## Fall 2018

### History Graduate Course Descriptions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>510</td>
<td>Denise Phillips</td>
<td>Introduction to Graduate Studies</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>12:20-3:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>512</td>
<td>Laura Nenzi</td>
<td>The Profession of History</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>12:40-3:25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>517</td>
<td>Brandon Winford</td>
<td>Readings in African-American History</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>3:40-6:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>580</td>
<td>Susan Lawrence</td>
<td>The History of the Body</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>3:40-6:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>585</td>
<td>Alison Vacca</td>
<td>Women as Cultural Mediators in Medieval Islam</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>2:30-5:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>630</td>
<td>Jay Rubenstein</td>
<td>Holy War in the Middle Ages</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>12:40-3:25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>632</td>
<td>Vejas Liulevicius</td>
<td>Research in Modern European History</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>12:20-3:20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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 512: The Profession of History
**Dr. Nenzi**

You are completing your Ph.D. and the prospect of facing the job market looms ahead. Now what? This class combines readings about various aspects of the profession with “hands-on” activities in order to prepare you for the job market and for life with a History Ph.D. May the odds be ever in your favor.

### History 544: Major Problems in American History: Colonial Period Through Reconstruction
**Dr. Harlow**

Required for all Americanist graduate students. This readings seminar explores some of the major themes and significant historiographic debates in American history from the colonial period through the era of the Civil War. It serves as essential preparation for comprehensive exams, and furthermore provides significant background information for teaching the first half of the U.S. history survey.

### History 580: The History of the Body
**Dr. Lawrence**

The body has a history, both as a physical object and a cultural metaphor. In this readings course, we will focus on the physical body, especially to explore the diverse ways that people in the past understood and experienced their own bodies. At the same time, we will consider how physical and cultural bodies constantly define and re-define each other. To do this, we will read not only works by historians, but also those by anthropologists, philosophers, and critical theorists. We will discuss what it means for the body to be culturally constructed and to be a site for the operation of political and scientific power. We will roam rather broadly through time and space, from classical Chinese thought to postmodern cyborgs. Students will be expected to contribute one short primary source for class analysis, to prepare reading questions
to guide discussion and to develop a historiographical paper on a topic that connects with their
own disciplinary or research interests. Questioning, debates and multiple interpretive strategies
will be warmly welcomed.

**History 585: Women as Cultural Mediators in Medieval Islam**
**Dr. Vacca**
The early and medieval Islamic world was remarkably ethnically, religiously, and linguistically
diverse, and yet extant sources provide little information about how people negotiated social
difference. Many anecdata about cross-cultural, interreligious, multiethnic, and polyglot
engagements (e.g., Arab-Persian, steppe-sedentary, or Muslim-Christian encounters) involve
women as mediators or as markers of alterity. In this course, we will discuss the political and
social power of elite women in the medieval Islamic world, but we will also examine the
appearance of women as textual markers of difference and change in sources penned by men.

**History 630: War and Peace in the Middle Ages**
**Dr. Rubenstein**
The purpose of this class is the produce a research paper built on an examination of the
intersection between warfare and spirituality in the Middle Ages. Topics will include, but not be
limited to, Crusades and Christian-Muslim relations. Course meetings will fall into three
groups. In the first third of the class we will examine a selection of common readings (partly
secondary sources, partly primary sources in translation) to develop approaches for reading
accounts of religious warfare. During this time, students will choose topics to focus on for
research papers. In the second third of the class, the class will read primary source material
related to research projects chosen by seminar participants. In the final third of the class, we will
workshop drafts of papers.

**History 632: Research Seminar in Modern European History**
**Dr. Liulevicius**
This graduate research seminar will engage in research in primary sources in modern European
history, while also reading in historiography about fame, status, charisma, heroism, celebrity,
cults of personality, and leadership. Our common readings involve a special emphasis on how
status and fame have been understood and deployed. Our examination will range from
medieval political theology and the idea of “the King’s two bodies” examined by Ernst
Kantorowicz, through Scottish philosopher and polemicist Thomas Carlyle’s famed 1841
work, *On Heroes, Hero-Worship, and the Heroic in History* and German sociologist Max Weber’s
articulation of “charismatic authority”, on to examinations of how modern celebrity works and
has been used in dictatorial regimes. How is fame understood? Is it good or suspect? How is
celebrity (or notoriety) wielded and represented? What rankings obtain in a society, or are
contested? How is authority legitimized, whether in politics, culture, society, or personal
relations? How is it challenged or overthrown? After we establish a common conceptual frame
of reference and field of questions, participants will move on to individual research projects. In
your own research project, you will make a significant contribution to the study of modern
Europe through engaging primary sources, informed by the debates and insights of the
readings we will discuss in common. Thus, your final product should tell us something new,
useful, and provocative about how fame, status, and celebrity should be understood or
evaluated in history! This research seminar also welcomes Americanist and medievalist
graduate students who would like to engage these broad concepts in their own research fields.