

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
Undergraduate Course Descriptions – Spring 2024

Below you will find descriptions for upper-division seminars and tutorials which the History Department will be offering in Spring 2024. Please refer to the [course catalog](#) for a complete list of History courses.

**An important note regarding HIST497 (Research Seminar) and HIST498 (Reading Tutorial):** These classes are often viewed as culminating experiences 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, and, if possible, that you don't leave HIST 497 for your final semester. 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.

***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 497P (20290) PROSEMINAR: The History of Race in America**

Dr. Josh Sides | Th 1600-1845 | SH288

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In this course, we will study the ways in which Americans have created, understood, and maintained the concept of race.

## **HIST 497U (20289) PROSEMINAR: Chocolate: Mass Consumption and Advertising during the 19th and 20th Centuries**

Dr. Juarez-Dappe | W 1600-1845 | SH288

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 497W (20291) PROSEMINAR: Travel, Sojourning, & Migration in the Mid-Twentieth Century World**

Dr. Horowitz | TTH 1400-1515 | SH288

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In this research seminar, we will be utilizing the remarkable holding of CSUN Library's special collections to explore how individuals experienced travel, sojourning and migration during the mid-twentieth century. We will use as our starting point the experiences of "Old China Hands" – foreigners who lived in China in the decades prior to the Communist Revolution in 1949. These included refugees from the Bolsheviks, the Nazis who found safe harbor in Shanghai and other Chinese cities when most countries restricted immigration, Americans serving in the military or government, and people who were part of missionary or charitable groups. There were some who traveled for business and for pleasure. We will look at letters, memoirs, oral history accounts, photos, legal and personal documents, and other ephemera as we reconstruct how people experienced living outside of their native places in the from the 1920s to the 1950s. Students will create individual research projects using primary source materials that relate to migration, travel, and sojourning – either using the Old China Hands materials or other primary source materials from CSUN special collections or other archives.

## HIST 498C (12214) TUTORIAL: The World Since 1945 through Film, Literature, History

Dr. Fitzpatrick-Behrens | TH 1900-2145 | SH288

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*If they get you asking the wrong questions,*

*they don't have to worry about answers.*

Thomas Pynchon, *Gravity's Rainbow*

In this class, we will see the world since 1945 as it has been described and created by international film makers. Each class session will be devoted to a distinct issue, region, and decade. Throughout the semester we will examine film as historical narrative, focusing on how different authors, directors, and producers create windows onto the world. We will watch the films in conjunction with core readings that will place each topic and region into the broader context of global history. At the same time, we will work consistently to see how distinct issues and challenges transcend global regions and time periods. The course will carry us from decolonization in Africa, through the Civil Rights Movement in the United States, to Revolutionary movements in Latin America.

As the Thomas Pynchon quote suggests, we will be more concerned about developing questions about the World Since 1945 than we will be with articulating answers. Within the broad themes of the course, we will be especially concerned with trying to understand how dynamics of religion, gender, and race have played out in the post-World War II era. We will begin with two very broad premises and will keep asking what happened, how, and why. The first premise is that in the aftermath of World War II two ideals and goals dominated the western world. The first stemmed directly from the devastation of the Holocaust and the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The western world claimed that "never again" would nations stand by as silent witnesses to the massacre of innocent people. The second premise was that the best way to prevent violent global conflict was by promoting a capitalist system of international exchange that made all nations interdependent.

While it might be argued that the second goal has been achieved through the globalization witnessed in the past two decades, the first clearly has not. Rather than marking the end of genocide, the Holocaust seemed instead to establish the beginning of a half-century of genocide. Yet the period since 1945 has also been one of extraordinary creativity and transformation. We will seek to examine and to understand these dynamics and the opportunities created and limitations imposed during the past half century plus.

## **HIST 498C (12563) TUTORIAL: Big Money! Big Money! Money in World History**

Dr. Goldner | T 1600-1845 | MA314

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How has money changed the world? How has the world changed money? Explore how money, credit, and debt have interacted with individuals, groups, and societies in world history. Read and write about the different ways historians have thought about money over time. Better understand how money has shaped the world we live in.

## **HIST 498C (12685) TUTORIAL: Public History Project – Los Angeles State Historic Park**

Dr. Kim | M 1600-1845 | MA232

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State and national parks are locations where millions of visitors encounter narratives about the past (think about the visitor center or historical signage you may have encountered during your last visit to a state or national park). This course is a unique partnership with the California State Parks system designed to involve students in research and historical interpretation for Los Angeles State Historic Park in downtown Los Angeles. We will explore the history of the area and the role it played in the founding and growth of the city. We will also consider the role of activism and the environmental justice movement in calling for more park spaces in communities of color and in the creation of the Los Angeles State Historic Park. In addition to conducting original research, we will create a zine on the history of the park as well as a social media campaign and a series of public events designed to engage diverse communities in conversations about Los Angeles' past.

