

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Undergraduate Course Descriptions – Fall 2022

Below you will find descriptions for upper-division seminars and tutorials which the History Department will be offering in Fall 2022. Please refer to the [course catalog](#) for a complete list of History course descriptions.

An important note regarding HIST497 (Research Seminar) and HIST498 (Reading Tutorial): These classes are often viewed as a kind of culminating experience for history majors. All history majors must take HIST497 (Research Seminar) and HIST498 (Reading Tutorial) in order to graduate. We strongly recommend that you take these classes in different semesters. These seminar-style classes are capped at 15 students to allow you to delve deeply into a reading topic (498) or to conduct primary source research (497). They also provide wonderful opportunities to create and experience intellectual communities in the classroom (actual or virtual).

Permission numbers are **not** required to enroll in HIST497 or HIST498.

Please note that if you failed HIST497/498 and must retake it, you should contact the History Department office as soon as possible, and ideally before the start of enrollment. For these emergency situations, the department will be able to provide you with a permission number to ensure that you get the seminar you need to substitute for the failed seminar so you can graduate.

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HIST 497A (12692) PROSEMINAR: Chocolate: mass consumption and advertising during the 19th and 20th centuries

Dr. Juarez-Dappe | TR 1400-1515 | SH184

People have been consuming chocolate for over 3000 years. A Mesoamerican legacy to the world, the European nobility quickly adopted chocolate as their favorite beverage and a powerful status symbol. During the 19th century, modern processing techniques and the expansion of cacao production into new areas made chocolate available to the masses and changed its social identity for ever. This seminar focuses on chocolate advertising during the 19th and 20th centuries. It addresses the role of ads as texts that illuminate social and cultural norms of a region and a period. After discussing the history of chocolate and the evolution of the advertising industry, students will examine chocolate ads and their representations of gender, race, indigenous cultures, and sex, among other important topics. It is recommended (not required) that students have some background in world history or the history of chocolate in order to enroll in this class.

HIST 497B (12733) PROSEMINAR: The Opium Wars

Dr. Richard Horowitz | R 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 Chinese and foreign merchants the British government went to war. Victory in the three year-long conflict established British dominance in East and Southeast Asia and transformed China's relationship with the world. But just fourteen years later, unsatisfied with the results of the first conflict, British diplomats manufactured an incident to start a second war which would last four years and end with British and French troops marching to Beijing and looting the Qing Emperor's magnificent Summer Palace. The two wars and the events which led up to them are the focus of this seminar.

This course is a research course. The first six weeks will involve reading scholarship on the period; then students will undertake their own research projects. Projects will focus on the trade in opium, tea, and other products, the origins and conduct of the two wars, piracy and other forms of violence, missionary work, and diplomacy. No prior knowledge of the subject matter is necessary, but some summer reading is recommended. If you have questions, please contact Dr. Horowitz (richard.horowitz@csun.edu)

HIST 497C (12735) PROSEMINAR: The History of the US Housing Market from the Great Depression to the Financial Meltdown

Instructor TBA | M 1900-2145 | SH288

In 1618, the Virginia Company began the Headright System that granted land to settlers who met specific requirements. This program recognized the importance of land ownership and government intervention to the American story from the beginning. The family farm epitomized the American dream of private property for three centuries until the single-family dwelling supplanted it in the early twentieth century, and all the while the government involvement that began in colonial Virginia expanded and intensified. History 497 will focus on the housing market in the later period of American history from the Great Depression through the Financial Meltdown. Students will research primary documents and secondary sources as the basis for a research project that fulfills the department's

proseminar requirement. You can examine government institutions (the FHA, HUD, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Ginnie Mae to name a few); legislation (the G.I. Bill, the Community Reinvestment Act, the Truth in Lending Act,); financial institutions (Countrywide, Bear Stearns, Indy Mac, Washington Mutual); individuals (Brooksley Born, Alan Greenspan, James A. Johnson); cultural themes (white flight, urban renewal, the era of housing projects, the rise of suburbia, tract housing, planned communities) and executive orders among others. The first part of the course will focus on creating a research question. The second part will concentrate on locating relevant primary and secondary sources. The third part will aim to craft an interpretation of the evidence. In the last part of the class students will polish and finalize the research project.

HIST 498C (12222) TUTORIAL: Mayan Religion and Social Change: From the Popol Vuh to Protestantism

Dr. Fitzpatrick Behrens | F 0930-1215 | SH288

This class will examine the history of Maya society in Mesoamerica through a study of religion and its role in social change. Anthropologists studying Maya communities in the 1940s and 1950s suggested that religion was the heart of Maya identity – the means by which communities maintained their unity and cultural integrity. They suggested that in the face of violent conquest and conversion by the Spanish, Mayas re-asserted their traditional practices through the guise of embracing Catholic constructs. Thus, while Mayas identified as Catholic in the twentieth century, anthropologists claimed that Maya Catholicism was merely a thin veneer hiding pre-Colombian faith and practices.

This class will take as a point of departure the claim that religion is indeed central to Maya communities, but it will suggest that it is also the principal means by which communities change and restructure their social and political order. We will thus examine a series of highly conflictual religious encounters and the way that Mayas engaged new religious faith and practices to restructure their communities and to redefine their relations with outsiders, while at the same time retaining core Maya cultural practices of faith and identity. Our study will begin with the pre-Colombian period and conclude with contemporary conversion to Protestantism. The class will use primary and secondary sources including the Popol Vuh and the Chilam Balam de Chumayel, anthropologists' accounts of Maya religion in the early twentieth century, and contemporary Maya critiques of those accounts. These written sources will be complimented by films and photographs.

HIST 498C (12523) TUTORIAL: Contested Memory – Ukraine and Russia

Dr. O'Sullivan | M 1600-1845 | SH279

The Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 demonstrated the volatility of historical narratives: For the Russian elites, Ukraine has a central space in the quest for regaining influence. In Moscow's worldview, Ukrainians do not have a separate identity, and their state should not exist. By contrast, Ukrainians consider their language and culture as separate, and they see their history as different from Russia's. History students have a unique opportunity to understand the power of memory: in East-Central Europe, the past is truly not past, and it is certainly not forgotten. In this discussion-based class, you will trace the different narratives through snapshots in time: from the Kievan Rus' to the Cossacks and the development of Ukrainian self-consciousness in the Russian Empire. We will debate the historical merits of controversies and relate them to contemporary events and conflicts.

HIST 498C (12727) TUTORIAL: The History of Soviet Film

Dr. Neirick | T 1600-1845 | SH288

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.

HIST 498C (12864) TUTORIAL: Topics in U.S. Environmental History

Dr. Zappia | W 1600-1845 | TBA

In this course you will explore the environmental history of the United States over the past 1,000 years. The themes you will learn about include environmental encounters, land use, food and energy consumption/production, and eco-historical borderlands, urbanization, and environmental justice movements. In recent years, the field of American environmental history has undergone a wave of innovative scholarship, incorporating new interdisciplinary methodologies, sources, and theories. Yet, the field has deep "roots" reaching back to the seminal works of William Cronon and Alfred Crosby. You will dive into this rich historiography, tracing these continuities but also embracing the disruptions in the field. Tackling wide-ranging regions and timescales, you will learn about the eco-historical dimensions of the Atlantic World, Pacific Rim, the "Interior Worlds" of Indigenous North America, mining frontiers, and the modern environmental movement.