

## Undergraduate Course Descriptions – Spring 2021

Below you will find descriptions for some exciting courses which we are offering in Spring 2021 semester. Please refer to the [course catalog](#) for a complete list of History course descriptions.. Carefully read the descriptions below to discover courses which are interesting to you and relevant for your degree.

### **An important note regarding HIST498: History Reading Seminar and HIST497: History Research Seminar:**

These seminars are a type of culminating experience for history majors. All history students must take HIST497 (Research Seminar) and HIST498 (Reading Seminar). We strongly encourage you to take these classes in different semesters. The seminars are capped at 15 students. They also allow you to delve deeply into a reading topic (498) or to conduct primary source research (497). The seminars also provide wonderful opportunities to create and experience intellectual communities in the classroom (actual or virtual).

In the past, we have asked students to contact faculty to request permission numbers to add both HIST497 and 498. We found that this approach created a lot of confusion and invariably graduating seniors who needed the class were caught without a permission number. As a result, we are trying a new approach.

**The history department will not require faculty permission numbers to add HIST497/498 in Spring 2021. Instead, all sections of 497/498 will be reserved for graduating seniors (90 units or more) from the first day of enrollment until December 9, 2020. If you are a graduating senior, please enroll in the class of your choice as early as possible.**

On December 10, 2020, the remaining seats in HIST497/498 will be open to students with junior status.

Please note that if you failed HIST497/498 and must retake it, you should contact the history department immediately – ideally before the start of enrollment. For these emergency situations, the department will be able to provide 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 485C: AM REV-WORLD PERS**

Note: this course, HIST 485C, is not yet available for registration. History majors will be notified as soon as the course is available for enrollment.

Class No. 21069

ONLINE: T 1900-2145

Professor: Neirick, Miriam B

Analysis of the second U.S.-Iraq war, with an emphasis in U.S involvement, from its inception and planning through the phases of invasion, occupation, insurgency, sectarian conflict, counter-insurgency, and U.S. withdrawal of forces. The experiences of soldiers and post-combat veterans will also be studied.

### **HIST 496EH: US ENVIRO HIST / U.S. Environmental History**

Class No. 21068

ONLINE: MW 1100-1215

Professor: Zappia, Natale

This course explores the environmental history of North America until the expansion of modern industrial agriculture. It additionally focuses on the environmental history of California through the lens of environmental history. Themes include environmental encounters, land use, consumption, production, and trading routes. This course also requires participation in the

sustainable campus garden as a “food lab” where we will produce micro-food systems in colonial and modern contexts. In the lab you will learn and demonstrate basic urban farming skills that connect with the course readings, discussions, and assignments. Environmental History deals with evolution of land use, food systems, and their accompanying belief systems. Thus, this course will deeply enrich students’ exploration of the cultural, historical, and institutional frames that compose an ecological imaginary of sustainable systems.

### **HIST 497A: PROSEMINAR / The British Empire**

Class No. 12780

ONLINE: T 1600-1845

Professor: Auerbach, Jeffrey A

At its height, the British Empire was the largest empire in the history of the world, encompassing one-quarter of the globe and embracing hundreds of millions of men and women from Antigua to Zimbabwe. This course is designed to satisfy the proseminar requirement of the history major by giving you the opportunity to research and write an original essay on a topic of your choice based on relevant primary and secondary sources. Topics can focus on individuals (from famous administrators and explorers such as Cecil Rhodes and David Livingstone to less well-known men and women including Australian convicts and governesses); events (The India Mutiny of 1857, the discovery of gold in South Africa); locations; political debates; art, advertising, and propaganda; the monarchy; violence; crime; the environment; education; music (Gilbert & Sullivan); economics (imports, exports, the slave trade); novels (*Passage to India*, *King’s Solomon’s Mines*); colonial resistance (Gandhi, Nkrumah); and decolonization, to list just a few possibilities. Prerequisite: Successful completion of History 301. Required reading over winter break: Niall Ferguson, *Empire*.

### **HIST 497B: PROSEMINAR**

Class No. 12819

ONLINE: MW 1230-1345

Professor: Addison, Kathleen

This seminar focuses on the public spectacle of murder occupying a place in public discourse in the 19-20<sup>th</sup> century. The broad interest in the subject and the process became part of social media of the time through several factors: improved technology, both in forensics and communications; increased ideas of modernism and the transgressions of social behavior; changing ideas of morals and values in the Victorian sphere (even beyond England); and increasing modernization of the bureaucratic process with respect to police forces and administration of justice.

Within that context, however, the studies we will be using can be evaluated in many different ways: gender roles, public space, class consciousness, ritual/religious murder of “outsiders” in a community, developing interests in the psychology of murder, and the variances in calls for public justice.

**HIST 497C: PROSEMINAR / Imagining America: Antebellum Transitions, Reforms, and Expansion**

Class No. 12820

ONLINE: W 1600-1845

Professor: Ward, Michael

This course will explore the evolution of American culture from the Federalist Era to the Age of Jackson, and from then to the Civil War. In this proseminar students will gain exposure one of the more dynamic periods in America history, where old cultural forms gave way to the rise of American capitalism, market expansion, and territorial growth, the emergence of the middle and working classes, redefinitions of family and gender roles, real estate bubbles and crashes, bank failures, episodes of social experimentation and reforms, and struggles between national and regional identities. By sampling from, and examining the excellent scholarship on this remarkable and formative period in U.S. history, students will gain insights into the historical foundations of American culture. The second part of the course will center on student research papers that will utilize a range of primary sources related to topics that they will choose within the contexts of the pre-Civil War United States.

**HIST 498C: TUTORIAL IN HIST / Feast, Fast, and Famine: Dimensions of Food in the Middle East**

Class No. 12374

ONLINE: TR 1400-1515

Professor: Howes, Rachel T

Food, its production, distribution, consumption, meaning, and enjoyment is crucial to any society. The Middle East in the Islamic period is no exception. The subject of food has also in recent years become a very productive arena of study for many historians and has allowed them insights into realms of study as varied as cultural interactions, economic status, and climatic change. This 498 will allow students to sample some of the different ways that the study of food in the Middle East has been approached by modern, early modern, and medieval scholars alike. We will examine topics that range from agriculture, science, and economics to cultural norms, cultural exchange, and gastronomy. The class will be divided into three parts. The first will examine food production and the economics of food in the Middle East. The second will the impact of food security and insecurity in various times and places in the Middle East, and the third part will examine cultural and religious aspects of food in the Middle East. Assignments will largely consist of reading and participating in class, but will also include several short papers and a final project that focuses on some aspect of food in the Middle East.

**HIST 498C: TUTORIAL IN HIST / History of Fascism in Europe**

Class No. 12730

ONLINE: MW 1100-1215

Professor: O'Sullivan, Donal B

How do authoritarian leaders from the Right command popular support? Find out why economic crisis, social change and wars provided a fertile ground for populist movements exploiting

patriotism and cultural anxieties. Was national socialism and fascism the last tool of capitalism, as the Communists claimed? Or was it more complicated than that? What about collaborators, enablers and bystanders? What role did intimidation and violence play? Was fascism “backwards” and anti-modern? Using the examples of Germany, Italy, Spain and France, the class will explore theories and interpretations from 20th century case studies. We will also read a German diary recording thoughts and feelings about living in Hitler’s Germany. Examples from architecture and art will help us understand the aesthetics of fascism. No prior knowledge necessary.

**HIST 498C: TUTORIAL IN HIST / The American dream of home ownership from the Great Depression through the Financial Meltdown**

Class No. 12874

ONLINE: R 1900-2145

Professor: Traviolia, Tristan

The Great Depression made millions of Americans homeless, and prompted the New Deal to interceded in the nation’s housing market in an unprecedented fashion. This federal government intervention grew steadily during the last half of the twentieth century and worked with private sector institutions to create a golden age for the American dream of home ownership. The Financial Meltdown brought that heyday to an abrupt end.

History 498C will study the history of the housing industry from the 1930s through the early twenty-first century so that students will understand the successes and failures of public and private policy in this critical sector of the United States’ economy.