GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
SPRING 2015

12142  M  4:00 – 6:40  HERZBERG
503  AMERICAN HISTORY CORE SEMINAR 2  532 PARK

The graduate core is a survey of U.S. historiography in the long 20th century (i.e., since the Civil War). We will read books and articles that introduce us to some of the major topics and fields, themes and issues, and research and analytical methods from this time period. The goal is not primarily to increase your factual knowledge of U.S. history, but to get a sense of the relationship between history and historians. What kinds of questions do historians ask of the past? How do they go about answering them? What kinds of evidence do they look at, how do they choose, 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 20th century U.S. history today? These kinds of questions are central to critical reading and thinking, i.e., figuring out how to take apart and (hopefully) put back together again the kinds of narratives—stories—that we are all familiar with as the stuff of “history.”

A note on what this course is not: it is not a history survey. We will not read or discuss every major event in the time period, and we will not always proceed chronologically. When we approach an area unfamiliar to you, I strongly recommend consulting a college U.S. history textbook. (It doesn’t matter too much which one; I have some and can lend if necessary.)

12333  TH  4:00 – 6:40  PACK
505  MODERN EUROPEAN CORE  532 PARK

This seminar introduces students to some of the major questions and debates in the historiography of Europe in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Students will absorb extensive weekly readings and be expected to engage them critically in the context of the scholarly literature surrounding each topic. Those unfamiliar with the broad outlines of Modern European history should be prepared to supplement the required course readings with a survey textbook.

23597  M  7:00 – 9:40  LANGFUR
506  ATLANTIC CORE  532 PARK

This course will introduce students to the historiography of the Atlantic world. As a perspective on the past and scholarly field, Atlantic world history has coalesced relatively recently. The term "Atlantic world," as it first became widely used in the U.S., often applied to the North Atlantic in the early modern period. This course will engage with that scholarship but also expand the concept geographically and temporally. Historians of the Caribbean, Latin America, and Africa have devised their own Atlantic approaches, some that coincide with and others that depart from scholarly practice in the U.S. and Northern Europe. Those who focus on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries have stretched the early modern conventions of the field. Exploring these contributions, we will reach beyond traditional colonial, imperial, and national narratives to examine the interactions of peoples, places, ideas, and events in Europe, Africa, and the Americas intertwined by their connections across and around the Atlantic. Students will gain
23600  T  4:00 – 6:40  VARDI
550SP  FILM IN HISTORY  532 PARK

This research-oriented seminar will gauge the value of fiction film as an historical source. After viewing and discussing several films and writings on film in common, students will pick a movie and create a portfolio that will include the making of the film, the reception of the film, its historical context and accuracy, and pedagogical potential. They will present this to the class and then produce a final summary.

23601  T  7:00 – 9:40  YOUNG
553  AMERICAN SLAVERY  532 PARK

History 553 investigates the historical as well as the historiographical development of American slavery with a special emphasis on latest trends, current developments and 'hot topics' in the field. The course is trans-national in approach, considering slavery not only in the United States, but also throughout the Americas, in Africa and in Europe. The course is also multi-disciplinary. Selections from Art History, Literature, Anthropology and other disciplines complement our historical readings on the subject.

23591  T  4:00 – 6:40  CAHN
557  US WOMEN'S HISTORY  545 PARK

This seminar will explore the history of women in the United States. Seminar readings will begin with the colonial period and continue through the latter twentieth century. Topics of focus include women's work and family lives; involvement in political movements; differences and conflicts across race and class; the expression and regulation of female sexuality; changing definitions of femininity and womanhood; and women's relationship to the state. We will also explore historiographical trends in women's history, discuss research methods, and read feminist theory that is relevant to historical interpretation. Regular short writing assignments, one longer book essay, and a longer final paper are required.

23602  TR  1:00 – 3:40  REMBIS
577  DISABILITY HISTORY 1  532 PARK

Disability History I Course Description: This course is an introduction to the field of disability history. It is a chronological survey of disability history from antiquity to the present and as such offers students a broad overview of relevant texts in the field. 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 popular and high culture. A critical analysis of the lived experience of those individuals perceived to be disabled/impaired, as well as the intersection of disability with race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, age, class, gender, and sexuality are central to this course.
VARIES ARR ARR STAFF
612 ADVANCED RESEARCH

This course is designed to allow a graduate student to receive training in advanced research in history under the tutelage of a member of the History Department. See the Director of Graduate Studies for guidance. Variable credit to be recommended by instructor.
PERMISSION OF INSTRUCTOR REQUIRED.

VARIES ARR ARR STAFF
700 THESIS GUIDANCE

Writing and submission of dissertation chapters under the supervision of your major professor/committee chairperson. Variable credit. YOU MUST BE A.B.D. TO REGISTER.
PERMISSION OF INSTRUCTOR REQUIRED.