



History Department Course Catalog



SPRING 2016

The United States in the 20th Century



HIST 204

Mon. & Thurs. 11:10-12:20

The United States' past is one of making and re-making the nation—as a government, a place, and a concept. This course surveys that dynamic process from the post-Reconstruction period through 9/11. Examining the people, practices, and politics behind U.S. nation building, we will consider how different groups have defined and adopted “American” identities, and how definitions of the nation and citizenship shifted in relations to domestic and global happenings. This will include considering how ideas of gender, race, ethnicity, and citizenship intersect within projects of nation building. We will cover topics that include: domestic race relations, imperialism, globalization, and terrorism, and developments such as legalized segregation, the Depression, World Wars I and II, and modern social progressive and conservative movements.

Professor Greer

Spring 2016

Making of the Modern World Order



History 205 Mon & Thurs 4:10-5:20

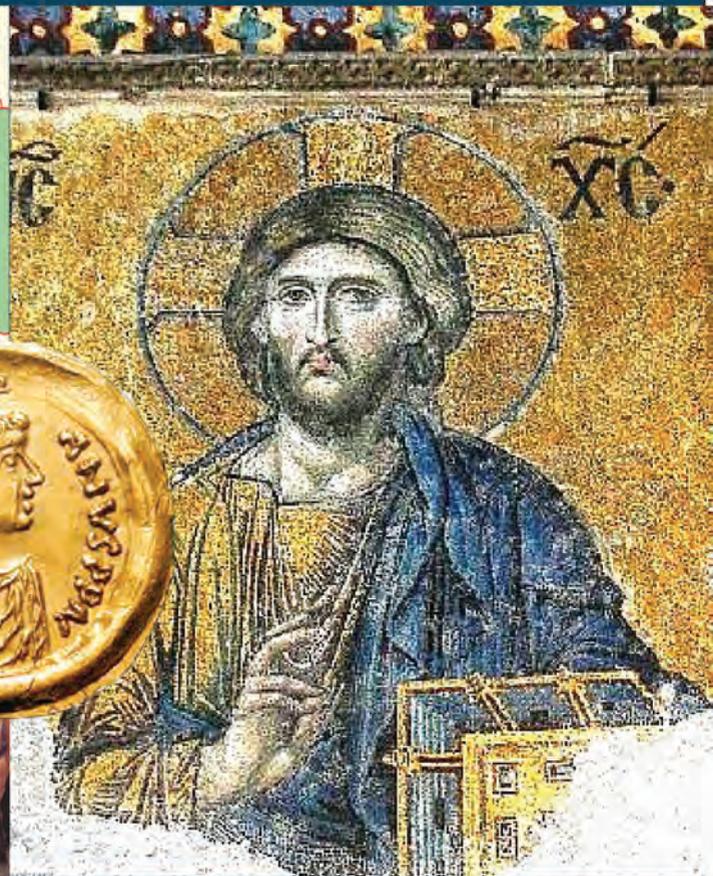
This foundational course in international history explores the evolution of trade, competition, and cultural interaction among the world's diverse communities, from the Mongol conquests of the late-thirteenth century through the end of the twentieth century. Themes include: the centrality of Asia to the earliest global networks of trade and interactions; the rise of European wealth and power in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; empires, imperialism and its impact; the evolution of the nation-state; scientific and industrial revolutions; and "modernization" and the new patterns of globalization during the late twentieth century. Attention to agents of global integration, including trade, technology, migration, dissemination of ideas, conquest, war, and disease.

Professor Matsusaka

Spring 2016

History 213

Conquest and Crusade in the Medieval Mediterranean



Tuesdays & Fridays 11:10-12:20

This course examines life in the Mediterranean from the disintegration of the Roman Empire in the fourth and fifth centuries through the Latin Crusades of the Holy Land in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Readings will focus on the various wars and conflicts in the region as well as the political, religious, and social structures of the great Christian and Muslim kingdoms, including the Byzantine Empire, the Islamic caliphates of the Fertile Crescent and North Africa, the Turkish emirates of Egypt and the Near East, and the intellectual, literary, and artistic achievements of Christian, Muslim, and Jewish Communities.

Professor Ramseyer

Spring 2016

HIST 214 MEDIEVAL ITALY



MEETS TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS 1:30-2:40

This course provides an overview of Italian history from the disintegration of the Roman Empire in the fifth century through the rise of urban communes in the thirteenth century. Topics of discussion include the birth and development of the Catholic Church and the volatile relationship between popes and emperors, the history of monasticism and various other forms of popular piety as well as the role of heresy and dissent, and the development and transformation of cities and commerce that made Italy one of the most economically advanced states in Europe in the later medieval period, among others.

SPRING 2016

PROFESSOR RAMSEYER

United States Consumer Culture and Citizenship



History 220

Mon. & Thurs. 2:50-4:00

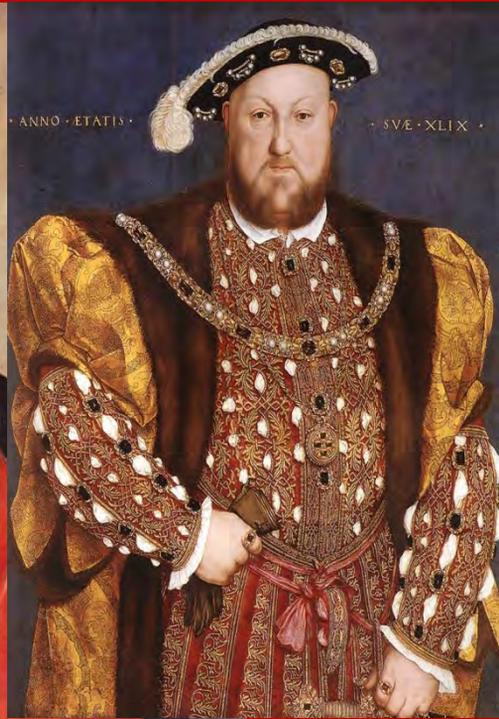
We are a nation organized around an ethos of buying things. Throughout the twentieth century, the government, media, big business, and the public increasingly linked politics and consumerism, and the formulation has been a route to empowerment and exclusion. In this course, we study how and why people in the United States theorized about, practiced, and promoted mass material consumption from the turn of the twentieth century into the twenty-first. Topics will include: the rise of consumer culture, the innovations of department stores, malls, freeways, and suburbs, developments in advertising and marketing, the global position of the American consumer in the post-World War II United States, and the political utility of consumption to various agendas, including promoting free enterprise, combating racism, and battling terrorism.

Professor Greer

Spring 2016

Professor Grote & Professor Wall-Randell

The Renaissance



Mondays & Thursdays 9:50-11:00

This interdisciplinary survey of Europe between 1300 and 1600 focuses on aspects of politics, literature, philosophy, religion, economics, and the arts that have prompted scholars for the past seven hundred years to regard it as an age of cultural rebirth. These include the revival of classical learning; new fashions in painting, sculpture, architecture, poetry, and prose; the politics of the Italian city-states and Europe's "new monarchies"; religious reform; literacy and printing; the emerging public theater; new modes of representing selfhood; and the contentious history of the Renaissance as a concept. Authors include Petrarch, Vasaria, Machiavelli, Erasmus, More, Castiglione, Rabelais, Montaigne, Sidney, Spenser, and Shakespeare. Lectures and discussions will be enriched by guest speakers and visits to Wellesley's art and rare book collections. *Students may register for either HIST 221 or ENG221 and credit will be granted accordingly.*

Spring 2016

History 221/ English 221

Zionism and Irish Nationalism: A Comparative Perspective



Mon. & Thurs. 11:10-12:20 History 224/324

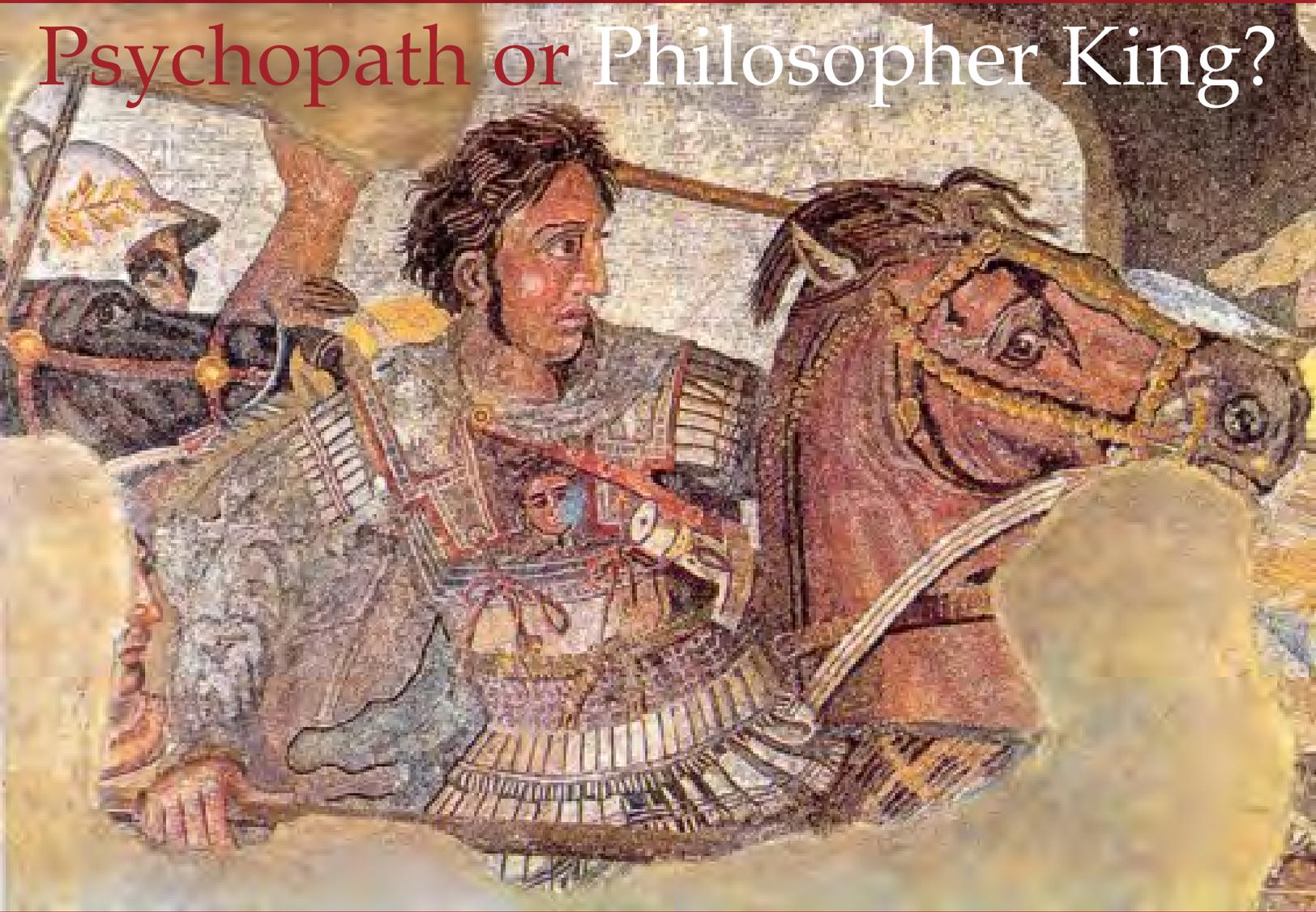
Theodore Herzl mused that he would like to be the Charles Stuart Parnell of the Jewish people. Yitzak Shamir used the code name of Michael (for Michael Collins) during Israel's War of Independence. Eamon De Valera traveled to Israel to seek advice on the resurrection of the Irish language. Does this dialogue among nationalist leaders speak to a more significant connection between their movements? To answer this question, we shall explore the emergence and evolution of Zionism and Irish nationalism in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Our focus will include poets, ideologues, and charismatic leaders, immigration, racism, and diaspora. Trends in modern Israel and Ireland will also be explored.

Spring 2016

Professor Malino

Alexander the Great:

Psychopath or Philosopher King?



History 229/329 Tues. & Fri 1:30-2:40

Alexander the Great murdered the man who saved his life, married a Bactrian princess, and dressed like Dionysus. He also conquered most of the known world by the age of 33, fused the eastern and western populations of his empire, and became a god. This course will examine the personality, career and achievements of the greatest warrior in history. This course may be taken either as 229, or with additional assignments, as 329.

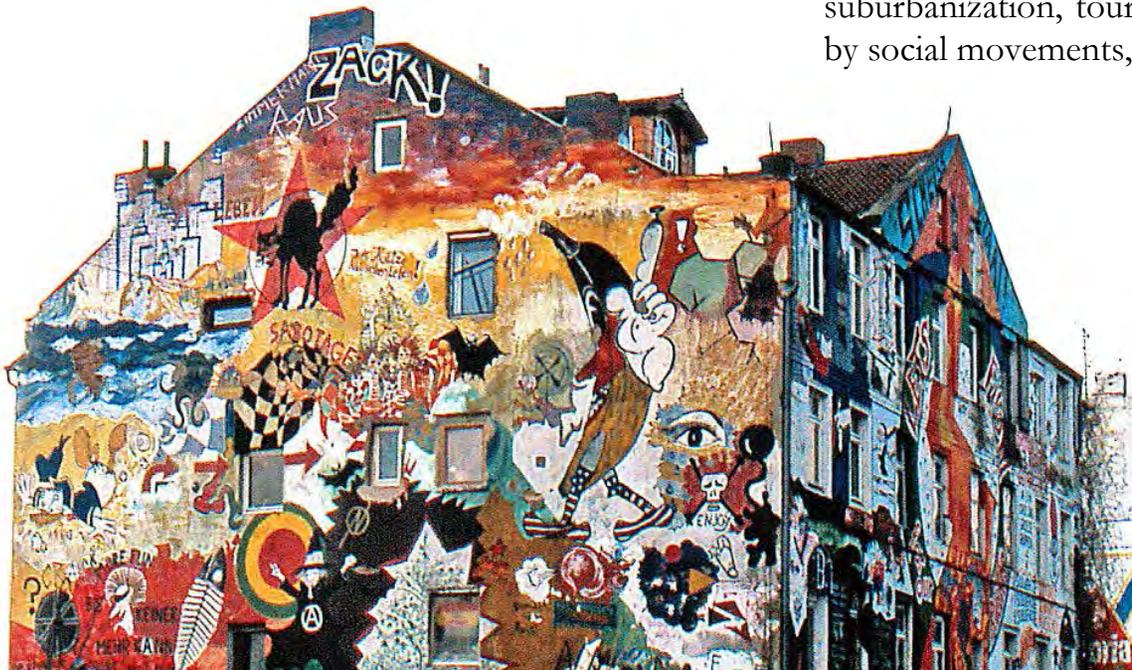
Professor Rogers

Spring 2016



Cities in Modern Europe

This lecture course explores the uses and visions of the city in Europe since the mid-nineteenth century. The course covers both the history of modern urban planning and the responses to it--the way the city was designed and the way it was lived. We will begin by looking at differing theories of the city: Was it a place of freedom or increased control, especially for socially marginalized groups like women, colonized populations and the poor? Was it an artifact of dominant social forces or a space for individual self-creation? Themes we will cover include colonial urbanism, modernism, fascist city planning, suburbanization, tourism, migration and reclamations of urban space by social movements, squatters and youth subcultures.



HIST240
Prof. Quinn Slobodian
Mondays & Thursdays 1:30-2:40

Spring 2016

HISTORY 242

Postwar Europe and the Three Germanies



Mondays & Thursdays
4:10-5:20

In 1945, Germany's war had left much of Europe in ruins. Yet postwar planners recognized that the continent's strongest economic power and most populous country would have to remain the center of a reconstructed Europe. This course explores the challenges confronting a divided continent after 1945 through the histories of East and West Germany, which faced similar problems, but developed solutions that reflected the differing ideologies of state socialism and capitalism. It compares the relative influence of the U.S. and Soviet "partners," strategies for dealing with the Nazi past and histories of collaboration, and efforts to build consumer culture and domestic consent. It also compares youth revolt, gender politics, immigration, and explores the role of a third, reunified Germany in Europe and the world after 1989.

Professor Slobodian

Spring 2016

History 244

History of the American West: Manifest Destiny to Pacific Imperialism



Meets Tuesdays, Fridays 1:30-2:40

With its sweeping landscapes, grand myths, and oversized egos, the American West has loomed large within US history. Since the nation's birth, Americans looked toward the horizon and imagined their destinies, a gaze since copied by historians, novelists, and filmmakers. Nevertheless, the history of this vast region is much more fractured and complex. This course explores the West – as an idea and place – from the early nineteenth-century through World War I. While we will engage the ways that Americans conjured and conquered the region, we will also look beyond their gaze toward the varied empires, peoples, and forces that created the West. Topics covered include: Northern New Spain and Mexico; American Indians and US expansionism; trans-continental and trans-Pacific trade and (im)migration; race, gender, and identity.

Professor Quintana

Spring 2016

HIST 260

PURSUITS OF HAPPINESS: AMERICA IN THE AGE OF REVOLUTION



Meets Tuesdays & Fridays 11:10-12:20

Investigates the origins and aftermath of one of the most improbable events in American history: the American Revolution. What pushed colonists to rebel, rather suddenly, against Britain? In addition, what social struggles followed the war's wake? We will explore the experiences of ordinary Americans, including women and slaves; examine the material culture of Revolutionary America; trace the intellectual histories of the founders; and witness the creation of a national identity and constitution. Those who lived through the rebellion left behind plenty of material: letters; pamphlets; teapots; runaway slave advertisements; diaries. We will consider these and more. Visits to Boston historic sites will take you back in time and space to the besieged, volatile city that led the colonies into war.

Spring 2016

Professor Grandjean

Political Economy of Development in Colonial and Postcolonial South Asia

Professor Rao



Meets **Tuesdays** 6:00-8:30

In 1947, India was partitioned into India and Pakistan. Since then, these countries have wrestled with issues of governance and development, but colonial rule casts a long shadow over their efforts. This course introduces students to the complex politico-economic landscape of the subcontinent by examining how the idea of development changes in modern South Asian history. How are development efforts embedded in contexts of politics, society, and culture? How do political systems affect decisions? This course considers these questions by examining themes such as: the colonial state's construction of railway and irrigation networks; Gandhi's critique of industrialization; Nehru's vision of an industrial economy; the challenges posed by Partition and militarization of Pakistan; the Green Revolution; the onset of economic deregulation.

Spring 2016

History 277

China and America: Evolution of a Troubled Relationship



Meets Mondays, Thursdays 9:50-11:00

A survey of China's economic, cultural, and political interactions with the United States from 1784 to the present with a focus on developments since 1940. Topics include: trade throughout the centuries; American treatment of Chinese immigrants; World War II and the Chinese Revolution; the Cold War; Taiwan, and the ongoing instability of relations since 1979. Sources include the ever-increasing number of declassified U.S. documents as well as critical materials translated from the Chinese. This fall's course will include opportunities for dialogue with Hong Kong university students covering similar material.

Spring 2016

Professor Giersch

A New Birth of Freedom:

Re-Imagining American History From Revolution to Civil War



In the years between the Revolution and the Civil War the United States experienced dramatic change, rapid geographic expansion, the growth and transformation of a market economy, the extension and evolution of slavery, the movement for abolition, and a Civil War that nearly destroyed the nation. These topics and others are long familiar to students of U.S. history, but we will re-frame our analysis of this period: examining expansion by re-centering American Indians and competing imperial powers, considering the rise of the state within the broader framework of world history, and re-imagining slavery in the context of global capitalism. In considering these topics and others from a variety of perspectives, we will explore the continued significance of the early nation era in American History.

FEAR AND VIOLENCE IN EARLY AMERICA



Meets Wednesdays 9:50-12:20

This seminar explores the terrors that stalked the inhabitants of colonial and early national America. How did early Americans describe their fears? What did they find frightening? And what roles did fear and violence play in shaping American society? In this seminar, we will first explore the language and psychology of fear, and then study the many ways that terror intruded on early American lives. Topics include: the role of terror in early American warfare; fear of the supernatural; domestic violence and murder; the specter of slave rebellion; and fear and violence as entertainment in public executions and in early American literature.

“VENI, VIDI, VICI”:

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF C. JULIUS CAESAR



HIST 325 Professor Rogers

Wednesdays 6:00-8:30

C. Julius Caesar was descended from the goddess Venus and the Roman King Ancus Marcius. He was one of Rome’s greatest orators and Cicero said that every writer of sense steered clear of the subjects Caesar had written about. His life was both scandalous and unprecedented in Roman History: Curio called him every woman’s man and every man’s woman; Cato remarked that Caesar was the only sober man who tried to wreck the constitution. After conquering Gaul Caesar became Rome’s first dictator for life, and finally a god, after his assassination on the Ides of March of 44 BCE. This 300 level course will examine the life, death, and legacies of the greatest Roman against the backdrop of the destruction of the Res Publica.

KING-KILLERS IN EARLY MODERN BRITAIN AND FRANCE



Wednesdays 9:50-12:20

Popular fascination with kings and queens is alive and well, but European monarchs once enjoyed a mystical, superhuman prestige far beyond mere celebrity. Why did they lose it? To find an answer, this seminar investigates their enigmatic killers: perpetrators of cosmic cataclysm in the name of liberation from tyranny. After examining the medieval legal foundations and ceremonial glamor of sacred kingship, we will analyze the most sensational modern cases of king-killing: Charles I in the English Civil War and Louis XVI in the French Revolution. Our analyses will encompass political maneuverings by individuals; bitter conflicts of class, religion, and party; the subversive power of satirical literature; utopian yearnings for a more egalitarian society; and the philosophical battles that produced modern concepts of the state.

Modern Imperialisms



History 395

Wednesdays 2:15-4:45

This seminar examines the histories of imperialism from the late 18th century onwards. Both the actual histories of imperial practices as well as the way in which the meaning of the category itself changes over the course of two centuries will be investigated. As such, the course offers a comparative perspective on imperial practices of several states – including Britain, France, Japan, and the United States – in Africa and Asia. Topics include: the connections between imperialism, industrialization, and new technologies; imperial efforts to refashion subject peoples and resistance to such efforts; changing ideas of gender and race; decolonization; the enduring significance of imperial legacies in the age of globalization. Sources include selections from contemporary critics of imperialism such as Lenin and Fanon, scholarly writings, films, and fiction

Professor Rao

Spring 2016