

HISTORY

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

Desmond Fitz-Gibbon, Chair

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<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/history> (<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/history/>)

Learning Goals

Students of the History department can expect to:

- Understand the dynamics of change over time, the complexity of human experience across time and space, and the ways people both shape and are shaped by the particular worlds they inhabit.
- Evaluate a wide range of historical materials for their credibility, position, and perspective, and for the clues they offer about past worlds and experiences. Discern from such fragmentary evidence meaningful patterns that illuminate our understanding of the past.
- Develop empathy for the people whose lives we seek to understand and a respectful appreciation of the range and diversity of human experience.
- Generate significant, open-ended questions, and devise research strategies to find suitable evidence to answer such questions.
- Engage in lively, meaningful conversation about the nature of historical inquiry and conflicting understandings of the past. Work cooperatively with others to develop positions that reflect deliberation and differing perspectives.
- Write effective and logical prose that describes and analyzes the past, and consider a range of media best suited to communicating a particular argument, narrative, or set of ideas.
- Develop a disciplined, inquiring stance and outlook on the world that demands evidence and sophisticated use of information. Apply historical knowledge and historical thinking to contemporary issues.

Faculty

This area of study is administered by the Department of History:

Daniel Czitrom, Professor of History on the Ford Foundation, Teaching Spring Only

Jeremy King, Professor of History, On Leave 2021-2022

Mary Renda, Professor of History

Desmond Fitz-Gibbon, Associate Professor of History

Abhilash Medhi, Assistant Professor of History

Lan Wu, Assistant Professor of History

Richard Chu, Five College Associate Professor of History

Elisa Prosperetti, Visiting Lecturer in History

Requirements for the Major

A minimum of 36 credits:

Code	Title	Credits
36 credits in History, comprising a course of study that meets all of the following requirements.		
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. ^{1,2}		
No more than half the 36 credits may be at the 100-level.		
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:

Code	Title	Credits
One research seminar, taken in the department (any course numbered between 302–394)		4
Four other courses above the 100 level		16
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 course 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-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

L. Wu

Notes: Required for East Asian Studies majors. All readings are in English.

Meets history department pre-1750 requirement.

HIST-141 Introduction to Modern African History

Fall. Credits: 4

This course provides an introduction to African history over the past three centuries. Venturing beyond the stereotypes, we will explore the complex histories that constitute a diverse continent. Special attention is given to spotlighting the voices of African people through a range of primary and secondary sources, including memoirs, film, music, cartoons, speeches and photography. Students will gain knowledge of African geographies and histories, develop the skill of primary source analysis, and be able to connect events in – and narratives of – present-day Africa to a deeper historical past.

Crosslisted as: AFCNA-141

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives

E. Prosperetti

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

D. Fitz-Gibbon

HIST-161 British Empire and Commonwealth

Spring. Credits: 4

This course is an introduction to the expansion, consolidation, and eventual disintegration of the British Empire in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. We will examine this history with an eye to understanding the causes and legacies of empire. We will discuss British attitudes and policies toward empire and the imperial foundations of the British economy. Cutting an arc of territory from the Caribbean to Africa and from South Asia to the Pacific rim, we will consider the role of culture and gender in informing anticolonial resistance. We will interrogate how legacies of colonialism manifest in the contemporary period by shaping post-colonial identities and perceptions of the world.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives

A. Medhi

HIST-170 The American Peoples to 1865*Fall. Credits: 4*

This course surveys the history of Indigenous worlds, colonial projects, enslavement, and the contested transformation of lives and communities in North America through the U.S. Civil War. How did settler political and economic strategies shape the land and life upon it? How did Native people and people of African descent claim sovereignty, create new bonds, and partake in the creation of new nations in landscapes of violence and subjugation? Topics include cross-cultural encounters; competing religious and social visions; the formation of the United States and the evolution of its political system; gender and sexuality; the development of racial capitalism; and the coming of the Civil War.

*Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives**M. Renda**Notes: meets history department pre-1750 requirement***HIST-171 The American Peoples Since 1865***Spring. Credits: 4*

This course introduces the history of Native North America and the United States from the latter half of the 19th century to the present. Themes include the consolidation of the U.S. nation and of the reservation system; struggles over land, settlement, and citizenship; the transformations of the federal government and of capitalism; the evolution of racial, gendered, and class hierarchies; and changing forms of domestic life, work, politics, social protest, and cultural expression from Reconstruction through the coronavirus pandemic. How have ideas about democracy, heritage, blackness, immigration, and criminality shaped the possibilities of national existence and self-determination?

*Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives**M. Renda***HIST-180 Introduction to Latin American Cultures***Not Scheduled for This Year. 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**The department***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-208 The Consumer Revolution: A History of Shopping*Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

This seminar surveys the history of shopping from the seventeenth to early-twentieth century. From its origin as a term for wastefulness, consumption is now understood as an essential feature of prosperity in modern society. How did shopping change over this period to occupy such an important place in our world? Using primary, secondary and material sources, students will examine the commodities, shopping habits, business strategies, consumer politics, marketplaces, and identities that shaped and sustained the rise of retail. Set primarily in a European context, the course will also emphasize the global and imperial dimensions of consumption and the systems of power that enabled it.

*Applies to requirement(s): Humanities**D. Fitz-Gibbon***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-226 Bread and Circuses: The Politics of Public Entertainment in Ancient Rome***Fall. 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

Not Scheduled for This Year. 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-239 Topics in Asian History**HIST-239EN Topics in Asian History: 'Empire, Nation, and the Making of Tribes in South Asia'**

Spring. Credits: 4

This course will explore the history of colonial and post-colonial encounters with various 'tribal' communities in South Asia. In colonial and post-colonial settings, the tribe has served as a category for military surveillance and pacification, legal regulation, economic development, and political resistance. Drawing mainly on examples from South Asia and engaging theoretical frames from the Middle East, Africa, Australia, and Canada, we will consider how colonial and post-colonial governments, missionaries, and tribal populations themselves have invoked tribe. Readings for the course will include scholarly monographs and articles, ethnographic accounts, and missionary records.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives

A. Medhi

HIST-239MC Topics in Asian History: 'Borderlands and Ethnicity in Modern China'

Spring. Credits: 4

This seminar investigates the processes through which borderlands were imagined and ethnicities were made in twentieth-century China. Drawing from texts and films about and by the people living on the borderlands, students in the seminar are to explore the intersecting relation between the two pressing issues and how Chinese states dealt with them. Furthermore, how did all these concerns originate? To that end, the seminar begins by examining how the central state in early modern China formed a multicultural empire in the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives

L. Wu

Notes: All readings are in English.

HIST-239ME Topics in Asian History: 'Cities in Modern East Asia'

Spring. 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 Chosŏn 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): Writing-Intensive

L. Wu

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-241 Beyond Francafrique: Franco-African Encounters in Historical Perspective

Fall. Credits: 4

This course examines how France and Francophone West Africa have shaped each other throughout the past three centuries. Beginning with the French Atlantic of the eighteenth century, the course traces Franco-African encounters through informal and formal colonial rule, decolonization, and the postcolonial period. It closes by examining current controversies over race, literature and museum rights engendered by this complex history. Students will gain a deep historical understanding of contemporary issues, giving them the capacity to think widely about social divisions, power asymmetries, and debates surrounding identity and belonging that de-center the American experience.

Crosslisted as: AFCNA-241FR, CST-249FR

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives

E. Prosperetti

HIST-242 On West Africa's Shores: From the Sahara to the Atlantic c. 800 to 1800

Spring. Credits: 4

One of the most significant shifts in global history is the incorporation of the New World into the Afro-Eurasian trading system. Slowly, but surely, the Mediterranean declined as a hub of inter-continental trade, and the Atlantic Ocean gained ground. On West Africa's Shores analyzes this world-historical pivot from the perspective of West Africa. Beginning with the rise of the Ghana Empire, we study trans-Saharan cultures of exchange, the societies of West Africa's Middle Ages, and the ways that the trans-Atlantic slave trade transformed the region. A special focus on art and artefacts helps us imagine the worlds of West Africa over the course of a millennium.

Crosslisted as: AFCNA-241WE

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives

E. Prosperetti

Notes: meets history department pre-1750 requirement.

HIST-244 European Public Policy, West and East

Not Scheduled for This Year. 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

Advisory: HIST-151 or equivalent recommended.

HIST-247 Mountains and Modernity

Not Scheduled for This Year. 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-249 The Environment and South Asian Lifeworlds

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4

Cyclones, drought, and earthquakes have claimed many lives in South Asia in recent decades. Millions living along its vast coastline face the imminent danger of being reduced to climate refugees. In such times, how might we understand the longer history of environmental change in South Asia? This course traces shifts in how people in the region have understood the environment -- as a source of sustenance, a resource ripe for domination, and an entity in need of saving. Drawing from histories of agriculture, public works, and forestry, it interrogates how transnational forces such as colonial capitalism and geopolitics have shaped local interactions between humans, nature, and animals.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives

Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive

A. Medhi

HIST-252 History of Money and Finance

Spring. 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-253SP Topics in History: 'The Spartans: Myth and History'*Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

In contrast to democratic Athens, oligarchic Sparta was renowned for its secrecy and skillful use of propaganda. Thus, it presents difficult challenges for historical study. In this course we will try to peer behind the "Spartan mirage" to determine how much the Spartans really differed from other ancient Greeks. We will then try to understand the use of Spartans as models for later polities and for groups like the Nazis and Alt-right. Topics: government, education, and citizenship; the role of women, eugenics, and slavery; the use and misuse of the image of Sparta. Readings will include Herodotus, Thucydides, Xenophon, Plutarch, and modern scholarship on specific topics.

*Crosslisted as: CLASS-253**Applies to requirement(s): Humanities***HIST-255 Ideas and Society in Europe****HIST-255DE Ideas and Society in Europe: 'Decentering Europe: An Introduction to Critical European Studies'***Spring. Credits: 4*

Europe embodies crossroads of multiple cultures, memories, migrations, and political demarcations. Taking a critical view of conventional paradigms of European nation states and "master" narratives, we study shifting European cultures and identities through multiple perspectives across time and space. What remains of the ancient and modern regimes? How have global movements, historical upheavals, and shifting boundaries within and adjacent to European borders, from early empires to contemporary global networks, affected the transformation of lives? Where is Europe heading today? Faculty from across the disciplines will join us to discuss Europe as a subject of global imagination and networks.

*Crosslisted as: GRMST-205, CST-249DE**Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives**Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive**K. Remmler***HIST-257 City Life in Modern Europe, 1750-1914***Fall. Credits: 4*

"Our age is ... the age of great cities," wrote Robert Vaughan in 1843. Many Europeans questioned whether the greatness of cities was such a good thing, but most agreed that the history of nineteenth-century Europe could not be written without them. We will examine that history from the perspective of Europe's largest cities between the mid-eighteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Readings will explore the process of urban transformation, the new forms of experience and identity that emerged in city life, and the efforts of governments, social reformers, planners and engineers to control and discipline the new urban masses.

*Applies to requirement(s): Humanities**Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive**D. Fitz-Gibbon***HIST-258 Travel, Self, Identity between Europe and South Asia***Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

With the discovery of a maritime route between Europe and India in 1498, an increasing number of Europeans traveled to South Asia, for commerce, on missionary activity, to collect plants, and as part of colonial enterprises. From about 1600, South Asian elites, and, later, anti-colonial leaders, soldiers, and students, among others, journeyed in the opposite direction. Tracing a long history of cross-cultural contact, this seminar examines the role of travel in fashioning notions of self and "other". It asks how travel narratives visualize place and people, in what ways gender mediates experiences of travel, and how these encounters help reveal what is common and different between cultures.

*Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives**Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive**A. Medhi***HIST-259 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. 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: Either 8 credits in history or 4 credits in history and 4 credits in either gender studies or critical social thought. All other interested students may apply with an email to the 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-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: GNDST-206US, CST-249US

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives

M. Renda

HIST-277 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. These concerns often include 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.

Crosslisted as: CST-249HE

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities

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

D. Fitz-Gibbon

Prereq: 4 credits in history.

Advisory: This course will be of particular interest to students in history and environmental studies and to those interested in the social study of science and technology.

HIST-280 Topics in North American History**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

Spring. 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

D. Swiderski

Notes: meets history department pre-1750 requirement

HIST-282 African American History from Emancipation to the Present

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

The department

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-283MC Topics in the Recent History of the United States: 'We Didn't Start the Fire: The United States Since WW II'*Spring. 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'***Not Scheduled for This Year. 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: FMT-230RA**Applies to requirement(s): Humanities**D. Czitrom**Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors***HIST-286 America 1900***Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

An in-depth exploration of American culture, politics, and society at the turn of the twentieth century, from roughly the 1890s to World War I. Through readings, films, lectures, and discussions, we will examine several of the key transformations propelling the U.S. into the modern era: the boom and bust of industrial capitalism; the creation of legal segregation; the origins of modern mass media; the impact and experience of the New Immigration; tensions between urban and small town culture; the imperial project abroad; Progressive reform and more radical visions at home. Students will pursue "event centered" research, using primary and secondary sources, exploring topics of their choice.

*Applies to requirement(s): Humanities**D. Czitrom***HIST-296 Topics: Women in History****HIST-296CG Women in History: 'Women and Gender in China'***Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

This 200-level seminar introduces students to gender relations in the history of China. It offers students a broad historical narrative of women's lives from early China through the imperial period, and concludes with the power dynamics of gender relations in modern China in the twentieth century. 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): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive**L. Wu**Notes: All readings are in English. This course meets the history department pre-1750 requirement.***HIST-296WA Women in History: 'West African Women in Their Own Words'***Spring. Credits: 4*

This course challenges students to consider how and why, following Ralph-Michel Trouillot, certain voices get "silenced" in the historical record. We study how women have both shaped history and been subject to its forces, though often in unexpected ways. This course is unique because we learn about women in 18th, 19th and 20th century West Africa through their own words. Students will encounter more than a dozen real and fictional African women: mighty queens, snide co-wives, shrewd traders, ingenious slaves, brilliant writers, and fierce activists. Engaging with their stories in multiple formats; students will study graphic novels, fiction, and memoir, in addition to academic works.

*Crosslisted as: AFCNA-241WA, GNDST-206WA**Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives**E. Prosperetti***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**The department***HIST-301BP Colloquium: 'Rewriting the Movement: The History and Historiography of Black Political Struggle in the Post-Wwii United States'***Spring. Credits: 4*

This course will engage one of the most consequential surges of political struggle in twentieth-century American history – the multifaceted movement for Black liberation that came of age in the 1960s. Our task will be to understand the collection of local, regional, and "translocal" struggles, for civil rights, Black power, and Black consciousness, among others, that shaped the contours of a national movement. Drawing from new studies on Black political struggle during the 1960s, we will analyze how and why the scholarship on post-War Black political struggle has changed, reflect on how historians study the past, and consider the power and meaning of historical narratives for the present.

*Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives**D. Swiderski**Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors**Prereq: 8 credits in History and/or Africana Studies;*

HIST-301CS Colloquium: 'Capitalism in South Asia'

Fall. 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-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

The department

Prereq: 4 credits in History.

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'

Not Scheduled for This Year. 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.

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

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4

We explore the history of human-environment interactions in North America from precolonial 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: ENVST-317

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

Not Scheduled for This Year. 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

Instructor permission required.

Advisory: 300-level application form required: https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/history/300-level_application

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

Not Scheduled for This Year. 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-341DE Topics in African History: 'Development in Africa: A Critical History'**

Fall. Credits: 4

How and why has Africa become synonymous with "development"? This class traces the historical construction of an idea so pervasive that it has become almost invisible. Moving through 200 years of history, we interrogate the ways that different projects for "developing" Africa have been envisioned, challenged, planned, implemented and lived. Throughout, we return to key questions. Why and how have the lives of African people become entangled with various ideologies of "progress"? What visions of African "development" have been articulated-in the West, in the African diaspora, on the continent itself? And, fundamentally, is "development" still a useful concept today?

Crosslisted as: AFCNA-341DE

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives

E. Prosperetti

Prereq: 8 credits in History.

HIST-357 History of British Capitalism

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4

This is a research seminar, designed to introduce students to classic and recent debates on the "history of capitalism" and to support original research on a broad array of topics related to the social and cultural history of economic life. Rather than take British capitalism 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 economic life by gender, class and race.

Crosslisted as: CST-349BC, EOS-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-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 history, preference to American history.

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.