Overview and Contact Information

History is a critical and analytical method of inquiry into our collective past based on our cumulative experience, informed understanding, and careful judgment. It teaches us to look beyond appearance, to evaluate something with clarity and disinterest, to discover and investigate all the causes of an event and evaluate their relative importance. History teaches how to discern the relationship between cause and effect, to analyze motives, to determine agency and assign responsibility, and to understand change over time. These general habits of sorting through the past allow us to appreciate the profound differences between ourselves and others and to imagine (and to some degree experience) the world as people have in times now lost and in places we shall never see.

Contact Information
Daniel Czitrom, Chair
Holly Sharac, Academic Department Coordinator
309 Skinner Hall
413-538-2377
https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/history

Faculty
This area of study is administered by the Department of History:
Daniel Czitrom, Professor of History on the Ford Foundation
Lowell Gudmundson, Professor of Latin American Studies and History
Holly Hanson, Professor of History
Jeremy King, Professor of History
Lynda Morgan, Professor of History, Teaching Fall Only
Mary Renda, Professor of History
Desmond Fitz-Gibbon, Associate Professor of History, On Leave 2019-2020
Abhilash Medhi, Assistant Professor of History
Lan Wu, Assistant Professor of History, On Leave 2019-2020
Richard Chu, Five College Associate Professor of History
Adam Duker, Visiting Assistant Professor in History and Jewish Studies
Stephanie Huezo, Mount Holyoke Post-doctoral Fellow and Visiting Lecturer in History
Xiaofei Gao, Visiting Lecturer in History

Requirements for the Major
A minimum of 36 credits:

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>36 credits in History, comprising a course of study that meets all of the following requirements.</td>
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<td>36</td>
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The major must include:

- One course each from three of the following different regions: Africa, Asia (including the Middle East), Europe, Latin America, and North America.
- One course with substantial content in a period prior to 1750.
- A minimum of three 300-level courses, to include:
  - At least one 300-level research seminar, taken in the department (any course numbered between 302–394), and
  - Two additional 300-level history courses, of which only one may be HIST-395.
  - Four courses that comprise a topical, chronological, or geographical concentration within the major.  

Total Credits 36

1 One concentration course may be from a field other than history, if the student otherwise meets the requirement of 36 credits for history
2 The advisor must approve a statement of this concentration during the second semester of the student’s junior year.

Additional Specifications
- The department encourages students to pursue independent work at the 300 level during the senior year. Students who intend to pursue independent work in the senior year should plan to complete their research seminar during the junior year. Students interested in senior independent work, who also plan junior years at institutions other than Mount Holyoke College, will need to take special care to meet this requirement.

Requirements for the Minor
A minimum of 20 credits:

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<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>One research seminar, taken in the department (any course numbered between 302–394)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Four other courses above the 100 level</td>
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<td>16</td>
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Total Credits 20

Teacher Licensure
Students interested in pursuing licensure in the field of history can combine their course work in history with a minor in education. In some instances course work in the major coincides with course work required for licensure; in other cases, it does not. For specific course requirements for licensure within the major of history, please consult your advisor or the chair of the history department. Further information about the minor in education (http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/psychology-education/#minortext) and the Teacher Licensure program (http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/psychology-education/#teacherlicensuretext) is available in other sections of the catalog, or consult Ms. Frenette in the psychology and education department.

Licensure also requires a formal application as well as passing scores on the Massachusetts Test of Educator Licensure (MTEL) in both the literacy component and the subject matter component.

Additional information about the Licensure Program, including application materials, can be found on the Teacher Licensure Program website (https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/teach).
Course Offerings

First-Year Seminars

First-Year Seminars taught by History faculty introduce history as a method of inquiry, analysis, and interpretation concerned with understanding the variety of past human experience and with communicating that understanding clearly. The limited enrollment of these courses permits a concentration on the close reading and analysis of secondary and primary texts, and on the process of writing and revision. The substantial concentration on writing qualifies such seminars as writing-intensive courses. All first-year seminars are listed together under First Year Seminars (http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/first-year-seminars).

100-Level Regional Surveys

The department's 100-level survey courses are designed both for students seeking an introduction to a particular geographic area new to them and, equally, for students wishing to pursue intermediate or advanced work in a particular field. Students interested in pursuing American or European history, for example, are advised to take the pertinent survey as preparation for more advanced work, just as those interested in Africa, Asia, or Latin America should take the survey in their chosen area of interest.

HIST-124 History of Modern South Asia, 1700 to the Present
Fall. Credits: 4
This course will explore the history of South Asia between the eighteenth century and the present. Using a combined chronological and thematic approach and against a historical canvas that engages such diverse issues as gender, political economy, conquest, resistance, state formation, economic exploitation, national liberation, and identity politics, the aim of this course is to interrogate the impact of British colonialism and South Asian nationalisms on the state, society, and people of the subcontinent. Using primary and secondary sources, we will address both the most significant historical moments of modern South Asian history and the historiographical debates that surround them.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
A. Medhi

HIST-130 History of China through 1600
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
A survey of the social, political, and cultural world of premodern China. Emphasis will be placed on the evolution and contrasts of elite and popular culture and the nature of change in an agrarian state. Readings will be drawn from Confucian, Taoist, and Buddhist traditions, classical poetry and fiction, and the history of social and political movements.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
L. Wu
Notes: meets history department pre-1750 requirement

HIST-137 Modern East Asia, 1600-2000
Fall. Credits: 4
A comparative history of China, Japan, and Korea from the early seventeenth century to the present, with strong focus on regional interaction. After an introduction to early modern histories and cultures, we will examine the struggles of these countries to preserve or regain their independence and establish their national identities in a rapidly changing, often violent modern world order. While each of these countries has its own distinctive identity, their overlapping histories (and dilemmas) give the region a coherent shape. We will also look at how individuals respond to and are shaped by larger historical movements.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
X. Gao
Notes: Required for East Asian Studies majors. All readings are in English

HIST-140 When People Met Power: Political Accountability in Africa Before 1750
Fall. Credits: 4
This course traces the long history of political accountability in Africa. How did Africans wrest good governance from their leaders? How did they understand civic virtue and social responsibility? What principles of political logic did kingdoms share with societies without kings and royal women? How did gender contribute to structures of authority? What sources and methods enable us to productively approach a period of time distant from our own?
Crosslisted as: AFCNA-140
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive
H. Hanson
Notes: meets history department pre-1750 requirement

HIST-151 Modern and Contemporary Europe
Fall and Spring. Credits: 4
Surveys the major movements and developments in Europe during the era of European expansion and dominance—from the devastations of the Thirty Years War to the Second World War—and up to the current era of European Union. Topics include: the French Revolution and the birth of nationalism; the scientific and industrial revolutions; the modern history of international relations; imperialism, fascism, the Holocaust, the two World Wars, and the present and potential roles of Europe at the dawn of the twenty-first century.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
A. Duke, J. King

HIST-155 History of Modern Britain, 1750 to the Present
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
Britain has long been considered an exemplary modern nation, credited, for example, with the world’s first industrial economy, modern institutions of representative politics, a vibrant public sphere, a powerful war and welfare state, and one of the largest empires in world history. Using a combination of primary and secondary source readings, classroom lectures and discussions, and various written assessments, this course will ask how modern imperial Britain was made and how this history relates to the broader currents of world history.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
D. Fitz-Gibbon
HIST-161 British Empire and Commonwealth

Fall. Credits: 4
This course is an introduction to the expansion, consolidation, and eventual disintegration of the modern British Empire in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. We will examine this history with an eye to understanding the causes of empire, and its effects. Themes include formal and informal imperialism, the emergence of anti-colonial nationalism, the roles of gender and culture, and the legacies of British colonialism. We will discuss British attitudes and policies toward empire, and toward particular colonies, what role empire played in the growth of the British economy, in short, how colonial ideologies and practices were shaped and in turn affected vast regions of the globe.

 Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives

The department

HIST-170 The American Peoples to 1865

Fall. Credits: 4
This course examines the diverse cultures and peoples--Indian, African, and European—that from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century, through combat and cooperation, forged North American societies. Topics include the indigenous societies of the Americas; the age of colonialism; slavery; the American Revolution; the creation of the American political system; expansion and industrialization; and the coming of the Civil War.

 Applies to requirement(s): Humanities

L. Morgan

Notes: meets history department pre-1750 requirement

HIST-171 The American Peoples Since 1865

Spring. Credits: 4
This course introduces the history of the United States from Reconstruction to the present. Our themes include the nation's relationship to the world; the evolution of racial, gendered, and class hierarchies; the transformation of the federal government; and the changing forms of domestic life, work, consumer capitalism, politics, social protest, and cultural expression. How have the people of the United States struggled over such values as freedom, equality, prosperity, and progress? How have ideas about citizenship, criminality, and heritage served to police the boundaries of national belonging? We will be concerned throughout with the role of storytelling in history.

 Applies to requirement(s): Humanities

M. Renda

HIST-180 Introduction to Latin American Cultures

Fall and Spring. Credits: 4
Examines the confrontation, assimilation, and transformation of Amerindian, African, and European cultures in Latin America from the sixteenth century to the present. Focuses on the processes in which distinctive self-images emerged in the region and how these images have been challenged and changed over time. Uses films, literature, and folk traditions to complement scholarly analysis of the emergence of a New World mentality.

 Crosslisted as: LATAM-180

 Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives

L. Gudmundson

HIST-182 Topics in History

HIST-182LX Topics in History: 'Introduction to Latinx History'

Fall. Credits: 4
Introduction to Latinx History is a general and broad survey of the historical and cultural experiences of Latinx in the United States from conquest to the present. Through readings, lectures, film/documentaries, and class discussion we will examine the complex intersections between race/ethnicity, gender, sexuality and other social dimensions, such as age, education language, and citizenship within the varied histories of the Latinx community. Studying Latinx history provides a deeper understanding of the social, economic, cultural, and political dimensions of U.S. history. By the end of the course, there will be no doubt that Latinx history is U.S. history.

 Crosslisted as: LATST-182

 Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives

S. Huezo

HIST-182MN Topics in History: 'Mao to Now: History of the People's Republic of China'

Spring. Credits: 4
This course explores the last seventy years of Chinese history since the establishment of the People's Republic in 1949. It focuses on the course of socialist campaigns from the 1950s to the 1970s, and the evolution and consequences of economic reform since the early 1980s. Class meetings comprise lectures, discussion, and presentations. We will draw upon historical writing, memoirs, news reports, films, and fiction, as well as translations of original documents.

 Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives

Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive

X. Gao

200-Level Courses: Themes and Periods

The department's 200-level courses offer focused and intensive studies of particular times and places. They include a variety of courses, ranging from large survey courses to small, limited enrollment reading courses or seminars.

HIST-206 African Cities: Development Dreams and Nightmares in the Twentieth Century

Spring. Credits: 4
African cities demonstrate the failure of models of development with the aim and ideal of industrialization. This course examines the empty promises of modernity through the lens of African urban history using fiction, film, and city archives. Beginning with Timbuctu and Cairo, the course explores the emergence and decline of trade entrepots, the rise of colonial cities, and the dilemmas of postcolonial economies and politics. Dar es Salaam, Nairobi, KAMPala, Kinshasa, Harare, Johannesburg, Lagos, Accra, and Dakar are among the cities studied. Designed for those seeking only an introduction to development as well as those with further ambitions, it assumes no previous knowledge of Africa.

 Crosslisted as: AFCSA-206

 Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives

Other Attribute(s): Community-Based Learning

H. Hanson
HIST-214 History of Global Inequality  
Spring. Credits: 4  
Why are some nations so much richer and more powerful than others? This course demonstrates that global inequality is not natural; it has a history. Exploring patterns of exchange that developed among regions of the world over the past 600 years, we will ask about the role of power in the establishment of practices of production and exchange. We will explore how cross-regional productive systems benefited some participants at the expense of others. Having traced the consequences of unequal exchange over several centuries, we will ask how global trade and production would have to change for all participants to benefit equally. 
The course includes a community-based learning component. 
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives  
Other Attribute(s): Community-Based Learning  
G. Sumi  
HIST-216 War and Imperialism in the Ancient World  
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4  
Ancient Greeks and Romans viewed warfare as an abiding part of the human condition. The literature and artwork of the ancient world are filled with images of the two faces of war: it conferred great glory on the combatants but at the cost of tremendous horror and suffering. In this course we will examine warfare from archaic Greece and the rise of the city-state (ca. 800 B.C.E.) to the fall of the Roman Empire in the west (ca. 476 C.E.). We will consider such topics as the culture and ethics of war and imperialism, logistics and strategies of warfare, as well as armor, weaponry and battlefield tactics. 
Crosslisted as: CLASS-232  
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities  
G. Sumi  
HIST-223 Religion and Politics in Modern India  
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4  
The history of India has been singled out for its complex intermingling of religion and politics. This course will explore the constitution of religious identities in two of India's largest religious communities: Hindu and Muslim. Focusing primarily on the colonial period, we will discuss religious reform movements, communal violence, mass politics, and the partition of the subcontinent into the independent states of India and Pakistan. Throughout we will be interested in the ways that the colonial experience affected the religious thought and practice of Indians. Finally, we will explore the meanings of this history for the postcolonial workings of democracy and secularism in modern India. 
Crosslisted as: RELIG-223  
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives  
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive  
The department  
HIST-224 The Busy Silk Roads: Cultural Exchange in Pre-modern Eurasia  
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4  
Centered on great powers in the web of the Silk Roads prior to the nineteenth century, this course seeks to present a history of incessant communication at a trans-regional level. Three vast empires dominated the heart of the Eurasian continent: the Tibetan empire (7th-9th centuries), the Mongol empire (1206-1370), and the Manchu Qing (1644-1911). Each of them cultivated and encouraged cultural exchanges in the landlocked regions that are now divided into many modern nations. Important questions include: is seaborne trade the only form of global circulation of knowledge? What roles did the great powers play in facilitating exchange and communication?  
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives  
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive  
L. Wu  
Notes: meets history department pre-1750 requirement; all readings are in English  
HIST-226 Bread and Circuses: The Politics of Public Entertainment in Ancient Rome  
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4  
Bread and circuses (panem et circenses) was a catchphrase in the Roman empire that described the political strategy of controlling an unruly populace through free bread and public entertainment. Against a backdrop of Roman social and political institutions, this course focuses on the imperial ideology, aristocratic ethos, and cultural practices that underpinned this catchphrase, as well as questions concerning the careers of entertainers—gladiators, charioteers, and actors—who were at once celebrities and social outcasts; the rules of spectatorship at the games; the use of these games as a form of social control; and the logistics of feeding the city population. 
Crosslisted as: CLASS-226  
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities  
G. Sumi  
Notes: meets history department pre-1750 requirement  
HIST-227 Ancient Greece  
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4  
This course will trace the emergence and expansion of Greek civilization in the Mediterranean between the Bronze Age and Alexander the Great. Among themes to be explored are political structures, trade, slavery, gender relations, and religion, as well as the contributions of ancient Greeks to literary genres (drama, rhetoric, historiography, philosophy) and to the visual arts. Throughout we will consider how the history of the ancient Greeks can speak to modern concerns. Sources will include works of ancient Greek literature and history (e.g., Homer, Herodotus, Thucydides, Aristophanes, Plutarch) as well as archaeological and epigraphic evidence. 
Crosslisted as: CLASS-227  
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities  
P. Debnar  
Notes: meets history department pre-1750 requirement
HIST-228 Ancient Rome

Spring. Credits: 4

Ancient Rome and its empire can be viewed both as a measure of human achievement and a cautionary tale of the corrupting effects of unbridled power. This course covers the history of Ancient Rome from its mythologized beginnings (753 BCE) to the rise and spread of Christianity under the Emperor Constantine (312 CE). Topics include the creation and development of Rome’s republican form of government as well as its eventual transition to monarchy, the causes and consequences of the acquisition of empire, the role of the army in administering the provinces and defending the frontiers, the image of emperor, the economy, and religion.

Crosslisted as: CLASS-228
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
G. Sumi
Notes: meets history department pre-1750 requirement

HIST-229 The Tyrant and the Gladiator: Bad Roman Emperors from Caligula to Commodus

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4

Caligula was a god (or so he thought); Nero fiddled while Rome burned; Commodus dressed as a gladiator and fought man and beast in the arena. The history of the Roman empire is replete with scandalous stories about eccentric and even insane emperors whose reigns raise questions about the nature of the emperor’s power and his role in administering the empire. In this course a close study of Roman imperial biography and historiography—the source of so many of these stories of bad emperors—will be weighed against documentary and archaeological evidence in order to reveal the dynamic between the emperor, his court, and his subjects that was fundamental to the political culture of imperial Rome.

Crosslisted as: CLASS-229
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
G. Sumi
Notes: meets history department pre-1750 requirement

HIST-230 History and Law

Fall. Credits: 4

An introduction to the study of history through law, using a comparative approach to group rights. Case studies, rooted in landmark court decisions and legislation, concern racial segregation in America before the civil rights era (‘separate but equal’) and in Europe during the Nazi era (the Nuremberg Laws, German ‘national groups’ in the East), as well as affirmative action in America and attempts at promoting equality among national groups in Austria before the First World War.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
J. King

HIST-232 Special Topics in Medieval History

Fall. Credits: 4

This course focuses on how Jews and Christians fashioned their respective identities in late medieval and early modern Europe, how their communities interacted, and how they navigated their similarities and differences. Themes include how Jews and Christians constructed confessional and oppositional identities; how premodern people understood categories such as “ethnicity” and “religion” prior to the development of modern citizenship and secularization; and the viability of the distinction between “anti-Judaism” and “antisemitism” while investigating the relationship between premodern texts and more recent antisemitic ideas and movements. Students will read primary and secondary sources in order to understand religious people historically and on their own terms.

Crosslisted as: JWST-225ME, RELIG-225ME
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
A. Duker
Notes: Meets the History department pre-1750 requirement.
HIST-239ME Topics in Asian History: 'Cities in Modern East Asia'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course asks: what are cities in the history of modern East Asia? Cities were cosmopolitan, centers of commerce, and sites of social movements in late imperial China, Tokugawa Japan, and late Chosun Korea. How did the roles of cities change in the nineteenth century when East Asia became more integrated into the global system? How was urban life affected in the first half of the twentieth century when the central states dealt with domestic turmoil and external pressures? How did the state work to redefine cities and urban culture in the postwar era? To answer these questions, this seminar encourages students to position cities historically and comparatively.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
L. Wu

HIST-239MR Topics in Asian History: 'The Maritime Silk Roads: China and the World'
Fall. Credits: 4
This course provides an overview of the maritime Silk Roads that connected China with other Asian and western countries from the ancient era through the modern period. It traces China's relations and struggles with the wider world through the prism of the oceans and seas of Asia. Topics include trade, cultural exchanges, European and American presence in Asian waters, coastal piracy, overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia, and finally, the contemporary Chinese state's development strategy. The course uses archaeological, textual, and visual materials. It enables students to develop a deeper historical understanding of China's rise as a maritime power and how it has dramatically shaped the world.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
X. Gao
Notes: meets history department pre-1750 requirement; all readings are in English.

HIST-239WH Topics in Asian History: 'Water and Historical Settlements in India'
Spring. Credits: 4
The objective of the course is to familiarize students with the complex intertwining of political, religious, social and ecological factors that framed the evolution of historic regions in South Asia. By exploring the cultural landscape of Ellora-Khuldabad-Daulatabad in Maharashtra, India, they will be exposed to diverse methodological approaches such as Historical Anthropology, Comparative Religion and Human Geography, and will be encouraged to raise questions regarding the inter-disciplinary perspective through which such sites may be approached. The course will explore the interplay between historic practice and contemporary development paradigms, raising questions about current water scarcity that could impact many similar sites.
Crosslisted as: ASIAN-211WH, GEOG-241WH, RELIG-225WH
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Y. Mubayi

HIST-240 The Holocaust in History
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
An attempt at understanding the Nazi-led assault on Europe's Jews. Course units include an exploration of origins, both German and European; an analysis of the evolving mechanics of genocide (mobile killing squads, death camps, etc.); comparisons (Germany proper vs. Poland, the Holocaust vs. other instances of state-sponsored mass murder); legal dimensions; and an introduction to the politics of Holocaust remembrance since 1945.
Crosslisted as: JWST-240
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
J. King

HIST-243 Rural Prosperity in the African Past
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course seeks to understand what relationships engendered rural prosperity in African communities in the past, and what processes of change have led millions of rural people to abandon their homes and livelihoods to join flows of migrants to cities and other nations. We examine African patterns of production over the long term and the transformation of African agriculture in the last two centuries, considering famine, the social and political organization of access to productive resources, and the relationship of rural and urban communities. We ask how rural prosperity might be recreated in the 21st century.
Crosslisted as: AFCNA-243, ENVST-243
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Community-Based Learning
H. Hanson

HIST-244 European Public Policy, West and East
Spring. Credits: 4
In 1968, the USSR commenced a strategy of consumerist depoliticization in its European satellites. Around the same time, states on the other side of the Iron Curtain saw the postwar era of rapid economic growth and social consensus close. This course, reaching across the revolutionary break of 1989 up to the present, raises questions of convergence and continuity in European public policy, West and East. Paired case studies from a variety of countries in fields such as energy, the environment, minority rights, and housing serve to clarify rules and patterns to the politics of policy, from Cold War to European Union and beyond.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
J. King

HIST-246 20th Century Europe
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
A survey of European events, themes, and trends between 1900 and the new millennium, centered on discussion of a rich mix of primary sources that include fiction and film. Students will range from the Balkans to the Baltic, from the Urals to the United Kingdom, from death camps to the welfare state, from Bolshevism to neoliberalism, from European civil and cold war to European Union. This course complements History 151, does not repeat high school history, and pays close attention to developing historical consciousness and analytical skills.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
J. King
HIST-247 Mountains and Modernity
Spring. Credits: 4
From the Himalayas in South Asia to Mexico's Chiapas and from North Carolina’s Grandfather Mountain to the Uluru in Australia's Northern Territory, mountains represent more than just a geographical feature. They have been long viewed as transcendental spaces, served as a canvas for epic struggles between humans and nature, shaped cultural attitudes and been at the heart of political struggles. This course traces the history of various political and cultural meanings attached to mountains. Using examples from around the globe, it seeks to argue that rather than a metaphor for remoteness and primitivism, mountains are constitutive to our understanding of modernity.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive
A. Medhi

HIST-248 Science, Revolution, and Modernity
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
Introduces critical analysis of science and technology by tracing the historiography of the Scientific Revolution. The significance of this extended intellectual episode has been assessed in radically different ways throughout the intervening centuries. As such, it provides a fertile ground on which to pose and answer important questions about science and its role in society. What does it mean to regard science as ‘revolutionary’? How are scientific developments shaped by, and how do they shape, the social, economic, and political worlds in which they are embedded? How is our contemporary understanding of science and technology influenced by the stories we tell about the past?
Crosslisted as: CST-248
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
D. Cotter

HIST-252 History of Money and Finance
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
What is money? Is it the same in all times and places? If money could speak, what stories would it tell of the past? This course is about the history of money and money as an object of history. Using primary and secondary sources, students will learn about the social, political and cultural meaning of money at different times in the history of the western world. In addition, students will interpret the history of money using a variety of coins and money-related objects held in the MHC Art Museum. This is a course on the history of money, not the economics of money, but it will be of interest to anyone curious to learn more about the meaning of money in the past and today.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
D. Fitz-Gibbon

HIST-255 Ideas and Society in Europe
HIST-255ME Ideas and Society in Europe: 'Introduction to the Mediterranean'
Spring. Credits: 4
This course is an introduction to the interdisciplinary study of African, Asian, and European regions of the Mediterranean. Setting sail from classics such as the Bible and the Koran, we will explore the connected histories and geographies of Arab, French, and Italian societies, to focus on colonial and postcolonial classics in literature and cinema such as Pabst’s L’Atlantide, Pontecorvo’s The Battle of Algiers, and Abdel Salam’s The Mummy.
Crosslisted as: ITAL-241ME, FLMST-270ME, GEOG-241ME, CST-249ME
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
M. Lovato

HIST-259 Mary Lyon's World and the History of Mount Holyoke
Fall. Credits: 4
What world gave rise to Mary Lyon’s vision for Mount Holyoke and enabled her to carry her plans to success? Has her vision persisted or been overturned? We will examine the conditions, assumptions, and exclusions that formed Mount Holyoke and the arrangements of power and struggles for justice that have shaped it ever since. Topics include colonial and missionary projects; northern racism and abolitionism; industrial capitalism and the evolution of social classes; debates over women’s education, gender, and body politics; religious diversity, land and resource use; and efforts to achieve a just and inclusive campus. Includes research based on primary sources.
Crosslisted as: GNDST-206MA
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
M. Renda
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors
Prereq: 4 credits in History. Other students may apply with email to instructor.
Notes: Available for 300-level credit

HIST-260 Topics in the Recent History of Europe
HIST-260HH Topics in the Recent History of Europe: 'The Habsburgs, Hitler, and the Law'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course explores the complex, often comic, and ultimately tragic history of Bohemia, a territory located today in the Czech Republic, but previously a part of the Habsburg Monarchy, then of Czechoslovakia, and then of Hitler's Third Reich. Students will complement historical studies with autobiographical material and contemporary fiction, beginning with the Revolution of 1848, progressing through the achievements and worrisome trends of Emperor Francis Joseph's 68-year reign, and concluding with the world wars. Emphasis on the interplay among Czechs, Germans, Jews, and other pivotal players: the House of Habsburg and its supporters, and the political elites of neighboring countries.
Crosslisted as: JWST-225HH
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
J. King

HIST-262 Stalinism in Central Europe
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course explores the use of revolutionary terror by the state. More specifically, it examines policies of terror pursued by Communist dictatorships in Hungary and Czechoslovakia during the early years of the Cold War. Who did what to whom, and why? What insights do secret police work and public propaganda, knitted together in macabre show trials, allow us into Stalinist rule, European politics, and maybe ourselves? How did memories of terror shape politics after Stalin’s death? Students should deepen their understanding for the discipline of History, improve their reading and writing, and develop a working knowledge of Central European politics at the middle of the twentieth century.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
J. King
HIST-274 Black Abolitionists: American Revolution to Reconstruction
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
Slavery existed throughout the U.S. at the time of the American Revolution; afterwards, gradual emancipation plans freed the children of the formerly enslaved in the northern states. Runaways from the South increased their numbers. These nineteenth-century African Americans built the first edifices of freedom, chiefly through the institutions of family and religion, and furnished both leaders and foot soldiers for the abolitionist movement. They acted in the hope that their efforts would end slavery and bring full citizenship for black people. We will examine their unique contributions to the history of freedom, and the many obstacles they faced as they mobilized for emancipation.
Crosslisted as: AFCNA-241BN
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive
L. Morgan

HIST-276 U.S. Women's History Since 1890
Spring. Credits: 4
This course considers the historical evolution of women's private lives, public presence, and political engagement within and beyond the borders of the United States, from the 1890s to the present. How have U.S. racism, consumer capitalism, immigration, and changing forms of state power shaped women's experiences and possibilities? How have regimes of gender, sexuality, bodily comportment, and reproduction evolved in relation to national and global changes? Emphasis will be placed on the experiences and perspectives of working-class women, women of color, and colonized women.
Crosslisted as: GNST-F206US
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
M. Renda

HIST-280 Topics in North American History
HIST-280AA Topics in North American History: 'African American Women and United States History'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
How is our understanding of U.S. history transformed when we place African American women at the center of the story? This course will examine the exclusion of African American women from dominant historical narratives and the challenge to those narratives presented by African American women's history through an investigation of selected topics in the field.
Crosslisted as: AFCNA-241FW, GNST-F206FW
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
M. Renda

HIST-280DD Topics in North American History: 'Diversity, Inclusion, and Daily Democracy in US History'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
How have Americans – and those contending with America – envisioned and reached for more just and inclusive communities? What historical circumstances have opened opportunities for more robust democratic forms to emerge in the face of oppression? We will consider structural barriers to meaningful inclusion, involving racism, wealth, poverty, property, citizenship, gender, sexuality, disability, and dissent, as well as efforts to overcome them through concerted action and cultural struggle in the arts and public humanities. What public stories shape our connections with one another? What can we learn about the possibilities for sustaining democracy through daily life and culture?
Crosslisted as: CST-249DD
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
M. Renda

HIST-281 African American History, Precolonial to Emancipation
Fall. Credits: 4
This course will examine the cultural, social, political, and economic history of African Americans through the Civil War. Topics covered include the African background to the African American experience, the Atlantic slave trade, introduction and development of slavery, master-slave relationships, the establishment of black communities, slave revolts, the political economy of slavery, women in slavery, the experiences of free blacks, the crisis of the nineteenth century, and the effect of the Civil War.
Crosslisted as: AFCNA-241HS
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
L. Morgan
Notes: meets history department pre-1750 requirement

HIST-282 African American History from Emancipation to Obama
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course will examine the social, cultural, political, and economic history of African Americans from emancipation and Reconstruction through the present. Emphasis will fall on postwar southern social and economic developments, the rise of segregation, northern migrations, black class stratification, nationalism, the twentieth-century civil rights movement, and current trends in African American political, social, and economic life.
Crosslisted as: AFCNA-282
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
L. Morgan

HIST-283 Topics in the Recent History of the United States
These courses are designed for students with a background in American history who wish to focus attention on developments since the late nineteenth century.

HIST-283CA Topics in the Recent History of the United States: 'Voices of the Central American Diaspora'
Fall. Credits: 4
Guatemalan scholar Arturo Arias argues that Central American communities in the U.S. have lived on the murky margins of Mexican-Americans and other larger Latinx groups. This course focuses on diasporic U.S. Central Americans to understand this invisibility and create spaces of visibility. By putting Central American immigrants and their children’s voices at the forefront of our discussions, we will gain a critical understanding of the socio-political structures that inhibit ideas of belonging in the U.S. while exploring how this diasporic community has established and maintained roots in the both U.S. and Central America.
Crosslisted as: LATST-250CA
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
S. Huezo

HIST-283MC Topics in the Recent History of the United States: 'We Didn't Start the Fire: The United States Since WW II'
Fall. Credits: 4
The United States emerged from the Second World War as the most powerful nation on earth. This course explores American political, cultural, and social life in the postwar era, with an eye toward helping students gain a firmer understanding of contemporary issues and conflicts in our nation and around the world. Topics include birth of the national security state, the Cold War at home and abroad, popular culture and consumer society, the civil rights struggle, the political and cultural rebellions of the 1960s, the resurgence of conservatism, and America’s changing relationship to the world in the post Cold War era. Students will have the opportunity to do a research paper on the topic of their choice.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
D. Czitrom
HIST-283RA Topics in the Recent History of the United States: 'Reel America: History and Film'
Spring. Credits: 4
This course is an introduction to the social and cultural history of the American film industry since the 1890s. The course surveys the evolution of Hollywood cinema from the silent era through the so-called classical period and through the post-World War II breakup of the studio system.
Crosslisted as: FLMST-220RA
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
D. Czitrom
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors

HIST-287 Topics in Latin American Studies
HIST-287AF Topics in Latin American Studies: 'Afro-Latin America: From Slavery to Invisibility'
Fall. Credits: 4
Exploration of the history of Afro-Latin American populations since independence within and outside the nation-state. We will question why and how to study those whose governments define them not as peoples of African descent but as part of a mixed-race majority of Hispanic cultural heritage, who themselves may often have supported this policy, and who may have had compelling reasons to avoid official scrutiny. Readings include early twentieth-century Latin American racial theorizing; research using census, economic, criminal, and marriage records; autobiographical works, and analysis of race in textual and musical representations of peoples, regions, and nations.
Crosslisted as: LATAM-260, AFCNA-241AF
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
L. Gudmundson

HIST-288 Modern Mexico
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
An analysis of the modern Mexican nation-state organized around three major themes: the conflictive yet symbiotic relationship with the United States, from the war of the 1840s through NAFTA most recently; the succession of reformist and revolutionary upheavals in 1810-1821, 1856-1867, 1910-1917, the 1930s, and again today, seeking to resolve both problems of the colonial past and new conflicts traceable to the very reforms generated by earlier political and social struggles; and the meaning of Mexican nationality from different ethnic, gender, and class perspectives. Readings include autobiographical and literary works, historical studies, and films.
Crosslisted as: LATAM-288
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
L. Gudmundson

HIST-289 Slavery in the Americas
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
A course, organized topically rather than geographically or nationally, that offers a comparative analysis of African American slavery as a dominant social system in Brazil, the Caribbean, and the U.S. South. Topics include: why slavery?; sugar and slavery; historical demography; culture and the law; kinship and family; long-run economic development; patterns of race relations; master class and racist ideologies; resistance to slavery; and abolition and its aftermath. Readings include historical and anthropological studies, as well as a major documentary collection on slavery in Brazil.
Crosslisted as: LATAM-289, AFCNA-241SA
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
L. Gudmundson

HIST-296 Topics: Women in History
HIST-296AW Women in History: 'African Women's Work'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course introduces the changes in Chinese women's lives-and the changes in shared social ideas about what women should do and be-from the late 19th century to the present, a time of profound change on the Chinese mainland. The central question animating the course is this: when we foreground gender as a category of analysis, how does history look different? The course is organized chronologically with thematic focus on the politics of marriage and reproduction; the state's shifting perspectives on women's social roles; and how women interpreted and responded to the changing cultural landscape.
Crosslisted as: GNDST-206CG
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Community-Based Learning
L. Wu
Notes: All readings are in English. This course meets the history department pre-1750 requirement.

HIST-296 MC Women in History: 'Women and Gender in Modern China'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course introduces the changes in Chinese women's lives-and the changes in shared social ideas about what women should do and be-from the late 19th century to the present, a time of profound change on the Chinese mainland. The central question animating the course is this: when we foreground gender as a category of analysis, how does history look different? The course is organized chronologically. Course materials include a textbook to introduce broad themes, scholarly monographs and articles, primary sources from the 19th and 20th centuries, visual and material artifacts, and films.
Crosslisted as: GNDST-206MC
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive
X. Gao

300-Level Colloquia
A colloquium is a 300-level class concentrating on advanced readings in secondary sources and on the analysis and construction of an historical argument. A colloquium may be centered on a broad historical theme, issue, or problem that is likely to affect the world into which current students will graduate. Regardless of topic, they share the common course number History 301. Please note that admission to some 300-level history courses is by written application and permission of the instructor. Students may apply online (https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/history/300-level_application).
HIST-301 Colloquia

HIST-301AB Colloquium: 'The Abolition Movement'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course will examine the maturation of North American slave regimes after the American Revolution and the diverse activities of people who worked to abolish slavery. The assorted motives of white opponents of slavery and the actions of both free and enslaved African Americans to achieve freedom will be highlighted. We will analyze the mechanics of biracial coalition building and assess the historical legacy of these activists for subsequent social movements.
Crosslisted as: AFCNA-301
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
L. Morgan

HIST-301CS Colloquium: 'Capitalism in South Asia'
Spring. Credits: 4
The recession of 2008 has drawn scholars to the subject of long-term capitalist transformation around the globe. Examining the phenomenon that is 'global capitalism', they have studied its effects on markets, structures of government, and increasingly, the environment. A global approach, however, is inadequate for understanding the particular lifeworlds shaped by capitalism at the local and regional levels. This colloquium uses examples from South Asia to emphasize how capitalist transition in the region was entangled with developments elsewhere, yet asserted a quite distinctive influence in areas of trade, agriculture, property norms, law, labor relations, migration, and consumption.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive
A. Medhi
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors
Instructor permission required.
Prereq: 4 credits in History.
Advisory: Application and permission of instructor required. Application found here: https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/history/300-level_application

HIST-301DW Colloquium: 'Darwin'
Spring. Credits: 4
This course looks at the scientific content and intellectual context of Darwin's theory of evolution - his facts, metaphors, hypotheses, and philosophical assumptions. Readings from Darwin and his sources, and examination of the organisms he studied. A background in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century history or whole organism biology is recommended.
Crosslisted as: BIOL-308
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive
S. Rachootin
Restrictions: This course is open to juniors and seniors
Prereq: BIOL-226 or Hist-248.

HIST-301EM Colloquium: 'The Age of Emancipation'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This colloquium examines the causes and the course of the Civil War, its social, economic, and political results during Reconstruction, and the early roots of both de jure segregation and the civil rights movement.
It will examine the process of emancipation from the perspective of social history. Violent conflicts over free labor, the establishment of sharecropping, and the political and economic policies pursued by various groups--freedpeople, ex-masters, northern policymakers, wage laborers, and African American women, for example--will be covered. African American viewpoints and histories will receive particular emphasis.
Crosslisted as: AFCNA-341EM
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
L. Morgan

HIST-301HE Colloquium: 'Food and Hunger in the Modern World'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
At a time when rapidly rising food prices are causing distress, starvation and food riots around the world, we will focus our enquiry on the creation of markets for food and the industrialization of agriculture. What changed when food became a commodity traded over long distances? What changed when food began to be produced using industrialized methods? What are the social consequences of these transformations? What was the role of colonial rule in the loss of food security in Africa? What factors explain famine, and people's responses to it? We will explore these questions globally, with a focus on Africa.
Crosslisted as: AFCNA-341FH
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
H. Hanson
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors

HIST-301HE Colloquium: 'History of Energy'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
We live in an age of energy crises, in which the future of energy is questioned in countless headlines and Twitter feeds. Often our energy agony accompanies other assumptions about energy's past, in particular the idea that social change invariably follows the discovery of new energy technologies. From food to fuel cells, this colloquium charts a more complicated and interesting history, a history in which people have continually shaped and made meaningful the energies that fuel the modern world. It will be of particular interest to students in history and environmental studies and to those interested in the social study of science and technology.
Crosslisted as: ENVST-301
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
D. Fitz-Gibbon
HIST-301ND Colloquium: 'The Indian Ocean World'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
In recent years, the Indian Ocean has become an exciting field of historical scholarship, contributing to new understandings of Indian and world history. This colloquium explores trade and travel, conquest, religious conversion, and migration across a large area, from East Africa to the islands of Southeast Asia. Its purpose will be to understand a complex and integrated commercial system, pivoted on the Indian subcontinent, by considering movements of goods and people across the Indian Ocean.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive
The department
Restrictions: This course is open to juniors and seniors

HIST-301NE Colloquium: 'New York City: Capital of the World'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
A colloquium focusing on the cultural, social, and political life of New York City, with special reference to its uneasy relationship to American society as a whole. Examination of New York politics, writers and artists, architecture, immigrant communities, economic role, and shifting power relations. Accompanying film series and possible field trip to New York City, with historical walking tours.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
D. Czitrom
Prereq: 8 credits in History.

HIST-301NY Colloquium: 'Reading the New York Times: Journalism, Power, History'
Fall. Credits: 4
This course examines the political and cultural power of the New York Times in the American past and present. Students will analyze the NYT today through daily reading, study its evolution as an institution, and research its coverage of critical historical events over the past century. We will also explore several larger issues: the history of news and newspapers; the relationship between journalistic practice and writing history; tensions between news organizations and government; the blurred boundaries between news and entertainment; the emergence of various ideological critiques of 'the media.'
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
D. Czitrom
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors
Prereq: 8 credits in history.

HIST-301SC Colloquium: 'Popular Education and Social Change in the Americas'
Spring. Credits: 4
Popular education emerged in the Americas as a liberation project nourished by revolutionary aspirations. The Brazilian educator, Paulo Freire and others envisioned liberatory education by and for the people. What were its origins? This course will examine the historical moments and movements where popular education emerged. Taking up a range of voices and sources, we will consider the principles and practices that animated revolutionary projects and social movements in El Salvador, Brazil, Nicaragua, among other Latin American and Latinx communities. As a class, we will take part in a CBL component where we will interact with some community-based organizations that practice popular education. Together, we will learn from these experiences and enrich our own liberatory practices.
Crosslisted as: LATAM-387SC
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Community-Based Learning
S. Huezo
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors
Prereq: At least 4 credits in History or Latin American Studies.
HIST-301WF Colloquium: ‘Women and the Family in Imperial China’
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course examines the lives of women in imperial China (221 BCE-1911). How did Confucian didactic texts define women and their place in the family? Seen as the core of the family in a patrilineal, patrilocal, and patriarchal society, men prescribed women’s roles in family life. How did women understand and respond to the social expectations imposed on them? What changed over the long history of imperial China? Students consider writings by and about women alongside the evidence of material culture. Crosslisted as: GNST-333WF
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
L. Wu
Prereq: One course on East Asian history, culture, politics, or language.
Notes: meets history department pre-1750 requirement
Research Seminars
A 300-level class requiring students to engage in primary and secondary source research in the history of particular times and places, resulting in a substantial piece of historical writing. The research seminars are the History courses numbered between 302–394. Please note that admission to some 300-level history courses is by written application and permission of the instructor. Students may apply online (https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/history/300-level_application).

HIST-317 Perspectives on American Environmental History
Fall. Credits: 4
We explore the history of human-environment interactions in North America from pre-colonial times to the present from different cultural perspectives. How have such human activities as migration, colonization, and resource use depended on or modified the natural world? How have different cultural perceptions of and attitudes toward environment shifted through time and helped to reshape American landscapes? Case studies include ecological histories of Native America and Euro-America, slavery and land use, wilderness and conservation, and environmental racism and social justice. In addition to historical documents, we also consider scientific studies, literature, visual records, and oral tradition. Crosslisted as: ENVST317
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
L. Savoy
Instructor permission required.
Advisory: You must apply for admission to this course by completing the online application form. Please try to apply during advising week. Priority given to juniors and seniors in ENVST, HIST, and GEOG.

HIST-323 Germans, Slavs, and Jews, 1900-1950
Fall. Credits: 4
This course explores relations among Germans, Slavs, and Jews in Central and Eastern Europe before, during, and after the First and Second World Wars. Emphasis lies on tracing continuities and ruptures in nationalist and racist ideologies and policies, from late imperial Germany and Austria through the interwar republics and then on to the Third Reich and the post-Nazi regimes. Topics covered include the Holocaust, Nazi treatment of Poles, and the expulsion of millions of ethnic Germans from Poland and Czechoslovakia after 1945, but also mutual accommodation, assimilation, liberal group rights, and the ambiguities of who was German or Slavic or Jewish in the first place. Crosslisted as: JWST-350GE
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
J. King
Prereq: 8 credits in History or International Relations.

HIST-326 Comparative History of Early Modern Empires
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This research seminar examines the history of Qing China (1644-1911), the Ottoman Empire (1299-1922), and the Russian Empire (1721-1917) in the early modern era. The course is organized thematically and introduces important conceptual frameworks in historical inquiries. Students are to explore emergent research in state formation, economic development, social changes, and cultural dynamics. The central questions to be considered include the role of the state as well as its negotiation with varied ruling mechanisms within each of the three expansive landmass empires. Comparisons are to be drawn with maritime empires when needed to address the issue: what we talk about when we talk about empire. Crosslisted as: JWST-350GE
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities, Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
L. Wu
Prereq: Students must have taken at least one 100-level introductory course in either Asian or European history.
Notes: meets the pre-1750 requirement.

HIST-331 Topics in Asian History
HIST-331FC Topics in Asian History: ‘A Taste of China: History of Food Culture and the Environment’
Spring. Credits: 4
This seminar explores historical, cultural, and environmental aspects of Chinese food. Topics include: the relationship between food and local, national identity; the connections of food production and consumption processes within and beyond China; the impacts of culinary decisions by consumers on the well-being of local farmers, workers, and non-human actors. Crosslisted as: JWST-350GE
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities, Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive
X. Gao
Prereq: 8 credits in History.
HIST-332 Environmental History of China

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course offers a sweeping history of how the people in China have interacted with the natural world. Students will investigate historically specific social, economic, and political forces that have shaped environmental transformations in China. The course is organized thematically within a chronological framework. The course concludes with a closer look at the development of environmental practice in the modern era.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
L. Wu
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors
Prereq: 8 credits in History.
Notes: Meets the history department pre-1750 requirement. All readings are in English.

HIST-333 Research Seminar in American Women's History

HIST-333ML Research Seminar in American Women's History: 'Mary Lyon's World and the History of Mount Holyoke'

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
What world gave rise to Mary Lyon's vision for Mount Holyoke and enabled her to carry her plans to success? Has her vision persisted or been overturned? We will examine the conditions, assumptions, and exclusions that formed Mount Holyoke and the arrangements of power and struggles for justice that have shaped it ever since. Topics include colonial and missionary projects; northern racism and abolitionism; industrial capitalism and the evolution of social classes; debates over women's education, gender, and body politics; religious diversity; land and resource use; and efforts to achieve a just and inclusive campus. Students write a substantial research paper based on primary sources.
Crosslisted as: GNDST-333ML
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
M. Renda
Restrictions: This course is open to juniors and seniors
Prereq: 8 credits in History, or 4 credits in History and 8 credits in Gender Studies.
Advisory: Open to juniors and seniors with either 8 credits in history or 4 credits in history and 8 credits in gender studies (no application required for students who meet these prerequisites). All other interested students may apply at https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/history/300-level_application.

HIST-338 History, Race, and the American Land

Spring. Credits: 4
Environmental justice is a key concern today. Yet ties between "race" and environment in what is now the U.S. have existed for centuries. In this research seminar we will explore how this country's still-unfolding history, and ideas of race and nature, have marked the land, this society, and each of us as individuals. We will consider Indigenous, colonial European, and African senses of Earth; origins of placenames; contested terrains; migration and displacement; and other topics revealing the place of race. We'll examine often-unrecognized connections, such as the siting of the nation's capital and the economic motives of slavery. None of these links is coincidental and all touch us today.
Crosslisted as: ENVST-338
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
L. Savoy
Restrictions: This course is open to juniors and seniors
Instructor permission required.
Prereq: ENVST-317.
Advisory: You must apply for admission to this course by completing the online application form. Priority given to juniors and seniors in ENVST, HIST, and GEOG.
Notes: This course is reading intensive

HIST-341 Topics in African History

HIST-341PW Topics in African History: 'Power and Exchange in the African Past'

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
Did African nations become poorer in the 20th century because development initiatives were badly executed? inherently exploitative? ill-timed? Looking beyond the caricatures of evil colonial officers, lazy peasants, or greedy elites, who do we see engaged in productive activity and what are they doing? What concepts and categories illumine our understanding of their actions? How does a careful exploration of the nature of exchange and production in Africa revise our perception of the global economy in the present? We will explore three centuries of exchange in Africa and elsewhere: students may focus their research on the history of a market in any part of the world.
Crosslisted as: AFCNA-341PW
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
H. Hanson
Prereq: 8 credits of history or other significant preparatory coursework relevant to the topic.

HIST-357 History of British Capitalism

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
Drawing on insights from recent scholarship on the "histories of capitalism," this course explores the history of economic life in modern Britain, from the late seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries. Rather than take British economic development as exemplary of modernization we will situate that which was particular about the British case against the pluralities of capitalism that have evolved over the past three centuries. Topics include revolutions in agriculture, finance, commerce and manufacturing; the political economy of empire; the relationship between economic ideas, institutions and practice; and, the shaping of everyday economic life by gender, class and race.
Crosslisted as: CST-349BC
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
D. Fitz-Gibbon
Restrictions: This course is open to juniors and seniors
HIST-361 Topics in Modern Europe: The Nineteenth Century
HIST-365 Topics in Modern Europe: The Twentieth Century

HIST-365ST Modern Europe: The Twentieth Century: 'The Other Europe since Stalin'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
A charting of the paths taken by Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary from the post-totalitarian regimes of the '60s through the fall of the Berlin Wall and on to membership in the European Union. Topics include strategies of political control and opposition, the uses of consumer culture, breaks and continuities between Communist and liberal capitalist orders, and national particularities to the regional project of undoing dictatorship. Sources reach from the elite to the everyday, and extend to film and fiction. Methods are comparative and interdisciplinary.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
J. King
Instructor permission required.
Advisory: Students not majoring in history are welcome.

HIST-381 Topics in Recent American History
HIST-381KT Recent American History: 'Kitchen Table History'
Spring. Credits: 4
This seminar focuses students on researching and writing the history of their own families, going back at least two generations. Along with digging into the specifics of family history, students will explore the key historical contexts for the decisions and choices made in the past, e.g. immigration (both voluntary and forced), war, economic conditions, political movements, professional and entrepreneurial opportunities. Kitchen Table History asks that we interrogate critically the stories and lessons learned from family members, using the widest array of historical sources. These include the digital databases that have opened up new paths for inquiry, e.g. Ancestry.com, Ellisland.org, Jewish.gen, and others.
Crosslisted as: JWST-350KT
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
D. Czitrom
Prereq: 8 credits in U.S. history.

HIST-381RD Recent American History: 'American Radicalism'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This research seminar will explore a variety of Left radical traditions in the United States from the late nineteenth century through the end of the twentieth. What does it mean to be "a radical," and how have definitions changed over time? What impact have American radicals had on electoral politics and the larger society? We will pay special attention to the connections between political and cultural radicalism, as well as to government and private campaigns aimed at suppressing radical movements. Topics: Gilded Age labor movements; Eugene Debs and American socialism; bohemian radicalism; African American radical movements; the American Communist Party; peace activism; radical feminism.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
D. Czitrom
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors
Prereq: 4 credits in U.S. history.

HIST-386 Central America: Reform, Reaction, Revolution
Spring. Credits: 4
This seminar explores the diverse experiences of Central American nations in the twentieth century. From a common basis in an export-oriented agriculture, social and political alternatives ranging from social democracy to recurrent military rule, neofascist regimes, and revolutionary socialism have emerged in the isthmus. The course uses materials ranging from autobiography and literature to historical and anthropological studies to understand how this came to be. In addition to national cases, we consider the unique experiences of the area's indigenous and Atlantic-coast peoples within and outside the nation-state framework.
Crosslisted as: LATAM-386
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
L. Gudmundson
Restrictions: This course is open to juniors and seniors
Prereq: 8 credits in Latin American Studies or related field.

HIST-389 Agrarian America: Sugar, Cotton, Coffee, Bananas, and Wheat
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
Explores societies generated in the Americas by several widely distributed export crops. Multinational and cross-cultural comparisons holding constant the crop itself allows a focus on the possible variations by time and place in each commodity's technologies, labor systems, farm sizes, and social structure; their political and social dynamics; the problematic features of capitalism in agriculture, or if, how, and when do peasants become farmers and farming agribusiness? Particular focus on family and household relations under so-called "peasant to farmer" agricultural transitions and environmental implications of single-crop and export agriculture.
Crosslisted as: LATAM-389
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
L. Gudmundson
Restrictions: This course is open to juniors and seniors
Prereq: 8 credits in Latin American Studies or related field.

Independent Study

HIST-295 Independent Study
Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 4
The department
Instructor permission required.

HIST-395 Independent Study
Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 8
The department
Instructor permission required.