

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

GRADUATE
COURSE
DESCRIPTIONS

FALL 2021

**Field Seminar
Medieval and Early Modern Europe Seminar
HIS 501/CEG516
Professor Joshua Teplitsky
TU 5:45-8:35PM N-303**

This graduate seminar will examine key themes in the history of medieval and early modern Europe (roughly 400-1800). It will consider commonalities across the continent alongside regional diversity, as well as think about European exchanges with other peoples. The course will move chronologically as well as thematically to cover the legacy of Rome; medieval developments in “feudalism,” urbanism, religious consolidation, and the Crusades; the Renaissance; the religious reformations of the sixteenth century; European’s overseas encounters in both west and east; changes in knowledge-making (with the invention of print and the Scientific Revolution); Enlightenment; and the Atlantic Revolutions of the late eighteenth century. We will read select primary sources as well as traditional and revisionist works of cultural, intellectual, political, and religious historiography. Student performance will be evaluated on the basis of participation and writing assignments. MA/PhD students register for HIS 501; MAT Social Studies students register for CEG 516.

Theme Seminar
Doing Transnational History in a Global Age
HIS 516
Professor Young-Sun Hong
TH 4:45-7:35PM N-318

The recent “transnational turn” has given rise to a search for a satisfying way to uncover, conceptualize, and narrate that which was excluded or obscured by state-centered historical approach to the modern world. Not surprisingly, however, the idea of transnationalism has raised as many problems as it has solved. The obscure relationship between states and transnational social spaces is direly in need of further illumination, as is the relation between transnational, global, and international history. In addition to these questions, this seminar will examine what a transnational perspective enables us to see or how its ostensible insights can be translated into a concrete historical research project. Lastly, in the seminar we will all learn that globality is both the precondition and the subject of transnational history and that transnational and global perspective affects the making of alternative possibilities. Pre-requisite: Enrollment in a History graduate program.

**Theme Seminar
Comparative Slavery
HIS 517
Professor Jennifer Anderson
W 6:05-9:00PM N-318**

From Barbadian sugar plantations to Northern cities, enslaved Africans figured prominently in the history of the early Atlantic world. In myriad ways, they contributed to the economic, social, and cultural formation of European colonies and later of independent nations. In the process, they developed new survival strategies, social relations, and cultural identities amidst the ravages of the slave trade, exploitative systems of coerced labor, and the inherent violence that characterized slave societies. In this class, we will take a comparative approach to consider how slavery—both as an institution and as a lived experience—differed across regions and periods from the Caribbean to New England. We will explore a wide range of relevant topics, including changing labor systems, transatlantic and internal slave trades, plantation and non-plantation economies, early capitalism, cultural continuities and creolization, religion and spiritual beliefs, resistance and revolution, free black communities, anti-slavery activism and abolition. In addition, we will consider how various scholars have interpreted the influence of slavery on intersectional constructions of race, gender, and class. HIS MA and PhD students register for HIS 517; MAT Social Studies students require permission of Instructor and register for CEG 566.

GRADUATE CORE SEMINAR
HIS 524
Professors Alix Cooper and Nancy Tomes
M 4:25-7:25PM N-303

This year-long course is your introduction to graduate study in history in general, and Stony Brook's Ph.D. Program in History in particular. It has three goals:

- 1) To familiarize you with the techniques, standards, and resources of historical research.
- 2) To provide an overview of the thematic areas emphasized by our graduate program:
 - Global connections, empire, capitalism
 - Health, science, environment
 - Race, citizenship, migration
 - Religion, gender, cultural identity
 - States, nations, political cultures
- 3) To explore some important historiographical and theoretical concepts that inform historical writing about these themes.

The first semester will explore important and interesting scholarship relative to the themes. We will practice critical reading and writing about secondary literatures and help you identify a research project (including primary and secondary sources) to be executed in the spring. Requirements for the first semester include active participation in class discussion of assigned readings, short written responses to reading, an oral presentation on a topic of your choice, and development of a preliminary research proposal including an annotated bibliography of primary and secondary sources. The second semester will be devoted to researching and writing a substantial research paper in stages (outline, introduction, rough draft, revised draft) with extensive collaboration with your advisor. Pre-requisite: Enrollment in a History Graduate Program or MAT in Social Studies.

The following books will be ordered for the course:

Sarah Maza, *Thinking About History* (Chicago, 2017)

Nell Irvin Painter, *The History of White People* (Norton, 2010)

James H. Sweet, *Domingos Álvares, African Healing, and the Intellectual History of the Atlantic World* (UNC, 2011)

Other required readings will be available through Blackboard.

Field Seminar
Intro to Japan: Japan and WWII in Asia
HIS 565/CEG 565
Professor Janis Mimura
TH 5:45-8:40PM S-326

This seminar introduces students to important themes, approaches, and recent historiographical debates in the history of Japan and WWII in Asia. Examining the war from the perspective of Japanese history, we will consider its connections to Asia and the world at large. We will begin with the post-WWI settlement and follow Japan's increasing estrangement from the liberal world order in the process of its expansion in East and Southeast Asia, its alliance with fascist Europe, and its wager against the Soviet Union and the United States. Students will develop skills in critical reading and analysis of argument, method, and sources through active reading, discussion, and short writing assignments. Other requirements include in-class presentations, a teaching plan, and a 10 to 12-page historiographical essay on a topic of their choice. Prerequisite: Enrollment in HIS MA and PhD students register for HIS 565; MAT students register for CEG 565

**Research Seminar
Sonic & Visual History
HIS 601
Professor Eric Zolov
M 4:25-7:15PM S-309**

This research seminar explores the interconnected realms of sound and visual history. We will spend the first part of the course exploring the vibrant, interdisciplinary field of Sound Studies, whose influence has recently begun to spill over into History. How can sound be interrogated as historical text? How can historians *find* sound (methodologically), *interpret* history through sound (epistemologically), and integrate sound texts and soundscapes into our analysis of the past? Next, we will shift to the field of Visual Studies. Here we will focus in particular on certain modern genres of visual culture, such as photography, posters, and cartoons, yet with an eye toward linking the interpretative lens of visual culture with that of sonic culture. We will read and discuss various foundational texts for sound and visual studies, as well as selected chapters, articles, and other readings that demonstrate the important dialogue transpiring between historians and scholars of Sound and Visual Studies. These discussions will lay the foundation for students to develop a research topic of their choosing, with the goal of a final paper suitable for scholarly publication in an appropriate journal. The latter third of the course will thus focus on research and writing strategies, presentations of rough drafts, and peer review. This course is open to doctoral students working on any topic in any world area, time period, or affiliated field with History. Prerequisite: Enrollment in History PhD program (other students require permission of Instructor).