History
Course Offerings
Fall 2015

What is History?

Understanding the present is what the study of history is all about. We all struggle to understand the world presented to us on the evening news. Eventually, most of us realize that we need a historical perspective to make sense of the dramatic changes and events in our world. That’s why our classes are so popular.

The students in our classes aren’t all history majors, but they are all driven to find answers about the present. And we know that many of those answers are buried in the past. Our faculty are experts at helping you find answers, whether they are embedded in the history of the British empire or American Indian history or African American history. But remember, as you dig through history for answers, you may find that the questions change. That’s why this is such an exciting field of study.
HISTORY Major and/or Minor
What classes do I need?

**Major (40 credits)**

- 8 credits at the 100 level
  - Lower Division  HIST ________ HIST________

HIST 200 (prerequisite for HIST 395)

24 credits at the 300 level, including HIST 395 (prerequisite for HIST 399), and HIST 399.

  - Upper Division  HIST ________HIST________
  - Upper Division  HIST ________HIST________

HIST 395
HIST 399

* HIST 399 must be taken during spring semester of junior year or during the senior year and requires at least a C grade for completion of the major.

Note: With advisor approval, HIST 200, HIST 395, and HIST 399 can be repeated for credit.

**Minor (20 credits)**

4 credits at the 100 level

  - Lower Division  HIST ________

*HIST 200 (required for students matriculating Fall 2015)

*Students enrolled prior to fall 2015 are required to take 8 credits at the lower level.

12 credits at the 300 level

  - Upper Division  HIST ________HIST________HIST________

**CORE DESIGNATIONS for Fall 2015 include:**

**HUMANITIES:**
HIST 114, 121, 141,142, 152, 319, 322, 329,337,346, 350, 353, 357

**INTERCULTURAL:**
HIST 322, 329, 346

**GENDER:**
HIST 350, 353

**EXPERIENTIAL:**
HIST 399
HIST 141: Europe from Black Death to the French Revolution (HM)
Dr. Elisabeth Wengler, T/TH, 8:20, CSB
Was the early modern period a time of fervent faith and intellectual traditionalism? Or was it an age of discovery where reason and science triumphed? Our examination of European history between the Black Death and Napoleon will investigate the tension between traditionalism and discovery by looking at the changing nature of religious and secular authority, intellectual developments in art, science, and philosophy and the origins of the modern state.

HIST 142-01A: Europe Since 1750: Old Regime to European Union (HM)
Dr. Gregory Schroeder, M/W/F, 8:20, CSB
This course examines major themes in European history since roughly 1750. Students will study the French Revolution and its legacy; the significance of class, gender, and religion for European society; nationalism and identity; world wars in the 20th century; imperialism and its aftermath; and the European Union.

HIST 142-02A: Europe Since 1750: Old Regime to European Union (HM)
Dr. Cynthia Curran, T/TH, 9:55, CSB
This course examines European history since 1750, prior to the French Revolution, and concludes with transformation of the continent in the European Union. Students will examine various themes that shaped this period of revolution, modernization, and transformation in European society.

HIST 329: Colonialism & Culture: Everyday Life in the British Empire (HM, IC)
Dr. Cynthia Curran, T/TH, 1:05, CSB
How did the experiences of colonialism impact the lives of ordinary men and women throughout the British Empire? This class examines the political debates, popular culture, changing legal codes, and literary accounts of life in the Empire during the 19th and 20th centuries. We will examine the ideological underpinnings of imperialism and the ways in which it changed ideas about race, culture, gender, and national identity. Readings for the class will include scholarly books, as well as fictional works, films, speeches, advertisements, and political pamphlets. These texts will reveal the profound impact that colonialism had in the shaping of national identities in Britain, Africa, and Asia.

HI 337: The Age of Reformation (HM, TU)
Dr. Elisabeth Wengler, T/TH, 11:30, CSB
A study of the Protestant and Catholic Reformations in the 16th and 17th centuries with a particular emphasis on social history, including the causes and characteristics of religious change and its effects on European society and culture. Topics include the reception and implementation of the Protestant Reformation, Catholic responses to this challenge, radical religious movements, the role of women in religious reform, changes in family relations, and popular religion.

HIST 346: Cold War Europe (HM, IC)
Dr. Gregory Schroeder, MWF, 1:00, CSB
After the Second World War, European countries entered a new era shaped by the ideologies of the victors: the era of the Cold War. The conflict divided Europe politically, economically, culturally, and even physically between the US-oriented West and the Soviet-dominated East. This division, which ultimately spread from Europe to the rest of the globe, determined much of the world in the second half of the 20th century. We will begin with an overview of the Cold War era to explore basic political, economic, social, and cultural developments after the unprecedented disruptions caused by the Second World War. Then we will examine more closely four case studies: Poland and its postwar memory; Czechoslovakia and its culture under communism; East and West Germany and their divided nationality; and France and its postcolonial identity and society. Course materials will include a basic textbook, scholarly books and articles, literature, films and documentaries, and primary sources. Students will be evaluated on the basis of discussion and several essays.
HIST 121: Aztecs, Incas, and Mayas: From Indigenous Empires to Colonized Peoples (HM)
Dr. Brian Larkin, M/W/F, 9:30, CSB
This course examines the history of three indigenous peoples — the Aztecs, Incas, and Mayas — from the rise of indigenous empires in the 1400s through their conquest and colonization by the Spanish. Students will study everyday life among these pre-Columbian indigenous peoples, examine how small groups of Spaniards conquered these grand civilizations, and investigate how Spanish colonization transformed indigenous society and culture as Indians resisted and accommodated colonial rule.

HIST 322: Modern Mexico (HM, Intercultural)
Dr. Brian Larkin, MWF, 11:50, CSB
Mexico has been called the US’s “distant neighbor.” It is one of our largest trading partners, millions of US tourists have visited Mexico, and the US population of Mexican descent is growing rapidly. Despite these significant links between Mexico and the US, most of us know very little about Mexico. And, what we do know is generally a source of concern: undocumented immigration, drug trafficking, political corruption, economic crisis, and even insurrection. But Mexican reality is much more complex (and interesting).

This course traces the history of Mexico from Independence in 1821 to the present. Although we will examine Mexico’s political development since 1821, this course focuses mostly on the social and cultural history of Mexico. We will explore Mexico’s ethnic diversity, national identity, religious traditions, and gender patterns and how all these elements changed over time—from a chaotic nineteenth attempt to forge an independent nation, through the throws of the Mexican Revolution, to the present-day struggles between the state and drug cartels.

ASIA

HIST 115: East Asia Since 1800 (HM)
Dr. Elisheva Perelman, MWF, 1:00, CSB
A survey of continuity and change in the modern transformation of China (including the PRC, Hong Kong and Taiwan), Korea, Japan and Vietnam. This course examines each country’s role in the other’s development; the impact of Western imperialism on the “modernization” of the region since 1800; and the implications of the “Asian Century.”

HIST 319: Modern Japan: 1868-Present (HM)
Dr. Elisheva Perelman, MWF, 10:40, CSB
This course traces Japan’s modern transformation from feudal kingdoms to economic superpower. Beginning with the Meiji Restoration of 1868, we will analyze the role of domestic change and international forces in the political, social, intellectual, cultural, and economic aspects of Japan’s dramatic emergence on the world stage. Through biographies, novels, newspaper articles, and videotapes, we will pay careful attention to Japan’s relationships with its Asian neighbors, its interchange with the West, and the development of Japan’s unique form of capitalism and economic security.
HIST 152: American Experience (HM)
Dr. Shannon Smith, T/TH, 1:05, CSB
This course surveys the history of the United States from the Civil War to the present day. We will explore the social experience of living in the U.S., the cultural ideas Americans used to understand their world, and the political and economic structures that shaped individual lives. We will specifically address the meanings of equality and citizenship. Who has been included or excluded from being an “American,” and how has this changed over time? We will use primary sources and scholarly articles to explore why the past matters to us in the present and to practice skills of critical thinking and analytical reading and writing.

HIST 152: American Experience (HM)
Dr. Jonathan Nash, MWF, 10:40, CSB
What is the American Experience? This question drives our exploration of the North American past from the early-seventeenth century to the mid-nineteenth century. The historical themes of violence, empire, liberty and faith guide our study. To help us understand these themes and the experiences of Americans, we will read and discuss historical monographs and primary documents. During the semester, students will have opportunities to strengthen their analytical reading, critical thinking, argumentative writing, and public speaking.

HIST 152: American Experience (HM)
Dr. Derek Larson, T/TH, 2:20, SJU
This course explores the history of the United States in the twentieth century, paying particular attention to events that have helped shape various communities within the nation and to the ongoing struggle to define just what “American” means. Topics covered will include changes in social, political, and economic life; the environment; race and gender relations; the growth of cities and industry; the American role in global conflicts; the progress of technology; the impacts of immigration and internal migration; and the role of popular culture in American society. We will approach the study of history with three major goals in mind: to develop knowledge of the basic “facts” of American history; to learn to think, speak, and write analytically about the past; and to better understand ourselves and the various communities to which we belong.

HIST 350: Early America (HM, GE)
Dr. Jonathan Nash, T/TH, 2:40, CSB
Through discussion, reading, and writing we will explore the development of colonial society and culture. We will look at the role of ideas, religion, gender, and race in the formation of regional differences and “American” identity. Many students have studied Columbus, Pocahontas, and the Mayflower since first grade. This will not be a repeat of what you already know, but it will call on you to play active parts in the class, in leading discussions, in forming the questions that will shape our explorations.

HIST 353: Civil War and Reconstruction (HM, GE)
Dr. Shannon Smith, MWF, 9:30, CSB
This course will explore the causes of the American Civil War, the experiences of war for soldiers, African Americans, and women at home, and the varied meanings and results of Reconstruction. We will also analyze the continuing relevance of the war in American society—in battles over state and individual rights, race, region, and memory. Using primary sources, scholarly articles, films, novels, and images, we will consider why the Civil War continues to evoke an emotional response today. Although topics will include some military history, the course will focus primarily on the cultural, social, and political ramifications of events.

HIST 357: U.S. From WWI to 1960 (HM)
Dr. Derek Larson, T/TH, 11:10, SJU
The period between 1920 and 1960 was marked by fundamental shifts in almost every aspect of American life. Technologically it spanned the gaps between horses and superhighways, telegraphs and computer networks, zeppelins and rocket ships, TNT and hydrogen bombs. Economically it ran from the unregulated boom of the 1920s, through the depths of the Great Depression, and into one of the longest periods of sustained economic growth in our nation’s history. Politically it saw the end of the American socialist and Communist parties as significant players and the rise of new post-war coalitions and regional coalitions that reshaped political landscapes. International conflicts of this era, including WWII and the Cold War, continue to influence diplomatic, cultural, and economic relationships well into the 21st century. Cultural shifts— including expanded civil rights for minorities and women as well as emerging generational divisions—yielded striking changes in communities across the nation, all during a period in which the US population grew by 75%. Hist 357 will explore the key events of these four tumultuous decades, including the economy of the "Roaring 20s," the political and cultural responses to the Great Depression, life in wartime America of the 1940s, and the post-war economic and social changes that gave rise to the Baby Boom and greater economic opportunity for more Americans than ever before. We will examine primary and secondary sources ranging from novels to scholarly articles, popular films to newspaper advertisements, all with the goals of developing your sense of what happened during these decades, why those events happened, and what the longer-term consequences were for the American people.
Majors' Courses

HIST 200B: History Colloquium
Dr. Shannon Smith, MWF, 11:50

History in Popular Culture
Gripping stories from U.S. history provide the foundation for many popular films, novels, television shows, and other media. How do creators of those popular works decide which stories to tell and how to tell them? Where do filmmakers and authors get it right or wrong, or is that even the most important question? Are there larger historical “truths” to be shared by reinterpreting the past?

This course will explore how creators of popular media, like historians, interpret and argue about the past. We will use popular works and secondary sources for background, but our emphasis will be on analyzing primary sources and constructing our own arguments about the past. This course will help you practice skills of historical thinking and analytical reading, writing, and discussion.

HIST 395A: Historiography and Methods
Dr. Jonathan Nash, T/TH, 9:55, CSB

Interpreting the American Revolution
“Who shall write the history of the American Revolution? Who can write it? Who will ever be able to write it?” asked John Adams in a July 1815 letter to Thomas Jefferson. “Nobody; except merely in its external facts,” Jefferson replied. Adams and Jefferson were wrong. Few events in the history of humanity are as well known as the American Revolution. Tens of thousands of texts are dedicated solely to the investigation of this one historical event. In this course, we will explore how historians interpret the American Revolution to identify and analyze changes in historiography — historical interpretation — over time. Studying changing historical interpretations of the American Revolution will allow us to gain a better understanding of the methods — questions, approaches, and theories — historians use to interpret this event. While studying the historiography of the American Revolution and the methods of its historians, you will practice and strengthen your critical reading, argumentative writing, discussion, and historical thinking skills.

The events surrounding the historian, and in which he himself takes part, will underlie his presentation in the form of a text written in invisible ink.
— Walter Benjamin, The Arcades Project

Every generation tells its own story about what the Revolution was about, of course, since no one is alive who remembers it anymore.
— Jill Lepore, The Whites of Their Eyes

HIST 399: Senior Thesis
Dr. Brian Larkin, T/TH, 8:20, CSB

The primary concern of this course is the theory and practice of historical research. Students will learn research strategies and techniques as well as explore questions about the validation, analysis, and interpretation of historical evidence. Each student will participate in class discussions about the historical theories and practices in question, submit periodic written and oral progress reports about individual research projects, and write a major paper about your research project.

Research topics may deal with any time period, and geographic region, and use a variety of methodological approaches to history. The instructor will work individually with each student as s/he moves through the stages of the research project. In some cases, depending on the topic the student’s research may be directed by another history faculty who will serve as a co-sponsor.
Faculty

Asian History:
  Dr. Elisheva Perelman, Assistant Professor of History (Fall ‘15)

European History:
  Cynthia Curran, Associate Professor of History
  Gregory Schroeder, Professor of History
  Elisabeth Wengler, Associate Professor of History

Latin American History:
  Brian Larkin, Professor of History

United States History:
  Ken Jones, Professor of History
  Derek Larson, Professor of History
  Jonathan Nash, Assistant Professor of History
  Shannon Smith, Assistant Professor of History

Adjunct:
  Jason Schlude, Assistant Professor of Classics

Department Chair:  Dr. Gregory Schroeder,  363 5317

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