Medieval Japan / HIST 312
Dr. Poos    Mon. & Wed. 2:10-3:25

Many enduring aspects of Japanese culture and society evolved during the earliest centuries of the archipelago’s written history. This course explores Japan from its origins, through the classic Nara and Heian eras (710-1185 C.E) and the development of shogunate and daimyo in the Kamakura and Muromachi periods (1185-1568), to the beginnings of Tokugawa rule (from 1600 C.E.). Historians have often compared Japan during this period to the middle ages of European history; the comparison is controversial, but worth exploring for what it reveals about ways of viewing historical time. Topics include Shinto and Buddhism, emperors and court culture, and the rise of militarism, samurai, and bushido. Students will analyze classic texts from the period, as well as the archeological, artistic, and architectural legacies of early Japan.

America and the World / HIST 348
Dr. Kimmage    Mon. & Wed. 5:10-6:25

American diplomatic history from the First World War to the Iraq War with particular emphasis on the promise and perils of democracy promotion as a mainstay of American foreign policy. We will place the fashioning of American foreign policy in a global context, and we will examine not just the evolution of American policies but the personalities, political dynamics and social forces that have driven it. Uses contemporary developments as a lens on the historical record.

Fashion and Society Since 1500 / HIST 331B
Dr. Klimo    Tues. & Thurs. 9:40-10:55

Fashion communicates about the individual, even if fashion constantly creates a tension between uniformity and individuality. It is a social construction of what is regarded as appropriate. As with any aspect of human behavior so fundamental, there are many ways to examine the phenomenon of human dress. We will focus on the discourse in which social, economic, political, cultural ideas are expressed through the medium of clothing. One of the main topics is the development of modern styles of fashion in Europe and what impact these had on the rest of the world, particularly in the context of colonialism and the rise of a global textile industry.