

Course Descriptions

Fall 2019

[History 429](#) | [History of Chocolate](#) | [Professor Juarez-Dappe](#) | [Wednesday 1600-1845](#) | [SH184](#)

From the Mexicas to Hershey kisses. Learn about how chocolate conquered the world. Study its evolution from a bitter beverage to an aphrodisiac concoction to one of the most globalized commodities in the world. The class will focus on the production, distribution, and consumption of cacao and chocolate as a means to uncover larger historical issues such as pre-Columbian societies, the Columbian exchange, the expansion of global capitalism, slavery, industrialization, and post-colonialism. Background in Latin American history preferred but not required.

[A SPECIAL WORD REGARDING PROSEMINARS AND TUTORIALS](#)

Please note that all Proseminars (497), Tutorials (498), are RESTRICTED classes. This means that enrollment is by consent of the instructor only, and that you CANNOT enroll in them simply by asking for a permission number. You must personally contact the professor so that he/she can determine whether your enrollment is appropriate given the particular content, approach, requirements, and level of the course. Before contacting the professor, be sure you have read the description of the class provided below. The professor will then decide whether to give you a permission number. Also, since these courses fill up quickly, DO NOT wait until your registration date (or even later) to contact the professor. Do so as soon as you have determined that you wish to take the course. Following these procedures will assist both you and your professors.

[History 497B Proseminar: Imperialism, Narcotics and Capitalism: The Opium War, 1839-1842.](#)

[Dr. Richard Horowitz](#) | [Thursday 1900-2145](#) | [SH288](#)

In 1839, Commissioner Lin Zexu arrived in Canton (Guangzhou) tasked with ending the illegal but incredibly lucrative trade in opium. When he destroyed the opium stocks held by merchants – both Chinese and foreign – the British government went to war. Victory in the three yearlong conflict established British dominance in East and Southeast Asia and transformed China's relationship with the rest of the world.

This course will be focused on the origins of the conflict in the Canton trade, the war itself, and its immediate aftermath. It is a research course, and much of the work will be driven by each student's choices of research topics. In this class you will have the opportunity to:

- Learn about the incredibly profitable trade in tea, opium, porcelain, silk and art between China, Europe and North America in the early nineteenth century.
- Study the luxurious world of old Canton, where mercantile wealth attracted artists and craftsmen, courtesans and schemers.
- Explore why rising imports of opium caused social and economic hardship in China.
- Research how profit-seeking merchants encouraged military conflict.
- Consider the arguments that raged over the morality of the opium trade, and over whether legalization would make more sense than banning it
- Investigate both the causes of war and the way the war was conducted
- Explore how new technologies allowed the British to project power across much of China
- Investigate the consequences of the war as a new system of relationships between China and the outside world came into place after 1842.

- You must successfully complete history 301 prior to taking this class. Prior course work on China or the British Empire is helpful but not required. Contact Dr. Horowitz (richard.horowitz@csun.edu) to request a permission number.

History 497C Proseminar: Professor Orlando Rivero-Valde | M/W 1100-1215 | SH302

This seminar focuses on the main political, economic, and cultural achievements and issues of Cuban society from the end of Spanish colonial rule in 1898 through the present. Peasants, urban workers, former slaves, war veterans, students, and common people are main historical actors in this course as much as politicians, state officials, intellectuals and artists, and middle-class professionals. We will try to answer two main questions: What kind of society, citizenship, nation, and republic have the Cubans built, destroyed, and recreated during the last twelve decades? What are the lasting legacies of the Cuban Revolution of 1959 in its 60th anniversary?

During the semester, each student will complete a research essay based on primary sources and secondary sources.

History 498C Tutorial: Gender, Law, and Religion in American History

Professor Joyce L. Broussard | Tuesdays 1600-1845 | SH288

The focus of this tutorial is on the interplay of gender, law, and religion in American history as well as on the nation's hellfire fascination with sin and evil from the colonial period to modern times. Special attention, moreover, will be paid to the impact of gender, religion, sin, and salvation on American law, particularly as it affects any individual's civil, human, or reproductive rights. Among the topics to be explored are the following: nuns as slaveholding mistresses and same-sex male friendships in colonial and early America; the "Mormon Question" and nineteenth century variations on gender roles and the law; female evangelicals and eugenics; "muscular Christianity," interracial marriage, pedophiles, and priests; and God and gays, along with other issues. Students will read and discuss (in class) appropriate scholarly literature; write thesis paragraphs and questions focused on selected books; and produce a well-developed research proposal on an approved, selected topic.

History 498C Tutorial: The French Revolution | Thursdays 1900-2145 | SH 279 | Professor Erik Goldner

What was revolutionary about the French Revolution? Learn about the origins, development, and legacy of the Revolution, not only for France and Europe but also the world. Explore how historians have debated some of the most important questions about the French Revolution, like the origins of the Terror and the rise of Napoleon. If you are interested in the history of revolutions, the emergence of modern political culture, and historical struggles for liberty and equality, this course is for you.

History 498C Tutorial: Professor Moyses Marcos | Mondays 1600-1845 | SH SH279

This reading seminar will explore the development of the Roman Empire over the course of several centuries and what it meant to live in the largest multi-cultural empire of the ancient Mediterranean world. In particular, we will focus on the period from the reign of Augustus (r. 27 BCE – 14 CE), the first Roman emperor, to the reign of Constantine (r. 306 – 337 CE), the first Christian Roman emperor. We will read and study various types of primary sources (literary sources and material culture) that help to illustrate several key themes, such as Roman political culture, image and authority, the transfer of imperial power, integration, assimilation, and resistance, patronage, aristocracy, the rise of cities and urban life, elite women, political (in)stability, the role of government, and competing religious systems. This seminar will consist of weekly readings, discussions, and precis, short analyses of sources, and a 10-12 page research paper.