



Spring 2021 Graduate Course Offerings



University at Buffalo

Department of History

College of Arts and Sciences

For more information about the Department of History's course offerings email: als74@buffalo.edu.

HIS503 American History Core 2

Instructor: V. Wolcott

The graduate core is a survey of U.S. historiography covering the period from Reconstruction to the recent past. We will read books and articles that introduce major topics and fields historians have investigated and explore the research methods and analytical perspectives they have used. The goal is not primarily to increase factual knowledge of U.S. history, but to get a sense of the changing approaches used by historians over time. What kinds of questions do historians ask of the past? How do they go about answering them? What evidence do they look at and how do they interpret it? How do historians build on and/or challenge each other's work and interpretations? If history only happened once, why does history as written by historians change over time? What are some of the most active and exciting subjects and approaches in U.S. history today?

HIS505 Modern European History Core

Instructor: A. Daum

This course introduces you to major issues of Modern European history. It spans the period from the French Revolution to the end of the Cold War and covers different geographical areas. The course is designed to

- make you aware of—and analyze—the diversity of Europe: Is there, in fact, a “European History”? What role do nation-states and regions, non-state actors and international relations play in this history? Who are the people of Europe, and how have they interacted? What impact do ethnic and religious identities, gender roles and cultural expressions, political ideologies and modernization projects have on their societies? How can we try to

understand the emergence of authoritarian regimes and the Holocaust in the 20th century?

- help you gain an understanding of recent scholarship on modern Europe: In what ways have historians interpreted European history? What methods, sources, and perspectives have they chosen to define their topics, formulate their questions, and arrive at their arguments? To what extent has the historiography of Europe changed over time?
- train you in reading and utilizing academic literature as well as historical sources, ranging from an autobiographical accounts to films. This seminar thus also wants to assist those of you who are planning to teach history at the high school or college level.

You are required to write several papers and feature a film, as part of a group work, in this seminar.

HIS506 North and South Atlantic Core

Instructor: E. Seeman

This course will introduce students to the rapidly growing field of the Atlantic world. Within the historical profession, the term "Atlantic world" is often applied to the North Atlantic in the early modern period. This course will engage with that material while also expanding the concept to include the South Atlantic and the post-colonial era. Students will gain an understanding of how the field has been defined, how the field has changed over time, and how the field might evolve in the future. This course is required for History Ph.D. students who wish to offer the "North and South Atlantic" for the major field. It is highly recommended for those who wish to offer a minor field in the Atlantic World, and for anyone who wishes to employ transnational or comparative perspectives on the past.

HIS549 Readings in Russian and Eastern European History

Instructor: K. Zubovich

This seminar introduces graduate students to key themes and topics in the fields of Russian, Eastern European, and Central Asian history. Limiting our focus to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, our main topics include nationalism and identity, war and revolution, and the rise and fall of Communism in the region. Readings draw from both new and established historiographical literatures and represent a broad range of methodological approaches.

HIS550 Frontiers and Borderlands

Instructor: H. Langfur

This seminar explores the comparative history of frontiers, borderlands, and their indigenous and settler inhabitants throughout the Americas, ranging from the sixteenth to the twentieth century. Drawing on insights from anthropology, literary studies, and other disciplines, we will consider how Europeans, enslaved Africans, and their descendants encountered Amerindians, interacted, collaborated, and competed for land, labor, resources, and cultural authority. Topics include the relationship of frontiers and borderlands to political borders, empires, nation-states, and statelessness; the importance of race, gender, religion, and the environment in histories of territorial dominion and loss; ethnocide, ethnogenesis, and emergence of reimagined native and settler identities; vying spatial formations, knowledge networks, and transnational entanglements.

HIS557 Disability History I

Instructor: M. Rembis

This course is an introduction to the field of disability history. It places disability and impairment in historical context, exploring

changes and continuities in the ways in which people in different times and locations have thought about both concepts in law and policy, in scientific, medical, political, and social discourse, and in culture. A critical analysis of the lived experience of those individuals perceived to be disabled, as well as the intersection of disability with race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, age, class, gender, and sexuality are central to this course. This semester, special consideration will be given to "intersections." We will be discussing the importance of thinking about disability history through the lens of race and gender primarily in the United States.

HIS599 Departmental Colloquia

Instructor: C. Casteel

This course is not required and does not count toward your degree. By enrolling in HIS 599 for 3 credits, students can reach full-time (12-credit) status without exceeding the normal load of three 3-credit seminars. To receive credit, students must attend 4 events related to the intellectual life of the university or, in certain cases, of the community. These are generally scholarly lectures or conferences. Alternatively, enrolling in or attending all six meetings of HIS 701 (Proseminar on Teaching) or HIS 702 (Proseminar on Career Diversity) also fulfills the requirements for HIS 599.

HIS608 Research Project

Instructor: M. Rembis

Under the direction of the Director of the Center for Disability Studies, the semester will be spent working on a research topic on disability from the standpoint of Disability Studies and producing an original essay.

HIS702 Careers in History

Instructors: S. Pack and E. Bowlus-Peck

This non-credit course offers a forum on the diverse array of careers available to holders of MA and PhD degrees in History. Class sessions will discuss different academic and non-academic career paths, prepare graduate students for the job market, and help them learn how to gain professional knowledge and experience during their time in graduate school. Students will connect with guest speakers that hold history degrees as they discuss their careers and job experiences, while providing advice for current graduate students. Open as an elective to all graduate students. The course is organized by Emily Bowlus-Peck, History Department Career Diversity Fellow.