History 510: Introduction to Graduate Studies
Dr. Andersen
The purpose of this course is to introduce beginning graduate students to the varied strategies and conceptual tools historians use to study the past. It will provide students with an introduction to the history of the discipline, give them practice interpreting theoretically sophisticated texts, and expose them to important recent methodological debates in the field.

History 529/629: Pagans & Christians in the Roman World: Augustus to Justinian (ca. 30 BCE - 600 CE)
Dr. Latham
As traditionally told, the story of pagans and Christians was one of the oppression of virtue by evil and soulless idolatry—until Constantine when Christianity triumphed. The traditional tale has not fared well until closer historical scrutiny, but a number of tropes still need to be examined: nature and diversity of Christianity both before and after Constantine needs to be re-thought; “paganism” remains an ill-understood collection of traditions and practices; and, most importantly, the relations between these two traditions should be re-considered. Was it merely one-sided with pagans persecuting Christians and then, after Constantine, Christians persecuting pagans? In short, no. This seminar will examine both paganism and Christianity, before and after Constantine, paying special attention to their evolving relationship.

History 532/632: Readings in Modern European History
Dr. Liulevicius
This readings seminar covers major issues in the historiography of modern Europe since 1648, with a special emphasis on how political authority has been understood and constituted, in European monarchies, republics, and dictatorships. The course will introduce debates concerning absolutism, the Enlightenment, the rise of nationalism, the French Revolution, the Revolutions of 1848, the "Age of Blood and Iron", the "Great War", Communism, Fascism, Nazism, World War II, post-war reconstruction, and the project of the European Union. Students enrolled in Hist 632 will also undertake a major research project in the field of modern European history.
History 541: Readings in Atlantic History
Dr. Block
The history of the Atlantic World has come to represent a paradigm shift in the study of the early modern period during the past three decades. Atlantic history aspires to bring together scholarship on Europe, Africa, colonial Latin America, colonial (North) America, the Caribbean, as well as African and various other Diasporic Studies. The field has especially transformed scholarship in subfields that had anachronistically assumed a “nation-state” perspective—those colonial periods in which transnational geographical and cultural forces were as, if not more, important than local forces. Many scholars in the field hope to incorporate perspectives from both “above” and “below”—using ethnographical, cultural, social, and/or economic history to study the empires and subjected peoples throughout this wider geographic expanse. At its best, Atlantic History allows us to bring traditionally separate sub-fields into conversation with one another, to formulate new questions which might not even occur to those focused on their own specialized perspectives and narrow historiographical debates. At worst, practitioners of Atlantic History can overlook excellent regional or global historical scholarship, and have tended to splinter into ghettoized sub-fields as different factions try to define and dominate the shape of the field. As we read about the major themes in Atlantic History that have provided scholars with rewarding insights, we will also discuss the field’s utility (especially vis-à-vis local and global approaches), and its scholarly framing (geographically, chronologically, historiographically).

History 542: Major Problems in U.S. History, Colonial Period-Reconstruction
Dr. Harlow
This readings seminar explores some of the significant historiographic debates in American history from the colonial period through the era of the Civil War. This required seminar serves as essential preparation for comprehensive exams, as well as a broader introduction to some of the major themes in American history before the late nineteenth century. It furthermore provides significant background information for teaching the first half of the U.S. history survey.

History 562: Questions of Literacy and Community in the Premodern World
Dr. Sanft
Participants in this seminar will examine practices of reading and writing in premodern societies. We will read and analyze together secondary literature concerning premodern Chinese, Arabic, and other languages. Our approach will incorporate elements of neuroscience and linguistics to help us consider the problems of encoding, transmitting, and decoding text from a variety of perspectives.