

## Undergraduate Restricted Course Descriptions for Fall 2020

Below you will find descriptions for some exciting courses which we are offering in Fall semester. Please consult the portal for a complete list of History offerings. Carefully read the descriptions below to discover courses which are interesting to you and relevant for your degree. **All 497/498C courses are restricted and you must contact the instructor for admission to the course and a permission number.** Please email the professor and wait patiently for a response.

### **History 497A Time Traveling to Pre-Modern Europe Mondays 1600-1845 SH279 Professor Oliver**

Ready to build your own Tardis? Or DeLorean?

Using as our models scholarly works such as Keith Hopkins' *A World Full of Gods* and Ian Mortimer's *The Time Traveller's Guide to Medieval England*, this research seminar will direct students to write their own historically accurate time traveler's guide (20 pages) to a particular moment in the pre-modern West. Events or periods from the late Roman Empire to the Reformation will be considered fair game. Email: [coliver@csun.edu](mailto:coliver@csun.edu)

### **History 497B History of Race in America Thursdays 1600-1845 SH268 Professor Sides**

In this course, we will focus on the history of race in the United States, eyeing the ways in which Americans created and maintained racial categories that many people now regard as immutable. The settlers' early experiences with indigenous people and the gradual introduction of a slave-based economy engraved race into American law and consciousness, with profound ramifications for future generations, and for the present. Email: [josh.sides@csun.edu](mailto:josh.sides@csun.edu)

### **History 497C: Tutorial in History Mondays and Wednesdays 11-1215 SH288 Professor Howes**

The most important sources for the history of the pre-modern Middle East are narrative and literary sources. While historians of the Middle East in the period before 1800 do use other sources, the narrative and literary sources form the backbone of most studies and provide context for the rest. Thus, this class will focus on these sources, and students will learn how to develop a research project based on them. While Dr. Howes' field of study, and thus the focus of the class, is the Middle East, she encourages students who are interested in comparative topics in pre-modern history to use this class to develop those interests.

The focus of this course will be the production of an article-length paper based on primary sources. With guidance from Dr. Howes, students will be encouraged to pick and read one pre-modern Middle Eastern historian or historical narrative in translation, develop and research a topic that begins with that historian, and write and write a 20-30 page paper on that subject. Students will be expected to base this paper largely on primary sources. Students can choose from of a variety of texts: religious and political literature, poetry and prose, as well

as more traditional historical texts such as chronicles and biographies. Email: [Rachel.howes@csun.edu](mailto:Rachel.howes@csun.edu)

**History 498C: Tutorial in History Tuesdays 1900-2015 SH288**  
**Professor Neirick**

This course examines the history of Soviet and post-Soviet Russian cinema. Students will view and discuss films that exemplify succeeding periods in Russia's cinematic history, including the avant-garde experimental cinema of the 1920s, Stalin-era socialist realist musical comedies, wartime propaganda films, late Soviet films that document the crimes of the Soviet state and dramatize the disintegration of Soviet society, and the first post-Soviet Russian blockbusters. Students will also be asked to read criticism of the individual films, scholarship pertaining to the institutional history of the Soviet and post-Soviet Russian film industry, and primary documents relating to cinematic aesthetics and production. Email: [Miriam.neirick@csun.edu](mailto:Miriam.neirick@csun.edu)

**History 498C: Weimar Germany Mondays & Wednesdays 1230-1345 SH186**  
**Professor O'Sullivan**

Imperial Germany lost the First World War and became the "Weimar Republic". The 1920s were a period of turbulent upheaval, economic challenges and cultural beginnings. Using first-hand sources, we will get a better understanding of the lives of ordinary Germans in this time. You will learn how Germans debated the pros and cons of democracy, staged revolutionary plays, influenced world art, and witnessed the rise of Nazi extremists. Reading-intensive. Email: [donal.osullivan@csun.edu](mailto:donal.osullivan@csun.edu)