

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
Graduate Course Descriptions
Fall 2024

Below you will find detailed descriptions of the graduate courses which the History Department will be offering in Fall 2024. Please refer to the [course catalog](#) for a complete list of courses and descriptions. 500-level courses are reading colloquia; 600-level courses, except for HIST 601 and HIST 694, are research seminars.

Permission numbers are **not** required to enroll in graduate courses except for HIST 694.

CONTENTS

HIST 541 (20879): Modern European History.....	1
HIST 579 (20880): Topics in US Cultural History	2
HIST 601 (12183): Theory and Historiography	1
HIST 692A (21061): Research Seminar in Early American Borderlands	2
HIST 694 (12266): Practicum for Teaching Assistants	2

HIST 601 (12183): THEORY AND HISTORIOGRAPHY

Dr. Josh Sides | T 1600-1845 | MA217

Sophisticated, graduate-level introduction to history as a discipline. Surveys the development of history as a discipline, examines the various genres of historical writing, explores issues and problems of historical interpretation, and considers the how historians use theoretical models from other disciplines to shape their work. Readings include seminal works by major historians.

HIST 541 (20879): MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY

Dr. Donal O’Sullivan | W 1600-18:45 | SH288

The course provides students with an overview of significant historiographical debates in Modern European History since the French Revolution. Each week we will address a major debate by studying ground-breaking contributions and discussing the merits of different approaches. The emphasis will be on developing the skills to assess scholarly debates in their respective context and be able to critically analyze their contributions to the discipline. Students should have a general overview of recent European history (1789-1989), gained from participating in a lower-level survey class or through self-study. The course will deepen students’ understanding of history as a continuous conversation as well as improving debating and writing skills.

HIST 579 (20880): TOPICS IN US CULTURAL HISTORY

Dr. Thomas Devine | TH 1600-1845 | MA217

This course will examine the ways in which different individuals and groups have exercised cultural influence in American life and have contributed to what we call, perhaps somewhat awkwardly, “American culture.” Through readings and class discussion, we will be exploring how nineteenth and twentieth century Americans understood, shaped, and participated in their worlds through the medium of the popular arts. Themes will include:

- the social construction of race and the “racializing” of popular culture
- the struggle over who defines “acceptable” culture (highbrows vs lowbrows; performers vs audiences; market forces vs artists)
- the influence of economic factors on cultural production
- the role of popular culture in shaping class, regional, and national identities
- the relationship between popular culture and reform movements
- the cultural significance of attitudes about gender and gender roles
- the intersection of popular culture and political culture

Requirements include leading a discussion, an oral presentation, a written summary of one week’s readings, a short analytical paper, a longer historiographical essay on a topic of your choice, and active class participation.

HIST 692A (21061): RESEARCH SEMINAR IN EARLY AMERICAN BORDERLANDS

Dr. John Paul Nuno | M 1900-2145 | SH288

Students will conduct primary source research in order to write an original essay on a topic related to the early American Borderlands. This course will focus on the 1780-1830 period when the United States was a young nation facing many challenges and possible outcomes. Not yet a dominant power, the United States began the long process of trying to control its frontiers and borderlands. These contact zones consisted of interactions, negotiations, and conflicts between diverse groups of African, Indigenous, and European peoples. Their relations led to a comingling of different notions of race, identity, political organization, economic exchanges, and gender. Students will analyze traditional historical topics of the Early American Republic from a Borderlands perspective. Papers will emphasize the importance of contingency as a historical theme. Potential research topics include Native relations under the Washington Administration, Little Turtle’s resistance movement, the Alien and Sedition Acts, Native resistance during the War of 1812, the Seminole Wars, and the removal of Native peoples.

HIST 694 (12266): PRACTICUM FOR TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Staff | TBA | TBA

Working under the close supervision of departmental faculty and assigned to a specific undergraduate History course, students gain experience creating assignments, grading papers and exams, leading discussion and review sessions, and giving lectures. Students will also have the opportunity to discuss issues and problems in teaching. May be repeated once for credit. Interested students should email the Graduate Coordinator, Rachel.Howes@csun.edu, for a permission number.