

YC: HIS-courses Fall 2023

Emergence of Europe

HIS 1101 (required course for History major)

M/W 3:00-4:15

David Haziza



This course examines the history of Europe from the rise of ancient Greece (around 600 BCE) to the aftermath of the Renaissance and Reformation (around 1650 CE). It aims to introduce the study of history alongside the pre-modern history of Europe. In addition to considering the central political, cultural, and religious developments of the era, we look in detail at some primary sources created at the time and analyze how historians can use them to learn about the past. These sources include images, letters, and satirical tracts, as well as more familiar historical and biographical accounts.

Grading: participation, short responses, papers, and exams

Survey of US History I

HIS 1201

T/Th 4:30-5:45

Douglas Burgess



This introductory course will explore the settlement and establishment of the American colonies, and their evolution into an independent nation. The purpose of the course is to provide students with a foundational knowledge of US history, from the earliest colonies to the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Grading: midterm, final, and class participation and attendance.

Arch of Titus
HIS 2813H/JHI 2813H
M/W 4:30-5:45
Steven Fine



The Arch of Titus, built to commemorate Roman triumph in the Jewish War of 66-74 CE, has stood as a touchstone of Western civilization for nearly 2000 years. This course explores the shifting meaning and significance of this monument – for the victorious Romans, for the defeated Jews, and for both Christians and Jews over the subsequent millennia. Built on Rome’s Via Sacra, the “Sacred Road,” around 82 CE, the Arch of Titus features sculptural reliefs depicting Titus’s triumphal procession into the Eternal City in July, 71 CE. Painfully for Jews, the sacred vessels of the Jerusalem Temple are shown being carried into Rome by victorious Roman soldiers. At the center of the representation of the Spoils of Jerusalem is the seven-branched golden menorah, which, since 1949, has been used as the emblem of the State of Israel.

Grading: midterm; final; class participation; and assignments TBA.

Media Revolutions: From Scroll to Screen
HIS 2909 (satisfies CUOT Core requirement)
M/W 6:45-8:00
Jeffrey Freedman



This course surveys the history of media from the ancient world to the present. Taking ‘media’ in the broadest sense to encompass the full range of communications technologies, we will begin with the papyri scrolls of ancient Greece and move from there through the manuscript codex of the Middle Ages, the printed book of the age of Gutenberg, newspapers in the 18th and 19th centuries, radio and film in the 20th century, and the internet and social media of our own digital age. Several recurrent questions will frame our survey of media landscapes: How, to what

ends, and in what institutional settings are particular media used? How do they affect modes of thinking? And what are the relations of different media to the various historical forms of religious, political, and economic power?

Grading: midterm; final; 4-5 page paper; and class participation.

History of Modern Russia

HIS 2154 (Satisfies CUOT Core requirement. Writing Intensive)

T/Th 3-4:15

Josh Zimmerman



This course examines the history of modern Russia from Peter the Great to the collapse of the Soviet Union. Topics include Peter the Great's Westernization policies (1703-1725), territorial expansion under Catherine the Great (1764-1796), Alexander II's Great Reforms (1860s-1870s), the period of reaction and revolution in late Czarist Russia, the nationalities, and the collapse of the Russian Empire in 1917. The second part of the course covers the history of Soviet Russia, between the 1917 revolution and the Soviet Union's collapse in 1992.

Grading: midterm, final and one research paper.

History of Palestine

HIS 2303/JHI 2303 (Satisfies COWC Core requirement)

T/Th 4:30-5:45

Hadassa Kosak



The course will examine the history of modern Jewish settlement in Palestine under the Ottoman rule and the British Mandate, up to the establishment of the state in 1948. We will begin with a discussion of Zionism, its rise in the second half of the 19th century, in an era of secular nationalist movements, and an era marked by imperialism, colonialism, and the attendant theories of race. The growing popularity of Zionism resulted in the Jewish settlement (Yishuv) in Palestine, where it encountered Palestinian Arabs and the British authorities. The material covered will reflect the history

of British colonial politics, the social, economic, and ideological factors that shaped the emergence of the institutions of the Yishuv and of the Palestinians, and the political and national aspirations of the two communities.

Grading: midterm; final; participation in class discussions; and one research paper due at the end of the semester.

International Crimes: Atrocity and State Response in the 20th Century
HIS 2607H (Satisfies COWC Core requirement)

T/Th 6:30-7:45

Douglas Burgess



This seminar explores the emergence and incidence of genocide and other crimes against humanity in the 20th century. First, we will examine the history of modern international atrocity, including the mass killings of Armenians under the Ottoman Empire, atrocities of colonization, the Holocaust, and more recent examples in Cambodia, Rwanda and Darfur. Then we will consider how the international community has responded, and the emergence of international law after the Second World War. Discussion will include the following issues: What does “genocide” mean, and why is it a modern phenomenon? What are its root causes? What

distinguishes it from ethnic cleansing and other crimes against humanity? Is this distinction a viable one? Can genocide be prosecuted, or prevented?

Grading: midterm, class participation, final research paper (15 pages)