History Courses  
Spring 2016

The Rise and Fall of Emperors: Julius Caesar, Charles V, and Napoleon / HIST 137  
Dr. Sherman  Mon. & Wed. 11:10AM - 12:25PM

This course considers the reigns of Julius Caesar, Charles V, and Napoleon, all of whom rose to unprecedented levels of power during transformative epochs in European history: the transition from a republic to an empire in ancient Rome, the Protestant Reformation, and the French Revolution. All three subsequently lost control, and this course will consider their styles of leadership, their military strategies, and their political, social, and cultural contexts as they influenced their trajectories. This class is an introduction to historical analysis exclusively for freshmen and sophomores.

History of Ancient Rome / HIST 206  
Dr. Klingshirn  Tues. & Thurs. 11:10-12:25

Surveys Rome and its empire from the foundation of the city in the eighth century BC to its breakup into successor states in the fifth, sixth, and seventh centuries AD. Focuses on economic, social, and political themes, with special attention to geography, archaeology, and cultural exchange.

Beyond the “Fall” of Rome, 400-800 / HIST 216  
Drs. Davis & Rousseau  Mon., Wed., & Fri. 2:10-3:00

During the course of the 5th century, the Roman empire fell. Or did it? First, the class will consider the Roman empire at its height; what did the Pax Romana mean? We will look at how the empire actually functioned. Second, we will examine the traditional narrative of ‘decline and fall’ that supposedly followed ‘barbarian’ intrusion in the late 4th century and the Sack of Rome. Third, we will present an alternative and rather less simplistic account of ‘post-Roman' developments, focusing on patterns of government within the new settler kingdoms, changes in economy and culture, the impact of Christianization, and the endurance of Roman values. We will identify the causes, speed, and nature of this period’s radical changes.
American History Survey, 1865-1975 / HIST 258  
Dr. Yarwood  
Mon., Wed., & Fri. 12:40-1:30

This course is designed to provide an introduction to important aspects of the social, political, and economic history of the United States from Reconstruction through the Vietnam War. The course will explore the nature of American citizenship as it has been forged and re-forged since Reconstruction. Key topics: the rise of industrial capitalism, the impacts of immigration and urbanization, the emergence of mass consumer culture, the transformation of federal governance, the relationship of the U.S. to the rest of the world, and the ways in which mass social movements reshaped the nation's political culture, its institutions, and individuals' experiences.

Especially for Freshmen and Sophomores!

Empires, Indians, and Colonists in America, 1492-1763 / HIST 367  
Dr. Sharples  
Tues. & Thurs. 11:10-12:25

Old Worlds collided and a New World began when European explorers and Native Americans came face to face. This is the story of how colonists settled and missionaries swarmed, how some Indians welcomed them and others pushed back, and how fortunes grew and empires went to war. We also examine why pirates pillaged, witches were hanged, slaves revolted, and prophets began new religions. Using a variety of original records, this course traces the rise of the British, Dutch, and French empires and powerful Native American counterparts. Topics include: exploration and settlement; Native American cultures and trade; the Caribbean; slavery and immigration; commerce and piracy; everyday life and the material world; religion and politics.

The Irish in America / HIST 380  
Dr. Meagher  
Mon. & Wed. 3:40-4:55

Addresses the history of the Irish in the United States as a case study in the history of American immigrants and ethnicity. Examines how Irish American definitions of identity, cultural practices and beliefs, and even group boundaries changed over time, and how Irish American experiences varied in different regions of the country. Traces the story from the 17th century to the 1960s and 1970s, but focuses most heavily on the period since the Famine migration in the 1840s and 1850s. Addresses such topics as Irish American Catholicism, nationalism, family and gender roles, and politics.
The Rise of American Slavery and Its Defeat, 1492-1865 / HIST 374  
Dr. Sharples  Tues. & Thurs 2:10-3:25  

This course traces the dramatic rise and fall of slavery in America and explores connections to the Caribbean, Latin America, and Africa. Students use original sources to illuminate the everyday lives of enslaved people, including family, cultural life, religion, and rebellion. We grapple with important questions: Why did masters go all the way to Africa for slaves? How did Latin American slavery evolve differently and influence other regions? How did African Americans shape their lives under a system of exploitation? Why did abolition movements emerge, what was the role of Christianity, and how was slavery finally defeated? Students use sources such as interviews with liberated slaves, business ledgers, newspapers, letters, and archaeology to piece together a global story that is foundational to American history.

Liberalism & Conservatism / HIST 343B  
Dr. Muller  Tues. & Thurs. 3:40-4:55  

This course explores the development of liberal and conservative thought in Europe and the U.S. from the 18th through the late 20th centuries. It focuses on great public policy debates between liberals and conservatives on issues of liberty, security, marriage, and the legitimacy of various sorts of inequality; and examines issues related to government, the family, and the economy.

Cuba: From Colony to Cold War / HIST 371C  
Dr. Young  Tues. & Thurs. 12:40-1:55  

This course examines the history of Cuba, beginning with the arrival of Spanish conquistadors and continuing through the colonial period, independence, U.S. intervention, the Cuban Revolution and the Cold War period. Using secondary and primary sources - including paintings, photographs, films, and music - we will pay close attention to the outsize role played by this small island in global politics, economics, and culture.
The Rise of Islam / HIST 309
Dr. Weitz Tues. & Thurs. 12:40-1:55

Introduces students to the history and religious traditions of the Islamic Middle East and North Africa, including the areas ranging from Morocco in the west to Iran in the east. The course examines the period from the coming of Islam in the 7th century until the rule of the Mongol and Mamluk dynasties in the 13th-15th. Our points of focus include the Middle East’s characteristic political and social institutions, the development of Islamic religious traditions, relations between Muslims and non-Muslims, and the social life of the region’s diverse populations.

The Crusades / HIST 311
Dr. Paxton Mon. & Fri. 12:40-1:55

This course will present an overview of the crusading movement from its origins in the eleventh century to the fall of Constantinople to the Turks in 1453. We will examine the development of the ideology of holy war in both Europe and the Middle East, the conquest of Jerusalem and the establishment of the crusader states, the expansion of the crusades to encompass campaigns against heretics, northern European pagans, and even political opponents within Europe, and the ultimate decline of the crusading ideal in the later Middle Ages. We will also study the lasting impact of the crusades: their contributions to European art, architecture, and music, and their continued resonance in political debates concerning relations between the Islamic world and the West.

Europe in the Reformation Era, 1500-1648 / HIST 325
Dr. Minnich Mon. & Wed. 3:40-4:55

An examination of the political, socioeconomic, intellectual, and religious backgrounds and the careers and teachings of the magisterial and radical reformers both on the continent and in England. Also explains the emergence of Catholic reforms and the religious wars and peace movements.
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.