

## YC: HIS-courses spring 2025

### **The Transformations of Europe**

**Hist. 1102 (required course for History major; satisfies CUOT Core requirement)**

**M/W 4:30-5:45**

**Jeffrey Freedman**



This introductory course surveys the history of Europe and its relations with other parts of the world from the eighteenth century to the present as well as providing an introduction to basic historical concepts and methods of source criticism.

Grading: midterm, final, two document analyses (2-3 pages), and class participation.

### **History of Modern Russia**

**Hist 2154-L (satisfies CUOT Core requirement; Writing Intensive)**

**T/Th 3:00-4:15**

**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.

**German History Through Film**  
**HIS 2149 (satisfies CUOT Core requirement)**  
**M/W 6:45-8:00**  
**Jeffrey Freedman**



This course is about the uses of history in 20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>-century German film. Although movies about the past are often unreliable as historical records, they play a major role in shaping the public's perceptions of the past—a larger role in many cases than the work of professional historians. The course looks specifically at how German filmmakers have represented the extremely contentious and emotionally fraught history of their country. The focus will be on depictions of the Nazi era and of its immediate

aftermath in the films of post-War and post-Wall Germany, but we will begin by examining how Nazi filmmakers used history for their own purposes. At the end of the semester, we'll turn to a consideration of how films in the new millennium are representing the history of the other German dictatorship: the regime of Communist East Germany with its infamous secret police, the so-called Stasi.

Grading: three papers dealing with films assigned for the course; and regular class participation. No exams.

**Secularism and Religion in Zionism and Israel**  
**HIS 2152/JHI 2152**  
**M/W 3:00-4:15**  
**Josh Karlip**



From its inception, the Zionist movement has been divided between competing secularist and religious visions of Jewish national renaissance. This division only intensified with the creation of the State of Israel. In this course, we will explore this tension from an historical perspective. The course will examine both secularist and religious trends in Zionism as well as the development of both Zionist and anti-Zionist perspectives within Orthodoxy. It will end with a look at the tensions between *hilonim* and *haredim* in Israel today.

**Puritan New England: From Settlement to Salem**  
**Hist. 2202 (Honors; satisfies CUOT Core requirement)**  
**T 6:45-9:15**  
**Israel Benporat**



This course explores the rise and fall of Puritanism in England and America. Students will examine the origins and evolution of Puritanism and its transplantation to New England, focusing on theology, politics, and law. Other key topics include the English Civil Wars, cross cultural contact, the Salem witchcraft trials, and historical memory. Readings draw from both primary sources and secondary scholarship.

Grading: midterm, final, research paper and presentation

**History of the Jews of New York**  
**HIS 2232/JHI 2232 (Honors)**  
**F 9:30-12:00**  
**Jeffrey Gurock**



Explores the history of the Jews of New York from their arrival in the 17<sup>th</sup> century through the late 19<sup>th</sup> century—the period in which New York became home to the world’s largest Jewish community—to the post-World War II suburban exodus. It concludes by examining the decline and revival of Jewish neighborhoods in New York today.

Grading: midterm and final exams, one paper, class attendance and active participation.

**Ideas of History**

**Hist 3001 (required course for History major; Writing Intensive)**

**T/Th 4:30-5:45**

**Will Stenhouse**



Why read or write history? How can we know about the past? What can historians' work tell us about the period in which they wrote? This course is designed to address these questions, which are fundamental to the discipline of history, by studying a selection of historians from antiquity to the Renaissance. Although we will see that these historians are often very different to contemporary historians in their approaches, by examining their assumptions and practices, we will develop a privileged perspective on history writing today.

Grading: discussion and presentation, short tests, and a research paper.