

DEPARTMENT OF
HISTORY

GRADUATE
COURSE
LISTINGS

SPRING 2012

I. Courses for PhD and MA Students

CORE:

HIS 525/527	CORE SEMINAR	E. Beverley/ P. Gootenberg	M 5:20 – 8:20	SBS N-303
	<p>This year-long course is your introduction to graduate study in history in general, and Stony Brook’s Ph.D. Program in History in particular. It has three goals: 1) to familiarize you with the techniques and resources of historical research; 2) to provide an overview of the four thematic areas emphasized by our graduate program; and 3) to explore some important historiographical and theoretical concepts that inform historical writing. The first semester will combine a series of hands-on workshops in interpreting primary sources with selective reading of important and interesting scholarship that represents the four themes of our graduate curriculum, and also offers instructive examples of using sources. Requirements for the first semester include active participation in class discussion of assigned readings, three or four short writing/analytical exercises, and a preliminary research proposal. The second semester will be devoted to researching and writing a substantial research paper.</p>			

FIELD: Field, Theme, & Research Courses

HIS 501/ CEG 516	Early Modern Europe (1450-1700)	J.Rosenthal	TH 5:20 – 8:20	SBS N318
	<p>History 501 is “western civ” for graduate students. We will look at the end of religious uniformity and the Reformation, at the early days of European expansion and imperialism, at the scientific revolution, and at the growth of the state - nationalism as explained through larger wars and military technology, through kings who wanted to be absolute, through their cultural patronage, and by means of more and more bureaucrats.</p> <p>Readings will be based on modern scholarly work – both synthetic and monographic – with some key or famous primary sources that can be accessed through blackboard. Work will consist of a goodly number of short papers (3-5 pages), several book reviews, and oral reports (individual or team) through the course of the semester.</p>			

FIELD:

HIS 522/ CEG 522	US History Since the Civil War	G. Frank	W 5:20 – 8:20	SBS N303
	<p>Field seminar in U.S. history from the Civil War to the end of the Cold War. Surveys Reconstruction, Progressive and New Deal eras, the Cold War, the Civil Rights and Post-Civil Rights eras. Focus in the course is a mix of cultural, social and political history with significant emphasis on histories of race, gender and sexuality. Reading --- approximately a book a week (ca. 200-300pp). Active student participation is assumed, and includes role as discussion leaders.</p> <p>For MA and PhD students only. MAT students must register under CEG 522.</p>			

FIELD:

HIS 542	Modern Latin American History	E. Zolov	TU 4:30 – 7:30	SBS N303
	<p>This Field Seminar introduces students to some of the principal debates and literatures about Latin American history since 1820. It is designed for students in the graduate program MA-level students who intend to go on to a PhD in Latin American History, although advanced students from other geographic concentrations and disciplines are also welcome. Students will be asked to write two papers related to the course materials and make a presentation on one week's set of readings.</p>			

THEME:

HIS 516	Empire and Multi- Confessionalism in the Early Modern and Modern World	G Marker	W 4:30 – 7:30	SBS N318
	<p>Empires and Imperial spaces have, by definition, been polychromatic and fractured. Almost invariably it has entailed not just multiple religions arrayed in politically unequal ways, but the imposed preeminence of one confession over others. Even without forced conversion and expulsion, hegemony dominated religio-political space. This theme seminar will look into the interactions of religions and the interrelationship between religious identities and imperial authority in a variety of settings over the past few centuries. Readings will be drawn from recent scholarship on a variety of geographic regions, Europe, the Americas, and Asia, including, of course, Russia. Students will write two papers, one based upon common readings, and the other more focused on their respective areas of concentration.</p>			

THEME:

HIS 570	History's Transnational Turn: Environmental and Otherwise	C. Sellers	TU 4:30 – 7:30	SBS N318
<p>This course will survey and analyze what some now term a “transnational turn” in historical method. Readings will sample the recent ways historians have critiqued and sought to overcome the drawbacks of a national or local focus, the historiographic and other intellectual roots on which they have drawn, and the dilemmas which they have faced. A special, introductory focus of this course (roughly a third of the readings) will fall on the field of environmental history, whose early (1970’s and 80’s) strengths derived from a deepening scrutiny of particular places, but which has lately seen a variety of new approaches that are less locally or nationally confined. Readings here will juxtapose regionally or nationally focused work with more transnational counterparts: for example, William Cronon’s <i>Changes in the Land; Indians, Colonist and the Ecology of New England</i> with James Belchick’s <i>Replenishing the Earth: The Settler Revolution and the Rise of the Anglo-World</i>; Richard White’s <i>Organic Machine</i> with Marc Cioc’s <i>The Rhine: An Eco-Biography</i>. The rest of the reading (around two-thirds) will be drawn from a palette of alternatives I will offer to the class in our first session. Options will be based on works and forums featured over the last several years in the <i>American Historical Review</i> (covering all fields of history) and a labor history journal, <i>International Labor and Working-class History</i>. Possibilities include, from the former, debates over “black rice” (the African origins of know-how on 18th and 19th century rice plantations in the American southeast); over an “International 1968”; over the early-modern, colonial origins of European racial conceptions; and from <i>ILWCH</i>, debates over labor migration to the Middle East; over gendered activism and the politics of women’s work; and over the class politics of privatization. Requirements will include class discussion and presentations, two short papers, and one longer essay.</p>				

RESEARCH:

HIS 601	Styles and Methods of Historical Research	N. Landsman	M 4:30-7:30	SBS S309
<p>This seminar provides students the opportunity to examine primary sources and interdisciplinary methodologies through common readings and the writing of a substantial research paper. Although the specific topic of the common readings will be determined each semester by the instructor, both primary and secondary texts will be analyzed according to the specific historical circumstances of their production and the</p>				

	<p>demands they make upon us as historians. To further students' knowledge of the nature, possibilities and limitation of the historical archive, the following questions may be asked: What is a historical source? Are all texts potential documents? Why was a record or text produced, and by whom was it read? What were its modes of circulation? Who does it privilege and who exclude? How could different groups or communities of meaning-makers alter its use and importance? What were the social, cultural, political and intellectual contexts of its production? Students will contribute at least one document for general analysis over the course of the term. The second half of the course will be devoted to writing and reading drafts of student's research papers.</p>	
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PROSPECTUS WORKSHOP:

HIS 695	Dissertation Prospectus Workshop	P. Zimansky	TH 4:30-7:30	SBS S309
	<p>In this workshop, for students who have completed their course work and are ready to begin on their dissertation, students will research and write up a full-scale plan for a book-length original contribution to historical scholarship. Students need their advisors' approval to enroll, and should expect to work closely with their advisor in preparing their proposals. Work in the course will consist of exercises, presentations, write-ups and discussions, through which students will hone their initial ideas into a project statement that is clear about the historiography it addresses, the central questions it poses, the sources on which it will draw. The prospectus should contain: an explanation of the research problem under investigation; a summary of the relevant secondary literature; a statement of hypothesis; an outline of both research sources (especially primary materials) and methods the student expects to employ. The prospectus must be acceptable both to the instructor of the workshop and to the students Ph.D. committee. This course is graded S/U; a satisfactory grade is required for advancement to candidacy.</p>			

II. Courses for MAT & SPD Students

HIS 500/ CEG 523	Historiography	S. Hinley	M 5:20 – 8:20	SBS N318
	<p>This course will explore the writing of history from two organizing principles: first, as a theoretical and historical subject that raises complex questions of epistemology and political philosophy, and secondly, as a craft with its own set of techniques and tools that must be practiced to be mastered. From the former perspective, we will examine history historically, consider how the very meaning of the term has evolved, look at the changing ways historians have presented the past and ask what made their accounts believable at the time, take a particularly close look at the many different ends to which history has been put, consider the postmodern challenges to objectivity, causation, and historical “truth” that have rocked the very foundations of the profession in our time, and sample and evaluate some of today’s leading approaches to the past. At the same time, we will study and practice history as a set of technical skills, as the craft of determining “facts” from primary sources, and deriving from those facts true and meaningful conclusions about the past. Requirements include energetic class participation, weekly reading and written summaries, and a final paper and presentation.</p>			

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	<p>Field seminar in U.S. history from the Civil War to the end of the Cold War. Surveys Reconstruction, Progressive and New Deal eras, the Cold War, the Civil Rights and Post-Civil Rights eras. Focus in the course is a mix of cultural, social and political history with significant emphasis on histories of race, gender and sexuality. Reading --- approximately a book a week (ca. 200-300pp). Active student participation is assumed, and includes role as discussion leaders.</p> <p>For MA and PhD students only. MAT students must register under CEG 522.</p>			

CEG 534	Modern African/Asian History Seminar	Maja Bovcon	TH 5:20 – 8:20	SBS N303
	<p>The course is an interdisciplinary exploration of the modern history of sub-Saharan Africa, drawing from history, political science, anthropology, literature and film. It focuses on the social, political, economic and cultural changes that affected African lives from the colonial period to the present day. Topics will include: slavery and slave trade, spread of Christianity and Islam, colonial legacy, decolonization, postcolonial state-building projects, state failure, structural adjustment programs. Special attention will be dedicated to the recent developments on the African continent associated with the third wave of democratization.</p>			

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