

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY



GRADUATE
COURSE
DESCRIPTIONS



FALL 2020

GRADUATE COURSE LISTINGS

I. Courses for PhD and MA Students

First Year Courses:

HIS 524/526	CORE SEMINAR: History, Theory and Practice	Eric Beverley / Kathleen Wilson	M 4:30-7:30	SBS N-303
<p>This year-long course is your introduction to graduate study in history in general, and Stony Brook's Graduate Program in History in particular. Core is designed to introduce new graduate students to prominent concepts, theoretical underpinnings, and shifts in historical scholarship over the last few decades; to examine influential texts from the thematic areas of our graduate program; and to explore some techniques and resources that are key to historical research and writing. Evaluation will be based on careful attention to assigned readings, active participation in class discussions, engaged oral presentations, clearly written review essays, and a research proposal idea for your work in the Spring. For HIS MA (Academic Track) & HIS PhD students only.</p>				

Field, Theme, & Research Courses

FIELD:

HIS 501/ CEG 516	Medieval and Early Modern Europe Seminar	Joshua Teplitsky	TH 5:30-8:30	SBS N-303
<p>This seminar will introduce you to important issues and approaches in medieval and early modern European history. We will proceed both chronologically and topically, focusing on dominant themes and significant historiographical questions, including the transformations of late antiquity, the vexed question of “feudalism,” varieties of medieval religious experience, the rise of urbanism and bureaucratic monarchies, overseas expansion and contact with non-European peoples, Inquisition and repression, ideologies and practices of absolutism, artistic change, and the Scientific Revolution. We will read select primary sources as well as traditional and revisionist works of cultural, intellectual, political, and religious historiography, and pay particular attention to constructions of identity in medieval and early modern Europe. HIS MA/PhD students register for HIS 501; MAT Social Studies students register for CEG 516.</p>				

FIELD:

HIS 521/ CEG 532	US History to the Civil War	Donna Rilling	TU 5:30-8:30	SBS N-303
	This course is a graduate reading seminar in the literature of early North American/U.S. history. The purpose of this course is to provide a broad overview of the field and introduce students to major themes, concepts, arguments, interpretations, and methods of inquiry. HIS MA and PhD students register for HIS 521; MAT Social Studies students register for CEG 532.			

FIELD:

HIS 542/ CEG 535	Modern Latin America	Eric Zolov	TU 5:30-8:30	SBS N-318
	This course is a graduate reading seminar in the literature of early North American/U.S. history. The purpose of this course is to provide a broad overview of the field and introduce students to major themes, concepts, arguments, interpretations, and methods of inquiry. HIS MA and PhD students register for HIS 521; MAT Social Studies students register for CEG 535.			

THEME:

HIS 515	North American Ethnohistory	Paul Kelton	W 4:30-7:30	SBS N-303
	This course will introduce students to the ethnohistoric method in studying Indigenous Peoples of North America. Ethnohistory involves the study of cultural change over time by using the sources of both history (archival documents) and anthropology (ethnography, archaeological record, oral history). Students will read classic and recent works in ethnohistory. HIS MA/PhD and MAT Social Studies students register for HIS 515.			

THEME:

HIS 516	Empire, Kingship and Sovereignty in World History	Mohamad Ballan	W 4:30-7:30	SBS N-318
	Sovereignty is one of the central organizing concepts of political theory and historical periodization, and has been one of the most important ways in which power has been articulated and mediated from antiquity to the present. This graduate-level seminar introduces students to the			

	<p>various questions and debates about sovereignty by approaching this concept and its historical development through the prism of world history. While we live in a world of nation states, this course will examine how, for the most of human history, sovereignty has manifested itself in a variety of forms: empires, kingdoms, city-states, tribal confederations, religious institutions, and trans-regional communities. One of the primary aims of this course is to historicize the emergence and universalization of the nation-state, while placing it within the larger context of other forms of authority, social and political organization, ideas of sovereignty, and practices of power across the globe throughout history, with a particular emphasis upon the pre-modern era. The history of sovereignty will be approached through both its articulation and theorization in political thought, and through a close examination of the practice of kingship, empire and governance. This comparative and interdisciplinary approach to the question of sovereignty and empire—which covers a range of historical and geographic contexts, ranging from the ancient Near East to the Roman world, the medieval Mediterranean, West Africa, pre-modern Central Asia, and early modern Europe to the global empires of the 19th and 20th centuries—enables us to trace the historical development of the concept of sovereignty while recognizing the relationship between political thought and larger intellectual, social and political transformations in world history.</p> <p>Readings will include both secondary scholarship and primary sources. Specific topics to be covered include the definitions and meanings of empire, kingship, and sovereignty; the different forms of government in the pre-modern world; the emergence, consolidation and decline of empires of conquest/expansion, trade, and settlement; borderlands and frontiers; trans-regional networks and communities; persecution and toleration of minorities; the relationship between sovereign power and notions of subjecthood and citizenship; the political culture of states and empires; as well as modern historical developments, including colonialism, internationalism and globalization, and their impact on notions of sovereignty. HIS MA/PhD and MAT Social Studies students register for HIS 516.</p>	
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TEACHING PRACTICUM

HIS 582	Teaching Practicum	Shobana Shankar	TU/TH 2:30-3:40	SBS N-303
	<p>This course is designed for graduate students preparing for college-level history teaching. Readings will cover current efforts to rethink history education to reinvigorate student interest in learning about the past and its contemporary relevance. We will also explore a wide range of issues related to pedagogy and important professional and personal</p>			

	<p>skills that are helpful for today's educators who have a wide range of new technologies with which to work. Other topics of instruction will include: teaching strategies for lectures and seminars, selecting and using primary and secondary sources, grading, SBU resources available to support students' learning, as well as any concrete issues that may arise in the courses you are currently teaching. Course requirements include preparing a sample syllabus and lecture. HIS PhD students only.</p>	
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RESEARCH:

HIS 601	The Origins of Race & Ethnicity	Sara Lipton	M 4:30-7:30	SBS S-309
<p>This seminar is designed to help train graduate students in the research and writing of graduate-level research papers, with a focus on issues related to the origins, development, and deployment of ideas about race and/or ethnicity. We will start by reading some short primary sources, scientific discussions, theoretical works, and case studies treating race and ethnicity in the ancient, premodern, and modern worlds. We shall be asking such questions as: When and why did ideas of biological human difference develop? What forms of 'difference' are given salience in various times and cultures? How is 'difference' represented and enacted? How do ideas about race and ethnicity affect politics, social relations, art making, scientific investigation, and civic life? And throughout, we shall discuss how historians frame a question, shape a research project, and present an argument and set of conclusions.</p> <p>Requirements consist of completing all reading assignments and participating actively in class, as well as researching and writing a research paper. In addition, each student 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 researching, writing, and presenting working drafts of students' research papers. The final research paper of ca. 20-30 pages will be due on Dec. 15. HIS MA/PhD and MAT Social Studies students register for HIS 601.</p>				

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