughout the twentieth century and on into twenty-first century debates over genetic engineering research. By the end of the course, students not only know the major tenets of eugenics and the ways in which it manifested itself in the United States, but also be able to apply that knowledge to describing its effects and influences both in the past and in the present.

1870:340

Honors Social Science Colloquium: Culture of Fear

Ms. Heather Pollock

TuTh 10:45am-12:00pm

Mon 7:15pm-9:45pm

Students will explore the nature of fear, by dissecting and analyzing their own fears as well as “our” collective fears, ranging from the clinical example to the way fear and fears are illustrated in modern images, literature, movies, and pop culture examples. Students will then make an application of this effort, as they navigate breaking free from fear.