

Fall 2024 History Course Descriptions

HIAF: Africa; HIAS: Asia; HIEU: Europe; HILA: Latin America/Caribbean; HIME: Middle East; HIUS; United States

- o Descriptions are listed in the same order as in the table below, by number and then by subject field. Not all descriptions may be listed at this time. Schedule subject to change.

Course Name	Course	Professor	Day & Time
200s			
Development/Western Civilization to 1715	HIEU 241	Felege-Selam Yirga	TR 8:10-9:25, F discussions
Development/Western Civilization to 1715	HIEU 241	Patricia Rutenberg	MWF 8:00, 9:10, and O/A
Development/Western Civilization to 1715	HIEU 241	Jason Stubblefield	MWF 1:50-2:40
Development/Western Civilization 1715-Present	HIEU 242	Monica Black	MW 9:10-10:00, W/R discussions
Development/Western Civilization 1715-Present	HIEU 242	Guy Sechrist	TR 12:55, 2:30
Development/Western Civilization 1715-Present	HIEU 242	Marina Maccari-Clayton	MWF 3:00-3:50
Early Latin American & Caribbean Studies	HILA 255	Chad Black	TR 8:10-9:25
Science, Medicine and Technology in World Perspective	HIST 200	Guy Sechrist	TR 8:10-9:25
History/World Civilization to 1500	HIST 261	J.P. Dessel	TR 9:45-11:00
History/World Civilization to 1500	HIST 261	Kelsey Blake	MWF 8:00, 9:10, 10:20
History/World Civilization to 1500	HIST 261	Jason Stubblefield	MWF 3:00, 4:10
History/World Civilization 1500-Present	HIST 262	Marina Maccari-Clayton	MWF 3:00, 4:10
History/World Civilization 1500-Present	HIST 262	Siyin Zhao	TR 11:20, 12:55, 2:30
History/World Civilization 1500-Present	HIST 262	Yiyun Huang	MWF 10:20, 11:30, 1:50
Saints and Society	HIST 299	Robert Bast	TR 2:30-3:25
The Chinese Revolution(s)	HIST 299	Yasser Nasser	TR 11:20-12:35
History and Rumor in the Byzantine Empire	HIST 299	Felege-Selam Yirga	TR 9:45-11:00
History of the United States to 1877	HIUS 221	Brooke Bauer	MW 10:30-11:20 w/F disc
300s			
History of Africa to 1800	HIAF 371	Nicole Eggers	MWF 11:30-12:20
History of Modern Japan	HIAS 393	Natalia Doan	TR 4:05-5:20
Chinese Intellectual History: The Early Period	HIAS 394	Charles Sanft	MWF 10:20-11:10
History of the Roman Empire	HIEU 304	Jacob Latham	MWF 1:50-2:40
Deviance and Persecution in European History	HIEU 323	Robert Bast	TR 12:55-2:10
Humanitarianism and the Two World Wars	HIEU 339	Margaret Andersen	TR 11:20-12:35
Medieval Germany	HIEU 383	Matthew Gillis	TR 11:20-12:35
History of Monarchy	HIEU 384	Vejas Liulevicius	MWF 10:20-11:10
History of Eastern Europe 1800 to the Present	HIEU 384	Victor Petrov	TR 4:05-5:20
History of Mexico: From Aztecs to El Chapo	HILA 343	Beau Gaitors	MWF 10:20-11:10
Latin America at the Movies	HILA 370	Chad Black	TR 9:45-11:00
Afro-Latin American History	HILA 383	Beau Gaitors	MWF 11:30-12:20
Early American Republic	HIUS 352	Michael Woods	TR 9:45-11:00
U.S. Civil War and Reconstruction	HIUS 353	Luke Harlow	MWF 8:00-8:50
U.S. History 1933 to the Present	HIUS 355	Brandon Winford	MWF 10:20-11:10
American Environmental History	HIUS 383	Emma Schroeder	TR 2:30-3:45
400s			
Gender and Sexuality in African History	HIAF 484	Nicole Eggers	MWF 3:00-3:50
History and Poetry in Premodern China	HIAS 484	Charles Sanft	MWF 9:10-10:00
Medieval Intellectual History	HIEU 429	Matthew Gillis	TR 4:05-5:20
Food, Health, and Society	HIME 450	Duygu Yildirim	MWF 9:10-10:00
Archaeology of the Holy Land	HIME 485	J.P. Dessel	TR 12:55-2:10
Honors: Senior Thesis I	HIST 407	Jacob Latham	W 5:20-8:20
Internship: Study of Tennesseans and War	HIST 490	Christopher Magra	MWF 9:10-10:00
The Long Scientific Revolution	HIST 499	Guy Sechrist	TR 9:45-11:00
The People's War: Great Britain in World War II	HIST 499	Margaret Andersen	TR 8:10-9:25
African American Business History	HIST 499	Brandon Winford	MWF 11:30-12:20
The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass	HIUS 484	Robert Bland	TR 11:20-12:35

200s

HIEU 242: Development of Western Civilization, 1750 to the Present

Dr. M. Black

For a long time, Western history (and human history generally) was written as though the Earth did not matter and environment played no role in human affairs. Our focus this semester will challenge that perspective, showing how climate, corn, mosquitos, smallpox, rivers, whales, dandelions, and plutonium made history just as surely as did social movements, wars, revolutions, kings, presidents, and prime ministers. As we'll see, environment is neither a static backdrop against which history unfolds, nor – in the age of the Anthropocene – can an account of ecology or geology be considered complete if it fails to take account of human societies, cultures, politics, and economics.

HILA 255: Early Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Dr. Gaitors

Despite their proximity, the countries of Latin America remain a mystery to most citizens of the United States. Here's a chance to get acquainted. This is a general survey course, the purpose of which is to explore the principal historical themes of Latin America during the colonial period (roughly from the sixteenth to the early nineteenth centuries). Over the course of the semester, we will examine in detail several crucial themes of this formative period in Latin American history – the age of conquest, Spanish and Portuguese Indian policies and native responses, institutional structures of the colonial world, the multi-racial composition of colonial society, economies and labor systems, the age of imperial reforms, and finally, the growth of distinctive "American" identities on the eve of independence.

Our examination of the colonial period will not be a simple exercise in rote memorization, but rather an opportunity to ponder the historical dynamics that laid the foundation for modern Latin America. It might also serve as a way to think about the assumptions about how we live, work, and interact in our own society. *Same as LAC 251.*

HIST 299: Saints and Sanctity in the Middle Ages

Dr. Bast

This course is an introduction to the discipline of history, using sources that illuminate diverse and changing conceptions of sainthood and holiness in men, women and children from late antiquity through the fifteenth century. Official church teaching held that saints were especially holy people, posthumously in heaven, yet continually "present" and accessible as mediators, protectors, and miracle workers. Standard devotional works like saints' *Vitae* ("Lives") aimed to educate and edify clergy and laity alike. Yet historians have learned to glean much evidence from these texts about a host of ancillary details that inform us about the socially conditioned concept of holiness, and how it changed across boundaries of time, gender, class and culture. We will follow their lead. *Restricted to History majors.*

HIST 299: The Chinese Revolution(s)

Dr. Nasser

A few weeks before the People's Republic of China (PRC) was founded in October of 1949, Mao Zedong, the leader of the victorious Chinese Communist Party (CCP), declared that "The Chinese people have stood up!". This was, in effect, an announcement to not just the Chinese public but the entire world that the PRC marked a definitive break with the past – that China was now strong where it had once been weak. While this implies a singular process, the road to 1949 had been long and indelibly shaped by a variety of revolutionary movements and political programs, and the CCP's establishment of a new government did not necessarily resolve these tensions. This course will highlight different understandings of 'revolution' – both before and after 1949 – and their impact on how Chinese people understood the crucial moments that shaped their lives and society throughout the 20th century. By focusing on the methods and tools scholars have used to interpret these events, students will learn how to read, write, and think like a historian. *Restricted to History majors.*

HIST 299: Prokopios: History and Rumor in the Byzantine Empire

Dr. Yirga

Prokopios of Caesarea was the early Byzantine empire's most famous historian, and covered the reign of one of the empire's most important Byzantine rulers, Justinian I. The works of Prokopios provide a remarkable window into the complex and diverse world of the sixth-century Byzantine Empire. You will study the full range of Prokopios's works, from his tabloid journalism in the *Secret History*, to *On Buildings*, a work of imperial propaganda in verse. By studying the works of Prokopios and his contemporaries, this course will provide you with a window into the author's fascinating world. By studying this author and his work, the course will not

only cover early Byzantine history, but give you an opportunity to understand how ancient, medieval, and modern historians do history. Take the first steps towards mastering the historian's craft by getting familiar with the ancient historian's craft. *Restricted to History Majors.*

300s

HIAF 371: African History to 1880

Dr. Eggers

This course will provide an introduction to the social and cultural history of Africa from the earliest times to the eve of European colonization. The course will use a variety of case studies and perspectives to highlight larger historical processes that were – and still are – at work across the continent. Though we will visit nearly every major historical region with these case studies, certain regions – namely, Kenya and the Swahili Coast, Rwanda and the Great Lakes region, the Congo and the Equatorial region, Mali and West Africa, and South Africa – will receive particular attention in an effort to balance breadth of historical knowledge with depth. At the center of our investigations will be the question of how one can think and write about early African history. How do historians use sources like archeology, linguistics, oral traditions, art, documentary evidence to highlight the experiences of African people living in the distant past? *Same as AFST 371.*

HIAS 393: History of Modern Japan

Dr. Doan

This course will explore the history of Japan from the 1800s to the recent present, with a particular emphasis on the role that transnational encounters have played in the shaping and influence of Japanese history and culture. Throughout this course, we will analyze a variety of historical texts, films, musical and artistic productions, and other media to explore different ways that conceptions and hierarchies of knowledge, modernity, culture, and the nation have been both created and challenged throughout Japanese history. All readings will be in English translation. *Writing intensive course.*

HIAS 394: Chinese Intellectual History – Early Times

Dr. Sanft

The philosophers and texts of early China changed the world. They also invite us to change ourselves. In HIAS 394, we will read the words of Confucius, Lao-tzu, and other thinkers, with attention to how and why they challenge us to improve ourselves and our understanding. Everyone who comes to the course with an open mind will learn something about themselves and about the world. This course meets world and pre-1750 distribution requirements for the History major.

HIEU 304: A History of the Roman Empire (ca. 44 BCE-337 CE)

Dr. Latham

The Roman republic (ca. 510-44 BCE) may be imagined as an elite peer competition for honor and glory – a game, if you will, which Julius Caesar ultimately won. Then he was killed. And so his heir and successor Octavian-Augustus had to play and win the game all over again, eventually establishing the lineaments of an imperial government. That is, rule by a single emperor. The principate, the name given to the Augustan empire, endured until the third century when outside pressures forced the empire to change, becoming the so-called dominate (a more domineering empire, if you will). This writing-emphasis course will survey the history of the Roman empire from the death of Julius Caesar (44 BCE) to the death of Constantine (305-337 CE), the first Christian emperor, with an emphasis on: (1) the formation and ideology of empire, (2) urban life in the city of Rome, (3) relations between imperial center and provincial peripheries (Greece and Judaea in particular), and (4) religions of the Roman world (Ancient Mediterranean Traditional Religions, Judaism, and Christianity). *Same as CLAS 304.*

HIEU 323: Deviance and Persecution in the Christian West, 1100-1700

Dr. Bast

Beginning in the early Middle Ages, ecclesiastical and secular authorities in much of Western Europe initiated periodic waves of persecution aimed at groups or individuals thought to deviate from norms of conduct and belief promoted by the Christian Church. This course will explore the social contexts in which these persecutions developed, the intellectual traditions that legitimized them, and the experiences of both those who suffered and those who initiated persecution. The course will be divided into four units: heresy and the Inquisition; sexuality and the criminalization of sodomy; Antisemitism and the precarious place of Jews in Christian society; and the late-medieval origins of the Witch hunts.

HIEU 339: Humanitarianism and the Two World Wars

Dr. Andersen

This course explores the catastrophic impact of the two world wars on European societies and how these crises shaped ideas of human rights and humanitarianism. Focusing primarily on the period 1914-1948, we will consider how governments, relief organizations, and international organizations framed discussions of human rights, sought to alleviate suffering, and create a more peaceful world.

HIEU 383: Medieval Germany from Charlemagne to Frederick II, the "Wonder of the World"

Dr. Gillis

This course examines the history of the medieval German-speaking lands inside and beyond the borders of the Holy Roman Empire. We'll study the political, military, social, cultural and religious developments of these peoples from the time of Charlemagne at the turn of the ninth century to the era of Frederick II, aka the "Wonder of the World" (*Stupor Mundi*), in the thirteenth century. Among special topics for consideration will be the medieval empire, the links between history and legend, knighthood, Christian mysticism, and Crusading warfare.

HIEU 384: History of Monarchy in Europe

Dr. Liulevicius

This course examines the lives, actions, thoughts, and legacies of select monarchs in European history since Charlemagne's crowning in 800. Queens and kings were taken to be human representatives of social order and hierarchies, and ideologies of "Divine Right" or constitutionalism were repeatedly built around them. Yet they were often beset with weaknesses, political challenges (or even rival claimants to the throne), crises of succession, and (inevitably) mortality. We consider a series of notable monarchs (whether remembered as failures, successes, or royal celebrities) and the particular ideologies used to support their rule. We will discuss Queen Elizabeth I of England, France's "Sun King" Louis XIV, Empress Catherine the Great, Empress Maria Theresa of Austria, King Frederick the Great of Prussia, the self-made conqueror Napoleon, the German Kaisers, the last Romanov Tsar Nicholas II, and others. Our course will end with a special focus on the House of Windsor in the United Kingdom today, as a constantly reinvented royal family.

HIEU 384: History of Eastern Europe

Dr. Petrov

This course is not structured as a country-by-country analysis of each of the states between the Baltic, Black, Adriatic, and Aegean seas – instead we will consider the histories of these societies as a whole: what common trends united them? When and how does someone 'become Eastern European', and according to whom? The course will consider the geopolitical, social, economic, cultural, intellectual, artistic and other dimensions of the region from roughly the end of the 18th century and the imperial ambitions and clashes of the Russian, Habsburg, Ottoman and German empires in this contested areas, through their struggle for and achievement of national independence in the 19th and 20th centuries, experiences of occupation and authoritarian rule of both right and left varieties, with a focus on communism, and into the 21st century's uncertain horizons.

HILA 343: History of Mexico

Dr. Gaitors

Despite its proximity, Mexico remains a mystery to many citizens of the United States. We hear and read news stories of migration from Mexico but how much do we know about the current conditions or historic circumstances influencing migration? What do we know about the indigenous populations, the struggle for independence, and the nation-building project that took place? What do we know about the Mexican Revolution? And how much do we know about the ties of Mexico to the United States? In this course we will engage these questions, and more, as we explore the history of Mexico from the Aztecs to the present day. This course is divided into three different sections: the pre-Columbian, colonial, and modern periods. We will look at the range of indigenous identities beyond the Aztecs, discuss the role of African descendants in Mexican history, and explore Spanish colonial and post-colonial structures.

The class format consists primarily of lectures and discussions. Our examination of Mexican history will not be a simple exercise in rote memorization, but rather an opportunity to think critically about the historical dynamics that, in many ways, laid the foundation for modern Mexico. By the end of the course, students should be able to articulate (in writing and in discussion) a critical understanding of historical themes in Mexico, the constructions of its history, and the relevance of that history to current-day circumstances. *Same as LAC 343.*

HILA 370: Latin America in Horror Film

Dr. C. Black

Using films, fiction, and historical sources, this class is an introduction to the history and theory of monsters, ghosts, and the fantastic in Latin America. The focus will be on modern monsters and ghosts – why and how they persist beyond what is supposed to be a rational modernity that replaced the supposed age of superstition. Topics include monster theory, folklore, the uncanny, and the broad question of haunting. **Important:** we will not be working on becoming experts on Latin American horror, but rather learning how horror and horror criticism can be a **method** for studying the region. Our topic the whole semester will be Latin America and Latin American history, we are just using horror as a lens (method) into that object. *Same as LAC 370.*

HIUS 352: Early American Republic

Dr. Woods

Between 1789 and 1850, the United States was transformed in ways that excited and disturbed its inhabitants. From an agrarian republic hugging the Atlantic coast, the country grew into a continental empire with booming industry, rowdy democratic politics, and restless ambition. Yet it was also torn by internal conflicts, some of which threatened to destroy the fragile experiment in self-government. To make sense of this complex era, we will focus on three key themes: **Work:** Who works for whom, and under what terms? Many Americans saw work as a badge of identity, but this was also a time when work was changing in ways that were both exciting and frightening. **Citizenship:** Who belongs in the United States and who doesn't? Who should participate in public life and who should be excluded? From the nation's founding, Americans insisted that self-government required a virtuous citizenry, but they have disagreed over what exactly that meant. **Freedom:** What is freedom, and how can we protect it? Does freedom for some mean lack of freedom for others? Or are none of us free until all of us are free? These questions shaped the political, economic, and social conflict that made the early republic era so vibrant – and violent. These themes were intertwined in the era's politics, both the formal politics of elections and lawmaking and the wider debates that raged in newspaper columns, taverns, street corners, and living rooms. We will trace how these issues shaped the increasingly polarized and bitterly fought political conflicts for which this period of US history is rightly famous.

HIUS 353: U.S. Civil War and Reconstruction

Dr. Harlow

The American Civil War is arguably the central transformative moment in American history. It brought the death of American slavery, which included the emancipation of four million enslaved African Americans, and preserved the national union. Furthermore, it was central to the making of the modern American nation state – and it is increasingly understood more broadly by historians as central to the making of the modern world. The Civil War cost more than 750,000 soldiers and civilians their lives. The war was the bloodiest in the nation's history, and it left a lingering impact long after the fighting ceased. This course examines the origins of the sectional crisis, studies the American Civil War itself, and explores the period of Reconstruction. It furthermore assesses the aftermath, legacy, and meaning of the Civil War and Reconstruction.

HIUS 355: United States History, 1933 to the Present

Dr. Winford

Beginning with Roosevelt and the rise of New Deal Liberalism in the 1930s, this course examines the American experience leading to the current presidency. We will trace the major social, political, and economic developments that helped shape the country's foreign and domestic policies. The history of this period will also be analyzed through themes such as race, class, and gender. Along the way, the course seeks to provide a balanced treatment of American society. Thus, a major emphasis will be placed on previously marginalized groups such as women, immigrants, workers, and minorities in their quest for power and citizenship. Topics will include, but are not limited to, social & welfare reform, cold war ideology, labor movements, civil rights, suburbanization, women's liberation, modern conservatism, mass consumerism, and pop-culture.

HIUS 383: American Environmental History

Dr. Schroeder

Environmental history looks at the changing material and cultural relationships between humans and the natural world over time. This course provides a broad overview of the field of environmental history through an environmental history of the United States. We will look at environmental history in a variety of ways. First, we will look at the ways the environment has shaped patterns in human life and the ways humans have changed our environments. What effect do animals, plants, geology, climate, hydrology have on humans? How have our political, economic, and social systems changed the non-human world? Second, we will look at the ways people's ideas, narratives, and beliefs about nature have changed over time. What meanings do we give to the environment? How does this affect our actions toward the non-human world and towards one another? Rather than a full survey of US history, this course will use specific case studies to highlight the ways including

nature in our historical narratives expands our understandings of the past. Throughout the course, we will pay specific attention to the ways gender, race, class, indigeneity, and other forms of human difference impact our interactions with the non-human world.

400s

HIAS 484: History and Poetry in Premodern China

Dr. Sanft

Poetry and poets had a close relationship to history in premodern China. Poets wrote about events and experiences; scholars wrote and read lyrics and rhapsodies. In this class, we will read works ranging from the *Book of Odes* to the poems of Li Qingzhao along with modern secondary scholarship as we delve into the relationship between verse and life and past in China.

HIST 429: Medieval Intellectual History

Dr. Gillis

Medieval Intellectuals examines key medieval thinkers and their works in their historical context from the late Roman period to the late Middle Ages. A wide range of intellectuals, texts and ideas are explored in order to see the complexity and diversity of medieval intellectual life. The course format is a mixture of lecture and discussion. Writing emphasis course.

HIME 450: Food, Health, and Society in the Middle East

Dr. Yildirim

"You are what you eat." Eating is both a necessity and a choice. This course will explore how people around the world come to choose what they eat and where their preferences originated from in relation to culture, religion, health, environment, and technology. While eating together and sharing a common cuisine bond families, states, and religions together, food is also a taboo that makes distinctions about diverse human beings. Beginning with Galenical dietetics in antiquity, we will explore different meanings food has obtained in distinct societies across the globe, with a focus on the Islamic Middle East. Topics include dietetic medicine, spiritual nourishment, vegetarianism, intoxication, famines, war and hunger, the birth of national cuisines, the rise of fast food, and the "inventions" of obesity and anorexia.

[Honors] HIST 407: Senior Thesis

Dr. Latham

The History 407 seminar will guide you through the first stage of writing your senior honors thesis. Over the course of the spring semester, you will define a workable topic for the thesis, formulate a research question, find a suitable initial primary source base, master the core secondary literature for your topic, and write a 20-page chapter draft. *Restricted: by Honors coordinator permission.*

HIST 490: Internship with the Center for the Study of Tennesseans and War

Dr. Magra

Do you like military history? Are you interested in Tennessee history? And have you ever considered a career in public history? Interning at the Center will allow you to research the life of a person in our region who was involved in a war at some point between 1700 and the present day. You will get work experience for your resume. And you will get the chance to publish your research as a page on our website: <https://cstw.utk.edu/>. To apply, email the Center Director at cmagra@utk.edu.

HIST 499: The Long Scientific Revolution

Dr. Sechrist

Restricted to History majors.

HIST 499: The People's War: Great Britain During World War Two

Dr. Andersen

This senior research seminar will focus on Britain during the Second World War, with particular emphasis on collective memory and the home front. The first half of the semester will serve as an introduction to both this rich historical topic and its historiography. Topics will include the Blitz, the evacuation out of Dunkirk, refugees and humanitarian efforts, food and provisioning, Winston Churchill and his legacy, gender and family life, and wartime propaganda. Students will learn about *the myth of the blitz* which, along with the concept of *the people's war*, had political importance even decades later. The second half of the semester will be devoted to writing and

revising research papers. Students will develop a research question, engage with primary and secondary sources, and produce an original research paper. *Restricted to History majors.*

HIST 499: African American Business History

Dr. Winford

In this research seminar, we will examine the long-standing tradition of black business that extended from the shores of Africa. "Beginning in the 1600s," notes historian Juliet E. K. Walker, "Africans in America, slave and free, seized every opportunity to develop enterprises and participate as businesspeople in the commercial life of a developing new nation." While the institution of slavery defined black life until the end of the Civil War, African Americans nevertheless found ways to embrace entrepreneurship. After emancipation, black business continued against the backdrop of Jim Crow segregation and in the face of tighter restrictions placed on the citizenship rights of black people at the turn of the twentieth century. Despite the realities of economic discrimination, blacks contributed significantly to the entrepreneurial spirit that has characterized American society, while at the same time improving the overall conditions of African Americans. This course is also the capstone course in the history major. This means you will undertake a research project of your own design and, with close and attentive faculty mentoring, work toward writing a substantial paper over the course of a semester. *Restricted to History majors.*

HIUS 484: The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass

Dr. Bland

This course will examine the social, political, and cultural world around Frederick Douglass. The nineteenth century's most important abolitionist, and perhaps its most famous American, this class will examine the communities, causes, and political culture that surrounded Douglass. In doing so, we will pay close attention to the global abolitionist movement, the covert networks of the Underground Railroad, and the raucous world of the postbellum Republican Party.

A reading and writing intensive course, we will examine historiographical literature on slavery, emancipation, and Reconstruction, Douglass' own writing, as well as the publications of women and men who were fellow travelers in his intellectual world.