

Department of History

Spring 2025 Courses

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

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

HIST 200-001

Empires of the Ancient World

Prof. Martin Wainwright

MWF 10:45am-11:35am

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 Diversity

HIST 200-501

Empires of the Ancient World

Prof. Evi Gorogianni

Asynchronous Online

HIST 200-502

Empires of the Ancient World

Prof. Anne Maltempi

Asynchronous Online

History 210-001

Humanities in Western Tradition I

Prof. Michael Levin

TTh 9:15am-10:30am

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. 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: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 Diversity**

HIST 250-001**U.S. History to 1877****Prof. Kevin Kern****TuTh 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, Domestic Diversity**

HIST:251-501
U.S. History since 1877
Prof. Greg 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, Domestic Diversity

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 322-001
Europe: Absolutism to Revolution, 1610-1789
Prof. Michael Graham
MWF 10:45am-11:35am

This course will examine the political, social, intellectual and cultural history of Europe, especially western Europe, from about 1600 to about 1800. During these two centuries Europe witnessed two major political revolutions - one in England and one in France - as well as several other profound intellectual, social and cultural shifts which have been described as "revolutionary," shaping the culture of the modern world. It was also during this period that some European powers extended their political and economic influence to the far corners of the globe in an imperial competition whose repercussions are still felt today. We will study and analyze this history through lectures, readings (including substantial primary source readings), discussion and the viewing of an historical film.

HIST 324-001
Europe: WWI to the Present
Prof. Stephen Harp
TTh 5:10pm-6:25pm

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 Diversity

HIST 340-001/HONORS 350-001

Hunting Witches in Early Modern Europe

Honors Colloquium: Humanities (combined course)

Prof. Michael Graham

MW 2:00pm-3:15pm

This workshop-style course, open to history majors as well as honors students, will be an investigation into one of the most bizarre and troubling facets of early modern European history. The witch-hunt directly affected hundreds of thousands of people, and claimed tens of thousands of victims, killed for committing a crime which modern commentators view as imaginary. While recognizing the barbarity of what took place, we will seek to explain it within its historical context. What was it which caused people at all levels of society, including the most educated, to live in fear of black magic? How could such fears have made sense to them? How did those fears develop, and by what process did they eventually ease? After several weeks surveying the general outlines of the witch-hunt, we will delve into the actual records of several witchcraft trials, so see how the legal process operated in such cases, and to better understand the ways in which the witch-hunt has been documented. Finally, we will look at the ways in which people wrote about the witch-hunt, in the early modern popular media of pamphlet and news-sheet, in scholarly works dedicated to the respectable topic of "demonology", and in dramatic works. This last phase of the course will allow students to offer their own creative take on the hunt in styles similar to those popular in early modern Europe - i.e. tabloid pamphlet or dramatic presentation.

HIST 340-002/HONORS 350-002

Sel. Topics. History, Other: Salsa: History in Motion

Prof. Martha Santos

TTh 2:00pm-3:15pm

This colloquium, open to history as well as honors students, provides the 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. Rather than being only a conceptual exercise, this colloquium makes the embodied practice of dancing a central component of the learning experience. Through reading, discussion, and debate, we will analyze how the various dances and rhythms encompassed in salsa emerged within histories of enslavement, colonialism, immigration, and globalization in the Hispanic Caribbean during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Through exercises focused on body movement, we will explore the embodied strategies through which historical subjects navigated their experiences of oppression, immigration, dislocation in the Caribbean and in New York, and the meanings they assigned to them. No dance experience required but willingness to dance is.

The course fits in Field III (Global, Latin America, Africa, Asia, Middle East)

History 340-003/HONORS 350-003**Selected Topics: 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 course 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.

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.

History 456/556**The US through World Wars and Depression, 1917-1945****Prof. Kevin F. Kern****TTH 10:45am-12:00pm**

This course examines the development of the United States during its most turbulent era of the past 140 years: In this single generation, the country went from being a largely isolated and rural nation to being the world's most important military and economic power. Through the formative influences of world wars and international depression, we will trace the major social, economic, and political evolution of the modern United States. Major themes will include the making of the modern American political landscape; race, class, and gender relationships; demographic and intellectual developments; the permanent retreat from American isolationism; and the development of American economic and military hegemony. Graduate Student Field(s): Modern US

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 472-001**Genocide and Mass Violence****Prof. Janet Klein****MW 3:30pm-4:45pm**

This course explores the histories of twentieth and twenty-first century genocide and other types of mass violence, as well as the debates surrounding them. Focusing on examples that begin with the genocide of indigenous peoples in the Americas and Australia and concluding with current cases, we will explore the role of modern identity politics, imperialism, and ideology in mass murders and genocides. We will conduct this class as a seminar, which means that we engage in extensive reading (as well as writing) assignments and regular participation from students in discussions. History majors may apply this course to either the Group II (Europe) or Group III (non-Western, etc.) area distribution requirement depending on their needs, and possibly also to Group I (American).

HIST 483/583-001**History in Video Games****Prof. A. Martin Wainwright****MW 2:00pm-3:15pm**

Video games are the latest technology to present historical material as entertainment. Like authors of novels and producers of movies, designers of video games must choose how to present historical themes in their games. Unlike previous media, however, video games offer the consumer the opportunity to participate actively in the re-creation of history exploring alternatives to what actually occurred. This course examines the presentation of history in video games analyzing them for accuracy, bias, structural limitations, and utility as teaching tools

History 666-801**Reading Seminar: American History to 1877****Prof. Gina Martino****W 5:10pm-7:20pm**

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. Eugenia Gorogianni

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 289-501/CLAS 289-502

Mythology of Ancient Greece

Heather Pollock

TTh 12:15pm-1:30pm

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****

HONOR 350-004/HIST 340-001

Honors Colloquium: Humanities

Hunting Witches in Early Modern Europe

Prof. Michael Graham

MW 2:00pm-3:15pm

This workshop-style course, open to history majors as well as honors students, will be an investigation into one of the most bizarre and troubling facets of early modern European history. The witch-hunt directly affected hundreds of thousands of people, and claimed tens of thousands of victims, killed for committing a crime which

modern commentators view as imaginary. While recognizing the barbarity of what took place, we will seek to explain it within its historical context. What was it which caused people at all levels of society, including the most educated, to live in fear of black magic? How could such fears have made sense to them? How did those fears develop, and by what process did they eventually ease? After several weeks surveying the general outlines of the witch-hunt, we will delve into the actual records of several witchcraft trials, so see how the legal process operated in such cases, and to better understand the ways in which the witch-hunt has been documented. Finally, we will look at the ways in which people wrote about the witch-hunt, in the early modern popular media of pamphlet and news-sheet, in scholarly works dedicated to the respectable topic of “demonology”, and in dramatic works. This last phase of the course will allow students to offer their own creative take on the hunt in styles similar to those popular in early modern Europe - i.e. tabloid pamphlet or dramatic presentation.

HONOR 350-005/HIST 340-002

Honors Colloquium, Social Science:

Salsa: History in Motion

Prof. Martha Santos

TuTh 2:00pm-3:15pm

This colloquium, open to history as well as honors students, provides the 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. Rather than being only a conceptual exercise, this colloquium makes the embodied practice of dancing a central component of the learning experience. Through reading, discussion, and debate, we will analyze how the various dances and rhythms encompassed in salsa emerged within histories of enslavement, colonialism, immigration, and globalization in the Hispanic Caribbean during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Through exercises focused on body movement, we will explore the embodied strategies through which historical subjects navigated their experiences of oppression, immigration, dislocation in the Caribbean and in New York, and the meanings they assigned to them. No dance experience required but willingness to dance is.

The course fits in Field III (Global, Latin America, Africa, Asia, Middle East)

HONOR 350-006

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.