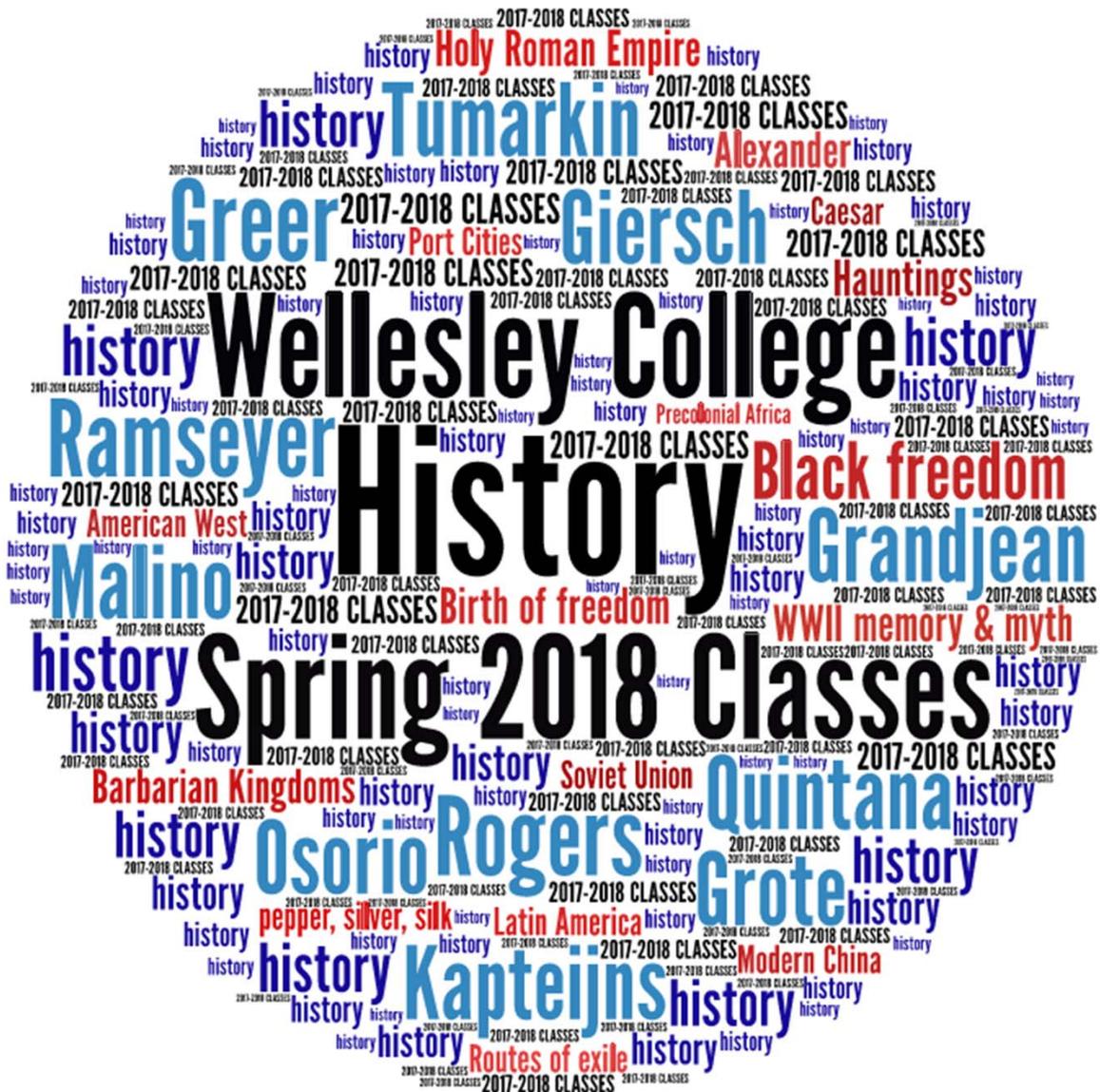


History Department

Spring 2018 Courses



WELLESLEY
HISTORY DEPARTMENT



FYS: VLADIMIR PUTIN

Personage, President, Potentate



HIST 116

Wednesday, 2:15-4:45 pm

Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, is by many accounts the world's most powerful political leader. How did he achieve this status? What have been his chief goals, values and operating principles? What accounts for his vast popularity in Russia, even at a time of military engagement and economic recession? A product of Leningrad's "mean streets," the young Putin sought glory in the KGB, and after the demise of the Soviet Union—a collapse he rues to this day—moved into the heights of power. We will explore Vladimir Putin's life path, political maneuvers, ideas about Russia's identity and place in the world, and his image as the epitome of potent masculinity. Assignments will include biographical and autobiographical writings, speeches, videos and a plethora of images and caricatures of this enigmatic and forceful leader.

Professor Tumarkin

Spring, 2018

The Making of the Modern World Order



HISTORY 205 **Mondays and Thursdays, 9:50-11:00 am**

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. Themes include: the centrality of Asia to the earliest global networks of trade and interaction; 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 Osorio

Spring 2018

Contemporary Problems in Latin American History



History 207

Monday and Thursday, 1:30-2:40 pm

In this problem-centered survey of the contemporary history of Latin America we will critique and go beyond the many stereotypes that have inhibited understanding between Anglo and Latin America, cultivating instead a healthy respect for complexity and contradiction. Over the course of the semester we will examine key themes in current history, including the dilemmas of uneven national development in dependent economies; the emergence of anti-imperialism and various forms of political and cultural nationalism; the richness and variety of revolution; ethnic, religious, feminist, literary, artistic, and social movements; the imposing social problems of the sprawling Latin American megalopolis; the political heterodoxies of leftism, populism, authoritarianism, and neoliberalism; the patterns of peace, violence, and the drug trade; the considerable U.S. influence in the region, and finally, transnational migration and globalization.

Professor Osorio

Spring, 2018

MEDIEVAL ITALY



HISTORY 214 TUESDAY AND FRIDAY, 11:10-12:20 PM

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, the diverging histories of the north and the south and the emergence of a multicultural society in southern Italy, 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.

PROFESSOR RAMSEYER

SPRING, 2018

THE RENAISSANCE



History 221 Monday and Thursday, 9:50-11:10 am

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 Renaissance as a concept. Authors include Petrarch, Vasari, 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.

**Professor Grote and Professor Wall-Randell (English Department)
Spring, 2018**

SWORDS AND SCANDALS: ANCIENT HISTORY IN FILMS, DOCUMENTARIES, AND ONLINE



HISTORY 228

WEDNESDAY, 6:00–8:30 PM

Films such as *Gladiator*, *The Passion of the Christ*, and *300*, documentaries such as *The Last Stand of the 300*, and Internet courses such as *Alexander Online* perhaps influence how the majority of people now understand antiquity. But are these visual media historically reliable representations of the past? Or do they rather primarily reflect changing artistic and societal concerns? How have the use of digital backlots, blue screens, and other technical innovations affected how the past is being represented and understood? In this course we will examine the representation of the ancient world in films, documentaries, and online media from the “Sword and Sandal” classics of the past such as *Ben-Hur* to the present, within the scholarly frameworks of ancient history and modern historiography.

PROFESSOR ROGERS

SPRING, 2018

HISTORY OF ROME



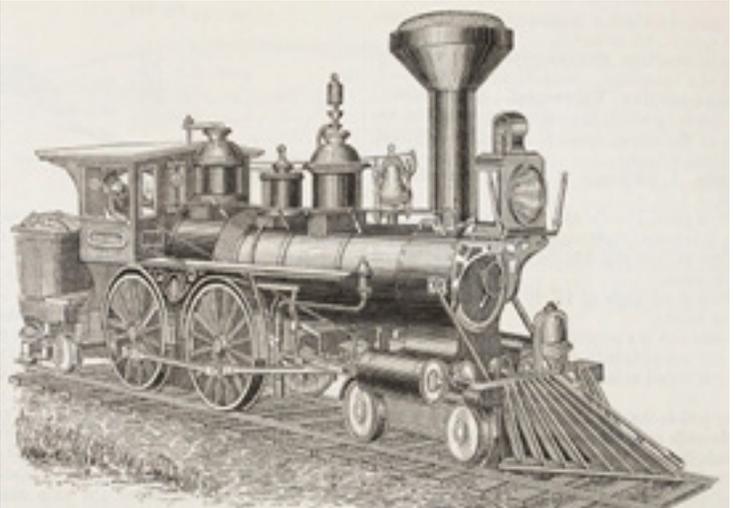
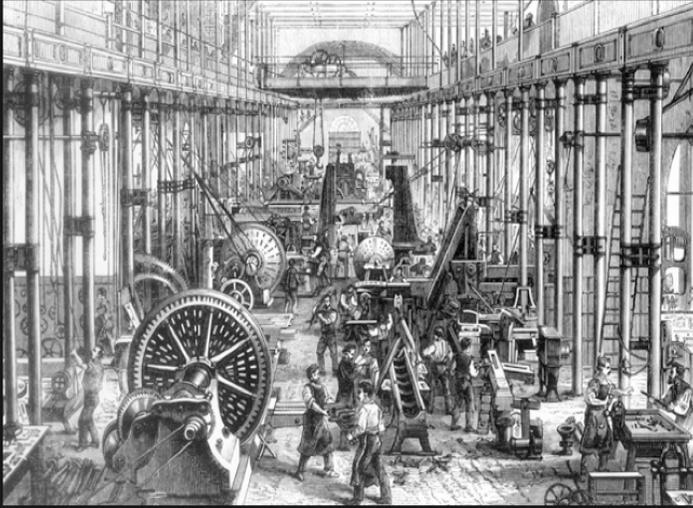
HISTORY 231 TUESDAY AND FRIDAY, 1:30-2:40 PM

Rome's cultural development from its origins as a small city state in the eighth century B.C.E. to its rule over a vast empire extending from Scotland to Iraq. Topics include the Etruscan influence on the formation of early Rome, the causes of Roman expansion throughout the Mediterranean during the Republic, the Hellenization of Roman society, the urbanization and Romanization of Western Europe, the spread of "mystery" religions, the persecution and expansion of Christianity, and the economy and society of the Empire.

PROFESSOR ROGERS

SPRING, 2018

THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF AMERICAN CAPITALISM FROM REVOLUTION TO EMPIRE



HISTORY 245 TUESDAY AND FRIDAY, 2:50-4:00 PM

There is perhaps no better time than the present to study the history of American capitalism, as political leaders, pundits, bank and business executives, and workers across the world struggle to understand our current economic situation. This course will explore the development of American capitalism from its birth in the mercantile world of imperial Great Britain through the financial ruin of the Great Depression. This course will closely examine the relationship between government, business, and society by engaging key moments in nineteenth-century American economic history: the rise of the corporation, transportation and communication innovations, industrialization, American slavery and commodity production, financial speculation and panics, the development of American banking, immigration policy, and labor relations.

PROFESSOR QUINTANA

SPRING, 2018

Vikings, Icons, Mongols, and Tsars



History 246 Tuesday and Friday, 1:30-2:40 pm

A multicultural journey through the turbulent waters of medieval and early modern Russia, from the Viking incursions of the ninth century and the entrance of the East Slavs into the splendid and mighty Byzantine world, to the Mongol overlordship of Russia, the rise of Moscow, and the legendary reign of Ivan the Terrible. We move eastward as the Muscovite state conquers the immense reaches of Siberia by the end of the turbulent seventeenth century, when the young and restless Tsar Peter the Great travels to Western Europe to change Russia forever. We will focus on khans, princes, tsars, nobles, peasants, and monks; social norms and gender roles; icons and church architecture; and a host of Russian saints and sinners.

Professor Tumarkin

Spring, 2018

The United States in the World War II Era



History 254

Monday and Thursday, 2:50-4:00 pm

World War II was a uniquely defining moment in U.S. history, its sweeping influence forever altering the nation's culture, economics, and global position. This course examines events surrounding U.S. involvement in the Second World War from the Depression era through the early Cold War years. Our focus will be political, social, and cultural developments on the "home front," which we will contextualize within broader world dynamics. Topics include: domestic attitudes toward the war, the political and cultural significance of FDR's "four freedoms," shifts in foreign policy, a reshaped workforce ("Rosie the Riveter," Bracero programs, desegregation), sex and sexuality in the military, military personnel's experiences, wartime consumer trends, scientific advances, and the nation's geopolitical concerns and objectives.

Professor Greer

Spring, 2018

Civil War and the World



History 261

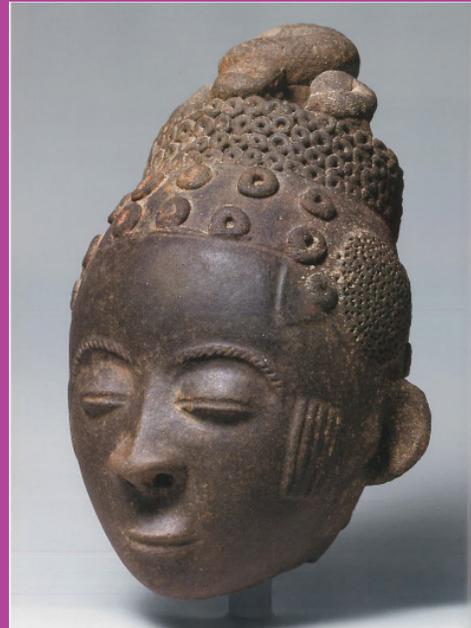
Tuesday and Friday, 9:50-11:00 am

This course examines the American Civil War, one of the central conflicts in US history, by placing it within the broader context of the making of the modern world. The course will explore the roots, consequences, and experiences of the war—the long history of slavery and emancipation, territorial expansion and industrialization, and the everyday experience of modern warfare. The class will do so by considering those events through the lens of global history. We scrutinize the political upheavals around the world that gave broader meaning to the Civil War; the emergence of modern weaponry and tactics and their consequences; and the development of the nation-state and colonialism, which resulted in new forms of governance and coercion that emerged in the wake of emancipation.

Professor Quintana

Spring, 2018

The History of Pre-Colonial Africa



History 264

Tuesday and Friday, 2:50-4:00 pm

Pre-colonial Africa encompasses ancient agrarian kingdoms (such as Egypt and Merowe), city-states on the shores of sea and desert, and “nations without kings,” with their own, unique social and political institutions. Students will learn about the material bases of these societies, as well as their social relations and cultural production, all the while familiarizing themselves with the rich array of written, oral, linguistic, and archeological sources available to the historian of Africa. After 1500, in the era of the European expansion, large parts of Africa were incorporated into the Atlantic tropical plantation complex through the slave trade. The enormous impact on Africa of this unprecedented forced migration of Africans to the Americas from 1500 to the 1880s will constitute the concluding theme.

Professor Kapteijns

Spring, 2018

Port Cities of the Indian Ocean in Historical Perspective



History 266

Tuesday, 6:00-8:30 pm

This course examines themes in the history of Indian Ocean port cities situated on the littorals of the East Africa, the Red Sea, Southern Arabia, the Arabian/Persian Gulf, and South Asia. The course engages with different dimensions of life in port cities such as their relations with immediate or distant overlords; diverse communities of traders; flows of free and unfree laborers, and other migrants; the technology that sustained ocean-wide links and the epidemics that threatened them; and the impact of colonial (especially British) rule. Covering the period c. 1600 to the present, the course emphasizes the period up to World War II, yet traces some themes to the present.

Professor Kapteijns

Spring, 2018

Heresy and Popular Religion in the Middle Ages



History 279 /379

Tuesday and Friday, 9:50-11:00 am

This course looks at popular religious beliefs and practices in medieval Europe, including miracles, martyrdom and asceticism, saints and their shrines, pilgrimages, relics, curses, witchcraft, and images of heaven and hell. It seeks to understand popular religion both on its own terms as well as in relationship to the church hierarchy. It also examines the basis for religious dissent in the form of both intellectual and social heresies that led to religious repression and the establishment of the Inquisition in the later Middle Ages. The course may be taken as 279 or, with additional assignments, as 379.

Professor Ramseyer

Spring, 2018

Seminar: Fashion Matters: Dress, Style, and Politics in U.S. History



History 314

Wednesday, 9:50-12:20 pm

This course explores the history of fashion in U.S. social and political movements. How have people used clothing and style to define themselves, demand recognition, challenge power, publicize injustice, and deflect or attract attention? We will examine how ideologies and experiences of race, gender, sexuality, and nationhood shaped uses of and reactions to fashion politics. Topics include the end of slavery, the rise of the “New Woman,” the Second World War, the civil rights movement, the women’s liberation movement, the rise of hip hop, and the war on terror. Through these events, we will consider the political significance of hair, uniforms, campaign fashion, and religious dress. We will also consider how authenticity, imitation, appropriation, and commodification figure into this history.

Professor Greer

Spring, 2018

KING-KILLERS IN EARLY MODERN BRITAIN AND FRANCE



History 354 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.

Legacies of Conquest: Empires in Chinese and World History



HISTORY 395 | Wednesday, 2:15-4:45 pm

International History Seminar

By examining China (1600-Present), this course introduces in-depth study of powerful empires and their legacies today. We start with Qing-era China (1644-1912) asking how its leaders built China's most expansive, durable, and ethnically diverse empire. We then consider the still incomplete efforts to reconfigure the empire as a Chinese nation, a process challenged by Tibetan and Hong Kong citizens. Topics include institutions for segregating and representing diverse communities; the role of international commerce and technologies; the challenges of modern nationalism and European colonialism; methods used to envision a new, multiethnic China led by a Han majority; and ways that Hong Kong identity, Islam, and Tibetan Buddhism are perceived as challenges. For each topic, comparative readings in Ottoman, American, and South Asian history prepare students for research projects on world regions of their choice.

Professor Giersch

Spring, 2018