

# Fall 2015

## History Undergraduate Course Descriptions

**\*\*This information is subject to change. Please check MyUTK for the latest updates\*\***

**\*\*See the UT catalog for most 200-level course descriptions\*\***

255	Jefferson	Colonial Latin America	MWF 10:10, 12:20
299	Gillis	Thinking Historically	TR 2:10-3:25
306	Friend	History of Classical Greece	MWF 12:20-1:10
321	Shepardson	New Testament & Early Christian Origins	MWF 2:30-3:20
329	Reed	Native American History	TR 9:40-10:55
350	Magra	Colonial America to 1763	TR 11:10-12:25
352	Mercer	Early American Republic, 1800-1860	TR 12:40-1:55
356	Winford	The 1960s in America	MWF 9:05-9:55
363	Mercer	U.S. Constitutional History to 1877	TR 3:40-4:55
369	Vacca	History of the Middle East	MWF 9:05-9:55
373	Hutton	History of Appalachia	MWF 12:20-1:10
374	Williams	History of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States	TR 12:40-1:55
376	Williams	African-American Women's History, Slavery to the Present	TR 9:40-10:55
379	Winford	African-American Experience: Colonial to the Civil War	MWF 11:15-12:05
385	Vacca	Kings, Courts, and Caliphs in Medieval Iran	MWF 10:10-11:00
389	Sanft	History of China to 1600	MWF 11:15-12:05
390	Wu	History of China 1600-Present	TR 12:40-1:55
392	Nenzi	History of Pre-Modern Japan	MWF 9:05-9:55
407*	Harlow	Honors: Senior Paper	MWF 2:30-3:20
417	Block	Honors: Telling Stories in Colonial American History	TR 3:40-4:55
432	Maccari	Topics in Modern European History	MWF 1:25-2:15
436	Sacco	Gender and Sexuality in U.S. History	TR 9:40-10:55
444	Hutton	History of the South	MWF 1:25-2:15
456	Reed	Topics in Cherokee History	TR 2:10-3:25
475	Jefferson	Revolutions in 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Latin American History	MWF 2:30-3:20
479	Block	Witchcraft and Magic in the Atlantic World	TR 8:10-9:25
484	Dessel	Ancient Synagogues	T 5:05-7:45
499	Bast	Religious Culture in Late-Medieval & Reformation Europe	TR 12:40-1:55
499	Magra	Sugar, Tea, and the Global Dimensions of the American Revolution	TR 2:10-3:25
499	Wu	Coal, Dams, and the Atom: Powering the Modern World	TR 3:40-4:55

*\*requires instructor or department permission*

*Most History courses are writing-emphasis; see the UTK Undergraduate Catalog for more information. Schedule is exactly as appears above and on MyUTK, but not all course descriptions are included here.*

### **History 255/LAC 251: Colonial Latin America**

#### **Dr. Jefferson**

This survey course begins by tracing the peoples of 3 continents who came together in the Americas to create Latin American history. It ends with the movements for independence from the mother countries in the early nineteenth century. We will pay special attention to the "colonial legacy" that laid the foundation for the nation states of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The course is lecture and discussion. There will be writing assignments and three exams containing both short-answer questions and essays. Contributions to Friday discussions on the readings are expected.

### **History 299: Thinking Historically**

#### **Dr. Gillis**

Fundamentals of the historian's craft. Variable content. Required for all majors, except history honors students, entering Fall 2015 or later.

### **History 350: Colonial American to 1763**

#### **Dr. Magra**

This course enables students to take an Atlantic approach to the social, political, and economic history of colonial British America in the early modern period, from the first settlement to 1763. Students will be encouraged to see the ways in which people, commodities, and ideas moved back and forth across the Atlantic Ocean thereby connecting diverse regions and peoples. Students will come to terms with the ways in which these transatlantic exchanges contributed to significant social, economic, and political developments in early America.

### **History 352: Early American Republic, 1800-1860**

#### **Dr. Mercer**

This course will explore the history of the U.S. from its Constitutional founding to the eve of the Civil War and is structured around three different sections. First, we will examine the formation of the new nation both politically, culturally, and socially. Second, we will assess the meaning and impact of "Jacksonian Democracy." Finally, we will compare the increasingly different economic and cultural paths taken by the North and South and the controversies regarding slavery that resulted in the unraveling of the Union in the 1850's. In addition to four historical monographs, we will also read and assess several primary source documents. This is a writing intensive course and your grade is determined by several papers as well as by your attendance and participation.

### **History 356: The 1960s in America**

#### **Dr. Winford**

This course examines the United States during what many observers have described as the tumultuous decade of the 1960s. Beginning with the Second World War and its aftermath, it seeks to understand how the country's subsequent position as a superpower shaped its foreign and domestic policies. In the postwar struggle to promote democratic principles over communistic threats throughout the world, the U.S. also had to confront its own injustices largely based on issues of race, class, and gender discrimination. Thus, primary emphasis will be placed on politics, social movements, and cultural rebellions of the 1960s. Some topics will include, but are not limited to, race riots, anti-war protests, new art forms, Great Society legislation, the rise of neo-conservatism, empowerment movements by people of color, Cold War brinkmanship in Cuba, and the escalation of ground and air wars in Vietnam.

### **History 363: U.S. Constitutional History to 1877**

#### **Dr. Mercer**

This course will trace the constitutional development of the United States through the end of Reconstruction. We will begin by examining what is required of constitutional government and will discuss the origins of the many elements of our Constitution. We will then examine the many constitutional questions that the young nation faced, including the role of law in promoting economic development, questions over the true location of sovereignty, the battles to determine the balance of Federal and state power, the role of individual rights, and the function of the courts in a nation predicated on popular sovereignty. In addition to studying the U.S. and many state constitutions, we will also read several court opinions as well as four historical monographs. This is a writing intensive course and your grade is determined by several papers as well as by your attendance and participation.

### **History 369: History of the Middle East**

**Dr. Vacca**

Islamic History I covers main themes relevant to the religion, society, and empire of the early Islamic world from the seventh to the eleventh centuries. We will discuss Islam in its late antique context, universalism and empire, and regional tendencies in early Islamic history. We will also consider questions relating to literature and society of the Near East, such as the flowering of sciences and philosophy, Arabization and ethnicity, and the definition and spread of Islam. Students will be expected to read excerpts translated from Arabic and other Near Eastern languages.

### **History 373: History of Appalachia**

**Dr. Hutton**

A class about Appalachia taught in Appalachia, and one that treats *Appalachia* not only as a place (and one with rather fuzzy boundaries at that) but also as a series of ideas that intermingle fact and fiction in wonderful and terrible ways. We start with the earliest Euro-American encounters with this continent's eastern mountain range, and said range's incorporation into an American republic- with all the voting, slavery and raising of cattle that entails. Things really get rolling after the American Civil War when this place is recognized as a distinctive region, a peculiar American problem and, eventually, the source of amazing legends. After that, Appalachia became a place to make fortunes from, a place to somehow "fix" or both. This course is an opportunity to examine a misunderstood segment of American history and to write some history of your own as well.

### **History 376: African-American Women's History from Slavery to the Present**

**Dr. Williams**

This course surveys the social, cultural, political, and economic history of black women in the United States from the earliest importation of slaves from Africa and the Caribbean to the present day. Using a host of primary and secondary texts, students in this course will examine the very different kinds of experiences that women of African descent have had in the U.S. over time and across lines of class, region, religion, and sexual orientation. We will also explore how other groups have sought to represent and control African-American women's lives and bodies and how African-American women themselves have worked to represent themselves.

This a lecture and discussion-based course. It is also a writing-emphasis course. *Same as Africana Studies 376 and Women's Studies 376.*

### **History 379: African-American Experience, Colonial Times to the Civil War**

**Dr. Winford**

This course is designed to introduce students to African and African American life and culture before the Civil War. The experience of African Americans during these years was one of great suffering as well as triumph. Special emphasis will be placed on African American social, religious, economic, and intellectual development. We explore a variety of themes through the use of monographs and primary sources. Topics include: varieties of slavery, the development of racial slavery; free black communities, the rise of African American culture, identity; gender, religion, protest, resistance, changing notions of freedom, colonization, and abolition. Students should remember that African American history must be studied within the context of United States history. Hence, some time will be spent discussing the broader American history narrative to highlight the African American experience.

### **History 389: History of China to 1600**

**Dr. Sanft**

This course surveys the history of China from the Neolithic period until the fall of the Ming dynasty in 1644. We will examine cultural change and development within China, the emergence and development of the Chinese empire, major trends in Chinese philosophy and religion, and China's interactions with other parts of the world. In addition to standard historical materials, students will encounter a variety of works from Chinese literature, philosophy, and visual culture. No prior knowledge of Chinese language or history is expected.

### **History 390: History of China, 1600 to the Present**

**Dr. Wu**

This course is designed as a survey history of modern China from the late Ming to the present. This tumultuous period spans two imperial dynasties, decades of warlordism, and from 1949, a Communist dictatorship evolving into an authoritarian oligarchy. Both the geographical boundaries and the racial / ethnic makeup of "China" have shifted over four hundred years. The question of "China," then, is far from settled. We will ask some important questions over the course of the semester. When does "modern" China begin? How do we

approach modern Chinese history? What are the boundaries of China / Chineseness? Could these concepts stretch to include the Chinese diaspora across the globe? How has Chinese imperial history affected contemporary China?

### **History 392: History of Pre-Modern Japan**

**Dr. Nenzi**

This class explores the evolution of Japanese history from ancient times to the late-nineteenth century using art and literature to investigate the following themes: identity and the relation between “insiders” and “outsiders”; centers and peripheries as moving targets; history from above and history from below.

### **History 407: Honors - Senior Thesis**

**Dr. Harlow**

Research for Honors Senior Thesis. *Prerequisite: History 307. Instructor/Department approval is required.*

### **Honors History 417: Telling Stories in Colonial American History**

**Dr. Block**

Telling Stories in Colonial American History asks students to take an active part in learning about the years of early European exploration and settlement of North America, working intensively to develop skills in the art of storytelling. Integrating snippets of information into a cohesive narrative brings our attention to cause-and-effect (historical thinking), and allows us to talk about the interplay between imagination, emotion and critical thinking. The first unit will focus on building narrative skills, with discussions about how “beginnings” and setting shape what we think of stories (for example, what happens if we start the narrative facing EAST from Indian country?) The second unit will immerse students in little-known but exciting events in colonial America, including witchcraft trials, and accusations of murder and conspiracy. Finally, students will read and write about the decades leading up to the American Revolution from the perspective of ordinary individuals, with a focus on historical research and primary source interpretation.

### **History 436: Gender and Sexuality in United States History**

**Dr. Sacco**

This course will survey the history of sexuality and romantic relations in U.S. history. We will look at how men and women have understood and acted on their sexual and emotional desires, and the ways in which changing social constraints and opportunities affect the ways in which individual Americans have shaped their choices for a meaningful personal life. We will also study how and why these choices sometimes became political issues. Topics will include the histories of: contraception and abortion; courtship and dating; marriage and divorce; and heterosexuality and homosexuality. This will be a discussion-based course. We will read primary and secondary sources, thinking about how the history of sexuality and gender can help us to understand American history and society.

### **History 444: History of the South**

**Dr. Hutton**

This is a survey of the place/time known as the “New South,” a period of industrialization, political struggle and the amazing transformation of former slaves and their children into citizens. Between the Civil War and the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the American South was changed and, in turn, took an active role in changing the rest of the United States. This class is an exploration of a process that began with plantations gone to seed, the Texas-Pacific Railroad and a countryside dominated by wealthy elites; and ended with manicured gated communities, NASA and a countryside dominated by wealthy elites.

### **History 456: Topics in Cherokee History**

**Dr. Reed**

This course will focus on the changes and continuities of Cherokee Nation social, legal, familial, institutional, and political history from the removal of Cherokee people from the southeastern United States to the assimilative federal policy of allotment and Oklahoma statehood. This course will introduce students to the ethnohistorical methods used by American Indian scholars to produce Indian centered histories. Students will study and employ the genre of historical biography to produce two versions of a biography of a lesser-known Cherokee person, one of research paper length and one a simplified version aimed at elementary aged children.

### **History 475: Revolutions in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Latin American History**

**Dr. Jefferson**

The focus of this course is 6 revolutions that succeeded in gaining control of their national governments in twentieth-century Latin America: Mexico, Guatemala, Chile, Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela. Some of these “revolutionary” governments were voted into power while others seized the state by means of war and the

flight of the previous president. Our focus will be on what the revolutionary project meant in each case and on how each revolution ended, if it did.

The course is lecture and discussion. Since this is a 400-level class, participation in class discussion of readings will be key to success in the course. In addition, there will be essay exams and papers. *Same as Latin American and Caribbean Studies 475.*

### **History 479: Witchcraft and Magic in the Atlantic World**

**Dr. Block**

Witchcraft & Magic in the Atlantic World is a special topics course examining the historical traditions of people in Europe, Africa, and the Americas who were believed to use magic for either healing or harmful purposes. Living as we do in a "disenchanted" modern world where magic is (supposedly) impossible and witch hunts are denounced as vestiges of an irrational, superstitious past, Americans nonetheless find an enduring fascination with ancient peoples' ideas about the supernatural and historical witch crazes. The first unit of the course will focus on classic witchcraft/demonology primary sources and scholarly opinions on what caused periodic "witch crazes" in Europe and the Americas. Next we will look more deeply at West African religious/medical practitioners through scholarly literature, exploring how such individuals came to be labeled "witches" by European observers. The final unit of the course will focus on how students can read "popular culture artifacts" (films, novels, and other media) about historical witchcraft with more sophistication and insight, together analyzing a historical novel about the Salem witch trials before completing individual research projects on a pop culture "artifact" of personal interest.

### **History 484: Ancient Synagogues**

**Dr. Dessel**

This course will explore ancient synagogues of the Roman and Byzantine world, from the Second Temple Period to the seventh century C.E. It will carefully consider the origin, function, and administration of the ancient synagogue, and the milieu from which the synagogue emerged. Special attention will be given to the following topics: developments in synagogue architecture, the iconography of decorative art, and relations between Jews and Christians and their religious architecture. *Same as Judaic Studies 484.*

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*499s are required for all history majors except history honors students. Note the subtitles and descriptions below; each section has different subject matter according to the professor's area of speciality.*

### **History 499: Religious Culture in Late-Medieval and Reformation Europe**

**Dr. Bast**

### **History 499: Sugar, Tea, and the Global Dimensions of the American Revolution**

**Dr. Magra**

The American Revolution rocked the world. This course exposes students to some of the most exciting and dynamic debates among historians about one of the most transformative events in human history. Students will understand the ways in which people around the world have been connected in the past. They will study the impact of those connections. By the end of the semester, you will have learned how world-wide events helped bring about the split between the North American colonies and the British Empire in the late eighteenth century. You will also have learned about how this split impacted the wider world.

### **History 499: Coal, Dams, and the Atom: Powering the Modern World**

**Dr. Wu**

As the headquarters of the Tennessee Valley Authority and in close proximity to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Knoxville is uniquely situated for the study of energy in all its forms. This course will encourage students to examine the following issues: the exploitation of natural resources, state sponsored power projects, scientific and technological innovations (as related to energy), conservation and ecology. This writing intensive class will emphasize experiential learning through field trips and help students develop the basic skills of archival and primary source research.