



History Department Fall 2012

Graduate Course Descriptions
State University of New York at
Buffalo



20527 **M** **4:00 – 6:40** **YOUNG**
502 **AMERICAN HISTORY SEMINAR CORE 1** **532 PARK**

This course introduces Master's and Ph.D. students to the history and historiography of America to 1865. The American History core will familiarize students with the main outlines of American History from pre-contact to the Civil War; introduce students to the main historiographical trends in the scholarship; and expose students to some of the most recent work in particularly active and innovative fields of inquiry. Readings will include articles, monographs, and synthetic works of scholarship. Several brief essays and a longer term paper are required. Class discussions as well as writing assignments will be suitable for both M.A. and Ph.D. students. In this way, the course aims to be of use both to students interested primarily in historical research as well as those interested mainly in teaching. Class participation and the final term paper account for the majority of the final grade in this course, with the smaller written assignments making up the balance.

13949 **T** **4:00 – 6:40** **DEWALD**
504 **EARLY MODERN EUROPEAN CORE** **545 PARK**

This seminar examines Europe from the fifteenth century to the French Revolution of 1789. During these centuries, Europe underwent a series of dramatic transformations: Europeans encountered other regions of the globe and came to dominate several of them; printing increased the speed with which ideas circulated and evolved; new technologies changed the nature of warfare, enhanced government power, and began the processes that would culminate in the Industrial Revolution. The seminar seeks to provide students with an overview of these changes, and to sketch the main lines of current historical thinking about them.

For this reason, seminar readings will be drawn from recent monographs and other scholarly studies of the period; no textbook will be assigned, but students whose knowledge of the period is weak will be expected to acquire such background knowledge on their own, through reading in standard textbooks. Three short (about ten pages each) essays on the assigned reading will be required, each counting for about 30 percent of the course grade. The remaining 10 percent of the final grade will be based on contributions to seminar discussions.