

# Department of History

## Fall 2023 Courses

**\*\*Honors courses taught by History faculty are listed at the end of this packet.**

**\*\*Classics courses are listed after the History courses.**

### **HIST:200-501**

#### **Empires of the Ancient World**

**Dr. Anne Maltempi**

**Asynchronous-Online**

Through the use of examples drawn from diverse regions and historical eras, this course explores global encounters and parallel development among ancient societies, and the changes that these processes bequeathed to the modern world. It focuses on the major themes that show how connections between the world's regions formed the basis of the increasingly globalizing economies and societies of the last five hundred years. These encounters include the spread of agricultural technology, the growth of urban trade areas and the connections between them, the spread of universal religions and philosophical traditions, and the rise of large state structures that enabled many of these developments. **\*\*Gen Ed:** Humanities, Global Diversity

### **HIST:200-502**

#### **Empires of the Ancient World**

**Prof. Eugenia (Evi) Gorogianni**

**Asynchronous-Online**

This course explores global encounters, parallel development among ancient societies, and the changes these processes bequeathed to the modern world. It focuses on major themes that show how connections between the world's regions formed the basis of the increasingly globalizing economies and societies of the last five hundred years. **\*\*Gen Ed:** Humanities, Global Diversity

**HIST:221-001****Humanities in the World since 1300****Prof. Martha Santos****MWF 9:40am-10:30am**

This course examines how peoples from across the globe have understood and explained their identities, their encounters or conflicts with others, their environment, and their histories since 1300 and into the present. Through a focus on important developments in the arts, religion, culture, and politics during the early-modern and modern era, this course surveys how people across culture, place, and time have given meanings to their human experience. We will do this through analysis and discussion of primary sources, with lectures that provide context. **\*\*Gen Ed:** Humanities, Global Diversity

**HIST:221-002****Humanities in the World since 1300****Prof. Martha Santos****MWF 10:45am-11:35am**

This course examines how peoples from across the globe have understood and explained their identities, their encounters or conflicts with others, their environment, and their histories since 1300 and into the present. Through a focus on important developments in the arts, religion, culture, and politics during the early-modern and modern era, this course surveys how people across culture, place, and time have given meanings to their human experience. We will do this through analysis and discussion of primary sources, with lectures that provide context. **\*\*Gen Ed:** Humanities, Global Diversity

**HIST:221-003****Humanities in the World since 1300****Prof. Janet Klein****MWF 11:50am-12:40pm**

Course Description and Themes: This course covers the major global intellectual, political, and artistic trends since 1300, and the ways in which those trends in the humanities reveal the connections among continents, regions, and nations in the modern era. Although we will cover prominent and well-known figures, the focus of this course is broader than the “high” culture that the Humanities component of the General Education curriculum has customarily offered. Instead, this course understands “culture” as the daily practices of peoples and the meanings that men and women assign to them. The main themes for this course are: (1) the interconnectedness and mutual influence of cultures (and the humanities) arising from the expansion of global trade, and the sharing of ideas and experiences across time and space; (2) the conflict that emerges (ironically) from cross-cultural interaction; (3) how gender affects the experiences of men and women cross-culturally and how they, in turn, interpret those experiences; (4) the ways in which art, music and literature reflect the societies in which they were created. Course Goals/Learning Outcomes: (1) to expose students to various cultural traditions around the world and the exchanges among them; (2) to improve students’ analytical skills through the interpretation of primary texts in their cultural and historical context; (4) to improve students’ writing skills; (3) to improve students’ oral expression in class discussions. **\*\*Gen Ed:** Humanities, Global Diversity

**HIST:221-004****Humanities in the World since 1300****Prof. Janet Klein****MWF 12:55pm-1:45pm**

Course Description and Themes: This course covers the major global intellectual, political, and artistic trends since 1300, and the ways in which those trends in the humanities reveal the connections among continents, regions, and nations in the modern era. Although we will cover prominent and well-known figures, the focus of this course is broader than the “high” culture that the Humanities component of the General Education curriculum has customarily offered. Instead, this course understands “culture” as the daily practices of peoples and the meanings that men and women assign to them. The main themes for this course are: (1) the interconnectedness and mutual influence of cultures (and the humanities) arising from the expansion of global trade, and the sharing of ideas and experiences across time and space; (2) the conflict that emerges (ironically) from cross-cultural interaction; (3) how gender affects the experiences of men and women cross-culturally and how they, in turn, interpret those experiences; (4) the ways in which art, music and literature reflect the societies in which they were created. Course Goals/Learning Outcomes: (1) to expose students to various cultural traditions around the world and the exchanges among them; (2) to improve students’ analytical skills through the interpretation of primary texts in their cultural and historical context; (4) to improve students’ writing skills; (3) to improve students’ oral expression in class discussions.

**\*\*Gen Ed:** Humanities, Global Diversity**HIST:250-001****U.S. History to 1877****Prof. Gina Martino****TuTh 9:15am-10:30am**

This course explores American history, from the first interactions between Native Americans and Europeans to the Civil War and Reconstruction. Between 1492 and 1877, North America was the site of groundbreaking social experiments and innovative inventions. This era also saw the development of an Atlantic slave system, the death and dispossession of millions of Native Americans, and wars that turned neighbors and families against one another. In History 250, we will examine this dynamic, sometimes devastating period on small and large scales, exploring remote settlements and crowded cities. We will also investigate how popular movements drove major events and how individuals shaped societies as we attempt to better understand this period.

**\*\*Gen Ed:** Social Science, Domestic Diversity

**HIST:250-501**  
**U.S. History to 1877**  
**Prof. Gina Martino**  
**Asynchronous-Online**

This course explores American history, from the first interactions between Native Americans and Europeans to the Civil War and Reconstruction. Between 1492 and 1877, North America was the site of groundbreaking social experiments and innovative inventions. This era also saw the development of an Atlantic slave system, the death and dispossession of millions of Native Americans, and wars that turned neighbors and families against one another. In History 250, we will examine this dynamic, sometimes devastating period on small and large scales, exploring remote settlements and crowded cities. We will also investigate how popular movements drove major events and how individuals shaped societies as we attempt to better understand this period.

**\*\*Gen Ed:** Social Science, Domestic Diversity

**HIST:251-501**  
**U.S. History since 1877**  
**Prof. Greg Wilson**  
**Asynchronous-Online**

This is a 100% online course, equivalent to the traditional 3-credit introduction to the history of the United States from the end of the Reconstruction period to the recent past. The broad themes of freedom, equality, and power will serve as threads to tie together the many individuals, groups, movements, laws, events, and ideas encountered during the course. Assignments will involve reading, writing, analysis of historical sources, and on-line discussion designed to promote historical thinking – a critical approach to the past. You will submit all assignments online through The University of Akron's learning management system, Brightspace.

**\*\*Gen Ed:** Social Science, Domestic Diversity

**HIST:307-001**  
**The Ancient Near East**  
**Prof. Timothy Matney**  
**MWF 9:40am-11:30am**

Mesopotamia, Egypt; Israel, and neighbors to Persian Empire.

**HIST:308-001****Greece****Prof. Eugenia Gorogianni****MWF 10:45am-11:35am**

This course is a multimodal survey of Ancient Greece from the prehistoric cultures of the Minoans and the Mycenaeans to the expansion of the Greek world to the East with the conquest of the Persian Empire by Alexander of Macedon. Our examination is informed by the archaeological and literary evidence as we trace the development of much admired and appropriated cultural forms and institutions, such as democracy, temple buildings, theater, and philosophy.

**HIST:310-001****Historical Methods****Prof. Michael Graham****TuTh 3:30pm-4:45pm**

This course is designed to help students of history better understand and master the tools of the trade - research (finding source materials and framing the questions they can help to answer), and historical writing (including proper citation of sources and the peer review process). The "laboratory" within which we will work will be the seventeenth century (broadly conceived here as roughly 1580-1720) in Britain and (to a limited extent) its North American colonies. We will spend the first few weeks of the course familiarizing ourselves with the basic background of seventeenth-century British history, following that up with an exam to make sure you have attained some mastery of that knowledge. Students will then select primary sources with which they would like to work, and formulate research questions around which they will write the 10-12 page paper which will be the final product of their work in this course. Along the way, there will be some shorter quizzes and writing assignments leading up to that, aimed at building up some basic historical writing skills, as well as laying a foundation for the final paper.

**HIST:321-001****Europe 1348-1610: From the Bubonic Plague to the Era of Religious Wars****Prof. Michael Levin****MWF 9:40am-10:30am**

This course surveys the main events and developments in Europe from the arrival of the Bubonic Plague (1347-1348) to the "era of religious warfare" (1610, the year the king of France was assassinated by a religious fanatic). We will explore the transition from "medieval" to "early modern" Europe, and the social, religious, and intellectual movements that caused that transformation, including the Renaissance, the Reformation, and the discovery of the "New World." We will study this period from a variety of perspectives, using a variety of sources.

**HIST:323-001****Europe: From Revolution to World War, 1789-1914****Prof. Stephen Harp****TuTh 3:30pm-4:45pm**

This class covers Europe during “the long nineteenth century” from the start of the French Revolution to the outbreak of the First World War. Although we will start with the bloodshed of the Revolution and end with that of the Great War, we also consider the evolution of human rights and notions of democracy, the ideologies of liberalism, conservatism and socialism, the development of imperialism, and a host of other topics. In so many ways, the nineteenth century shaped the world that we live in, so this class serves as an excellent foundation for any future work in modern world history. Course requirements include midterm and final examinations, as well as short papers on other readings, and participation in a mock trial in class. Course readings include a textbook, a primary source reader on European soldiers and civilians during the Napoleonic wars, German working-class autobiographies, and a history of King Leopold II’s exploitation of the Congo. **\*\*Gen Ed: Tier III Critical Thinking**

**HIST:338-001****England to 1688****Prof. Michael Graham****TuTh 12:15pm-1:30pm**

This course will trace the course of English (and, to a lesser extent, British) history from Roman times until the late seventeenth century. Taking a primarily narrative approach, we will examine the migrations which shaped the population of the British Isles, the formation of the Anglo-Saxon monarchies, the Norman Conquest and the role played by “feudalism” in the development of the kingdom of England, relations between England and its neighbors, particularly France, Scotland and Ireland, the crisis which gripped the monarchy in the fifteenth century (which seems to have inspired “Game of Thrones”) and the Tudor dynasty which emerged in its aftermath, the Reformation, the Elizabethan age, and finally the religious and political conflicts which rocked Britain in the seventeenth century. In keeping with our narrative focus, we will also devote attention to the ways in which stories about the past, which in many ways constitute history, take on the mantle of truth through being retold, even if their factual foundations are shaky. We will study and analyze this history through lectures, readings (including short primary source readings), discussion and the viewing of one semi-historical film.

**HIST:350-001****U.S. Women’s History****Prof. Gina Martino****TuTh 10:45am-12:00pm**

Studying American women’s history is essential to understanding American history. History 350 is based on the idea that all major political movements and significant social or cultural change in American history involved women’s active participation. From the colonial era through today, we will investigate how women sought and used political, social, and economic influence. We will also examine how ideas about gender, sexuality, and

power have changed over time. Students will approach women's history from multiple perspectives, exploring sources such as film, art, and music, as well as books, articles, and historical documents.

**\*\*Gen Ed:** Domestic Diversity

### **HIST:351-001**

#### **Global History: Encounters and Conflicts**

**Prof. Stephen Harp**

**TuTh 9:40am-11:20am**

This class in global history begins in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and ends in the 21<sup>st</sup>. To give coherence to such a broad sweep, we'll use commodities and trade to organize the material. In addition to a textbook, William McNeill's *The Webs of Humankind*, we'll read and discuss Paul Freedman's *Out of the East: Spices and the Medieval Imagination*, Kevin Grant's *The Congo Free State and the New Imperialism*, and Sven Beckert's *Empire of Cotton: A Global History*. We'll also discuss Prof. Gregg Mitman's new environmental history of Firestone in Liberia. Students will write three short papers and do two exams. Class sessions will be a mix of lecture and discussion of short primary source readings loaded onto brightspace (in addition to the longer course texts). Our theme will be simple; this was a world characterized by global encounters and conflicts long before "globalization" became a fashionable word in the 1990s.

### **HIST:378-001**

#### **Spanish Conquest & Colonization of Americas**

**Prof. Martha Santos**

**MW 2:00pm-3:15pm**

Is it true that a handful of European adventurers singlehandedly defeated entire empires of Native Americans during the Spanish "conquest" of Mexico and South America? Is it true that Native Americans viewed the conquistadors as gods? If it is not true, why are these images so common in popular culture and even in historical studies? Is the term "conquest" the best one to describe what went on after the Spanish arrived in the Americas in 1492? Through analysis of primary sources—conquistadors' letters, images, and indigenous documents—specialized studies, and some films, we will explore the answers to these and other questions about the colonial history of Latin America since 1492. The format of this course will be reading, discussion, lectures, and writing. **\*\* Gen Ed:** Global Diversity

### **HIST:395-001**

#### **Modern Iran**

**Prof. Janet Klein**

**MW 3:30pm-4:45pm**

In the United States and other parts of the western world, Iran, since the Islamic Revolution in 1979, has been known as a "rogue state," an enemy of democracy, and an icon of Islamic "terror." In Iran, the United States has been referred to as the "Great Satan" who took democracy away from Iran. What are the politics of the past in

and about Iran? This course will explore Iran's rich history in the modern period (mainly nineteenth century to the present), but will also address how Iran's ancient past has played a role in modern politics.

**\*\*Gen Ed:** Global Diversity

**HIST:443-001/HIST:543-001**

**Churchills England**

**Prof. Martin Wainwright**

**TuTh 2:00pm-3:15pm**

This course uses the life of Winston Churchill as a starting point from which to examine the history of Britain in the late-nineteenth through mid-twentieth centuries. It emphasizes the changes in world view that the British population experienced as its nation weathered the storms of two world wars and a precipitous decline in stature as a world power. It also focuses on cultural and social changes particularly as they related to popular culture, leisure time, class, and gender. The format for this course will rely on diverse forms of historical documentation, including videos, music, and travel guides to chart Britain's evolution during this period.

**HIST:455-001/HIST:555-001**

**Origins Modern America, 1877-1917**

**Prof. Kevin Kern**

**MWF 11:50am-12:40pm**

How did we get here? This is one of the biggest questions people ask of history in general, but is particularly appropriate for the period 1877-1917 in American history. In a very literal sense, for example, the chances are very good that at least one of your direct ancestors "got here" during this time, and this course will examine the far-reaching causes and effects of the massive influx of immigration that occurred in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. But in an even more profound sense, this period of time holds the nucleus of nearly everything we associate with modern America. Wherever one looks, from American military involvement in foreign affairs, to Big Business, to the national media, to urbanization, to cars, to national advertising campaigns, to movies, to religious fundamentalism, to government regulations, to airplanes, to the Imperial Presidency, to the professional middle-class, to the kind of money you have in your pocket right now, to a hundred other big and little things we associate with contemporary life; all of these are rooted in the era between the end of Reconstruction and the beginning of American involvement in World War I. The goal of this course, then, will be to examine and understand the major social, economic, and political trends that characterized the forty-year period in which modern America was born.

**HIST:470-001/HIST:570-001**

**Ohio History**

**Prof. Greg Wilson**

**MW 2:00PM-3:15PM**

This course covers the span of Ohio's history from prehistoric eras to the recent past. It focuses on issues including land and environment, Native American settlement, frontier life, industrial and urban growth, wars, technology, social and cultural issues, and political events. The class may include visits to local Ohio history sites.



**HIST:487-001/HIST:587-001****Science and Technology in World History****Prof. Kevin Kern****MWF 10:45am-11:35am**

This course examines the development and diffusion of science and technology in human history. It will focus on the rise and evolution of science and technology in both the Western and non-Western worlds by situating these phenomena in the political, economic, intellectual, global contexts. It will also examine how these developments influenced society, culture, and daily life.

Thematic in structure and interdisciplinary in approach, the course is intended to help students integrate history with other disciplines (e.g., philosophy, literary studies, anthropology, natural sciences) to trace not only the development and effects of certain specific technologies, but also the larger relationships between the Asian, Islamic, and Euro-American scientific traditions.

**HIST:669-801****Reading Seminar in American History Since 1877****Prof. Greg Wilson****M 5:10pm-8:30pm**

This reading seminar will examine some of the major events and issues in the history of the United States since 1877 from the perspective of public history. The course serves as one of the foundations for the Master's program. In general, public history refers to producing and studying history at work in the world. Academically, the seminar will analyze how historians and other experts, as well as the larger public construct and maintain ideas and interpretations about the past. Students will be required to read at least one monograph each week, write analytical summaries of these readings, and actively participate in the discussion. There will be a final comprehensive essay as well. The class may meet at relevant public history sites in the region for discussion.

**HIST:689-801****Historiography****Prof. Stephen Harp****Tu 5:10pm-7:40pm**

This course, required of all first-year M.A. students in History, is designed to make students aware of some of the methodological assumptions historians use. By grappling with the influential works about History, students should develop a deeper understanding of what we do as professional historians. Requirements include reading the assigned book each week, writing short reviews of readings and a final analytical essay, and participating fully in discussion each week.

**\*\*Classics Courses\*\***

**CLAS:230-501/CLAS:230-502**

**Sports & Society in Ancient Greece and Rome**

**Prof. Eugenia (Evi) Gorogianni**

**Asynchronous-Online**

This course focuses on the world of sports of the Ancient Greeks and the Romans and investigates the connections between sports and society. Our examination is informed by the archaeological and literary evidence for the types of sports that were popular in the ancient world, the sporting arenas, the occasions that called for sports, and the people who participated in them. We also investigate the social, political, and religious roles of sports in the ancient world and compare these with the modern appreciation of sports. Throughout the course, we discover that ancient Mediterranean societies faced many similar social issues and challenges that were reflected in sport, just like us, and which helps us infuse our discussions of and approaches to current social issues and concerns.

**CLAS:230-001**

**Sports & Society in Ancient Greece and Rome**

**Mr. Jerrad Lancaster**

**TuTh 10:45am-12:00pm**

A multimedia survey of ancient Greek and Roman sports, from the Olympics to gladiatorial games, and their connection to ancient and modern society.

**CLAS:289-501/CLAS:289-502**

**Mythology of Ancient Greece**

**Mr. Jerrad Lancaster**

**Asynchronous-Online**

Mythology is the study of a body of stories that deal with a variety of topics from the nature of universe and the supernatural to specific practices of a given culture. Beyond providing entertainment and an endless supply of bed-time stories, mythology is a system of explanation, acculturation, and cultural reproduction (education). This course covers the myths of the Greek gods and heroes with reflection on what the stories can tell us about the Greeks and their culture. Also included are comparisons through the adaptations of Greek myth as seen in the Harry Potter movies. How J.K. Rowling incorporates Greek myth in her stories serves as a reflection of our own society.

**\*\*Honors Courses\*\***

**HONOR:350-001**

**Honors Humanities Colloquium: The History of Anti-Semitism**

**Prof. Michael Levin**

**MWF 12:55pm-1:45pm**

Why do people hate Jews? Is anti-Semitism different from other forms of prejudice? And what does it mean to be Jewish in the first place? In this colloquium we will explore the historical roots of these questions, using various primary sources as a springboard for discussion. We will start in Biblical times, and cover such topics as the Spanish Inquisition, the Holocaust, and events in modern America. There will be guest lectures from other professors in the History Department, who will bring their own expertise and experiences to the class. The emphasis of the course will be on discussion, with a final project to be determined.