

Fall 2017

History Graduate Course Descriptions

510	Denise Phillips	Introduction to Graduate Studies	T 12:40-3:25
530	Jay Rubenstein	Readings and Rancor in Medieval History	F 12:20-3:20
532	Vejas Liulevicius	Readings in Modern German History	M 12:20-3:20
542	Daniel Feller	Classic Sources in American History	T 3:40-6:20
562	Laura Nenzi	Japan in the Age of the Shoguns, 1600-1868	R 3:40-6:20
580	Lynn Sacco	Readings in Gender and Sexuality in U.S. History	R 12:40-3:25

History 510: Introduction to Graduate Studies

Dr. Phillips

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 530: Readings and Rancor in Medieval History

Dr. Rubenstein

This seminar will introduce students to some of the key points of contention in the last half century of medieval history. The emphasis will be on moment of genuine disagreement, indeed of genuine rancor, between historians. Themes include: the viability of feudalism, apocalypticism, the crusades, state-building, gender, and the persecution (or tolerance) of Jews, Muslims, and heretics in the Latin Christian world. Written work will consist of two book reviews and a longer historiographic essay.

History 532: Readings in Modern German History

Dr. Liulevicius

This graduate readings seminar examines topics in modern German history from 1700 to the present. Common readings, individual book reviews, and reports in seminar will survey the state of scholarship on German hometowns, the late Holy Roman Empire, Austrian-Prussian dualism, the rise of German nationalism, the Revolutions of 1848, imperial Germany, on the impact of "total war" from 1914 to 1918, the unstable Weimar Republic's attempt at German democracy, the rise of Hitler, Nazi racial policies and the Holocaust, the division of Germany in the wake of World War II, the "Germanies" east and west, reunification following the fall of the Berlin Wall, and prospects for assimilation into a "new Europe" today. Recurring themes explored in the readings will include changing definitions of political authority and legitimacy, German national identity, the status of women, Germany's relationships with neighboring peoples, and the intersections of war, society, culture, and ideology the modern period. The goal of this course is an understanding of major themes and debates in scholarship on modern Germany's troubled history.

History 542: Classic Sources in American History

Dr. Feller

This readings seminar will take a somewhat novel approach. Rather than surveying evanescent recent works, we will come to grips with the period by examining classic contemporary writings that have shaped historians' understanding for generations. Readings include observations on

Jacksonian America by foreign travelers Alexis de Tocqueville, Frances Trollope, and Harriet Martineau, a Methodist circuit-rider's autobiography, Catharine Beecher's pioneering manual on domestic economy, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, and the Lincoln-Douglas debates. By introducing you to documents that endure, this course will strengthen your preparation for comprehensive exams, encourage further reading in primary sources, acquaint you with materials for future lectures and course assignments of your own, and – not least – provide a benchmark by which to assess the ongoing historiography in this field. This course is suitable for students in other fields of History and in related disciplines.

History 562: Japan in the Age of the Shoguns, 1600-1868

Dr. Nenzi

One big irony defined the nearly two and a half centuries of rule by the Tokugawa family (1600-1868): under a government of warriors Japan enjoyed a virtually uninterrupted age of peace. The transition from the "age of the warring states" to the Pax Tokugawa brought about profound changes that ultimately undermined the vision of order and authority implemented by the early shoguns. The assigned readings will trace the trajectory of such changes through a selection of "classics" and newly published monographs.

The goals of this course can be divided in two groups:

GOALS SPECIFIC TO THE STUDY OF JAPANESE HISTORY

- To offer a nuanced view of the political and social landscapes of Tokugawa Japan
- To give you a sense of historical change within the same time period, highlighting how, and why, the institutions and social landscape of the early Tokugawa differed profoundly from the institutions and the social landscape of the nineteenth century.

GOALS PERTAINING TO THE GENERAL DISCIPLINE OF HISTORY AND TO THE PROFESSION

- To train you in the art of writing book reviews for academic journals – a key aspect of life as a professional historian
- To use the case study of Tokugawa Japan to think critically and comparatively about issues that inform historical inquiries across the board – including authority, performance, the political use of space, resistance, the nation, and the manipulation of historical memory.

Previous knowledge of Japanese history and/or Japanese language skills are welcome but not required.

History 580: Readings in Gender and Sexuality in U.S. History

Dr. Sacco

This reading seminar will focus on historical scholarship that treats gender as the central category of analysis. This scholarship conceives of Americans as gendered people who also have a race, ethnicity, class position, and sexual orientation. We will read major historical and theoretical works to investigate how and why gender and sexuality became a subfield of history, and what difference that has made.