Department of History  
Fall 2021 Courses

**Honors courses taught by History faculty are listed at the end of this packet.**

**History 200**  
Empires of the Ancient World  
Prof. Kevin Kern  
MWF 10:45-11:35 a.m.

Through the use of examples drawn from diverse regions and historical eras, this course explores global encounters and parallel development among ancient societies, and the changes that these processes bequeathed to the modern world. It focuses on the major themes that show how connections between the world's regions formed the basis of the increasingly globalizing economies and societies of the last five hundred years. These encounters include the spread of technology, the growth of urban trade areas and the connections between them, the spread of universal religions and philosophical traditions, and the rise of large state structures that enabled many of these developments.

**Gen Ed:** Humanities, Global Diversity

**History 210**  
Humanities in the Western Tradition  
Prof. Michael Graham  
TTH 9:15-10:30 a.m.

This course will examine the evolution of Western Culture (the culture we all inhabit, for better or worse) from the beginnings of recorded history until about 1500. We will examine historical events, literature, intellectual trends, art and music in the effort to understand our own place in the context of human history. What are the sources of our ideas and assumptions? How have they changed over time? Are the questions we face today unprecedented, or have they been considered before? What does it mean to be “civilized”? These are the sorts of issues we will consider. This course will be taught in an integrated lecture/discussion format, and will involve some multimedia elements.

**Gen Ed:** Humanities, Critical Thinking

**History 221**  
Humanities in the World since 1300  
Prof. Stephen Harp  
MW 2:00-3:15 p.m.

This course surveys important developments in history, the arts, religion, and culture generally during the early modern and modern eras. Unlike previous Humanities classes, it is no longer separated into lecture and discussion sections; instead, we will do both lecture and discussion in each class period. Readings include a textbook, abundant primary source readings, and Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness*. Requirements include midterm and final examination, a paper, and discussion.

**Gen Ed:** Tier II: Humanities, Tier III: Global Diversity
History 221
Humanities in the World since 1300
Prof. Janet Klein
MWF 11:50 a.m.-12:40 p.m. OR MWF 12:55-1:45 p.m.

Course Description and Themes: This course covers the major global intellectual, political, and artistic trends since 1300, and the ways in which those trends in the humanities reveal the connections among continents, regions, and nations in the modern era. Although we will cover prominent and well-known figures, the focus of this course is broader than the “high” culture that the Humanities component of the General Education curriculum has customarily offered. Instead, this course understands “culture” as the daily practices of peoples and the meanings that men and women assign to them. The main themes for this course are: (1) the interconnectedness and mutual influence of cultures (and the humanities) arising from the expansion of global trade, and the sharing of ideas and experiences across time and space; (2) the conflict that emerges (ironically) from cross-cultural interaction; (3) how gender affects the experiences of men and women cross-culturally and how they, in turn, interpret those experiences; (4) the ways in which art, music and literature reflect the societies in which they were created.

Course Goals/Learning Outcomes: (1) to expose students to various cultural traditions around the world and the exchanges among them; (2) to improve students’ analytical skills through the interpretation of primary texts in their cultural and historical context; (4) to improve students’ writing skills; (3) to improve students’ oral expression in class discussions.

**Gen Ed:** Humanities, Global Diversity

History 250
United States History to 1877
Prof. Gina Martino
TTH 9:15-10:30

This course explores American history from the first interactions between Native Americans and Europeans to the Civil War and Reconstruction. Between 1492 and 1877, North America was the site of groundbreaking social experiments and innovative inventions. This era also saw the development of an Atlantic slave system, the death and dispossession of millions of Native Americans, and wars that turned neighbors and families against one another. In History 250, we will examine this dynamic, sometimes devastating period on small and large scales, exploring remote settlements and crowded cities. We will also investigate how popular movements drove major events and how individuals shaped societies as we attempt to better understand this period.

**Gen Ed:** Social Science, Domestic Diversity

History 251
The United States since 1877
Prof. Greg Wilson
Asynchronous Online

This is a 100% online course, equivalent to the traditional 3-credit introduction to the history of the United States from the end of the Reconstruction period to the recent past. The broad themes of freedom, equality, and power will serve as threads to tie together the many individuals, groups, movements, laws, events, and ideas encountered during the course. Assignments will involve reading, writing, analysis of historical sources, and on-line discussion designed to promote historical thinking – a critical approach to the past. You will submit all assignments online through The University of Akron’s learning management system, Brightspace.

**Gen Ed:** Social Science, Domestic Diversity
History 310
Historical Methods
Prof. Michael Graham
TTH—3:30-4:45 p.m.

This course is designed to help students of history better understand and master the tools of the trade - research (finding source materials and framing the questions they can help to answer), and historical writing (including proper citation of sources and the peer review process). The “laboratory” within which we will work will be the seventeenth century (broadly conceived here as roughly 1580-1720) in Britain and its North American colonies. We will spend the first few weeks of the course familiarizing ourselves with the basic background of seventeenth-century British history, following that up with an exam to make sure you have attained some mastery of that knowledge. Students will then select primary sources with which they would like to work, and formulate research questions around which they will write the 10-15 page paper which will be the final product of their work in this course. Along the way, there will be some shorter quizzes and writing assignments leading up to that, aimed at building up some basic historical writing skills, as well as laying a foundation for the final paper.

History 321
Europe 1348-1610: From the Bubonic Plague to the Era of Religious Wars
Prof. Michael Levin
MWF 9:40-10:30 a.m.

This course surveys the main events and developments in Europe from the arrival of the Bubonic Plague (1347-1348) to the “era of religious warfare” (1610, the year the king of France was assassinated by a religious fanatic). We will explore the transition from “medieval” to “early modern” Europe, and the social, religious, and intellectual movements that caused that transformation, including the Renaissance, the Reformation, and the discovery of the “New World.” We will study this period from a variety of perspectives, using a variety of sources.

History 323
Europe from Revolution to World War, 1789-1914
Prof. Stephen Harp
MW 3:30-4:45 p.m.

This class covers Europe during “the long nineteenth century” from the start of the French Revolution to the outbreak of the First World War. Although we will start with the bloodshed of the Revolution and end with that of the Great War, we also consider the evolution of human rights and notions of democracy, the ideologies of liberalism, conservatism and socialism, the development of imperialism, and a host of other topics. In so many ways, the nineteenth century shaped the world that we live in, so this class serves as an excellent foundation for any future work in modern world history. Course requirements include midterm and final examinations, as well as short papers on other readings, and participation in a mock trial in class. Course readings include a textbook, a primary source reader on European soldiers and civilians during the Napoleonic wars, German working-class autobiographies, and a history of King Leopold II’s exploitation of the Congo.

**Gen Ed: Tier III: Critical Thinking

History 337
France from Napoleon to de Gaulle
Prof. Stephen Harp
MW 5:10-6:25 p.m.

This survey of modern France starts with the Revolution, that is before Napoleon actually came to power in 1799, and ends with the present. It is designed to give students a small taste of all of the periods and most of the topics of modern French history. I’ve spent my entire adult life going back and forth to France and
studying French history; I couldn’t be more enthusiastic about helping students discover the various ways that France has influenced modern American, European, and world history. Course requirements include a mid-term and a final exam as well as short papers on the reading assignments. In addition to a textbook and other readings, we’ll consider the fascinating World War I letters between a captain in the French army and his spouse; and the autobiography of the Vietnamese rubber plantation worker and communist Tran Tu Binh, which students will analyze in concert with the film “Indochine” as we consider the French empire.

**Gen Ed: Tier III: Global Diversity**

**History 350**
US Women’s History
Prof. Gina Martino
TTH—10:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Studying American women’s history is essential to understanding American history. History 350 is based on the idea that all major political movements and significant social or cultural change in American history involved women’s active participation. From the colonial era through today, we will investigate how women sought and used political, social, and economic influence. We will also examine how ideas about gender, sexuality, and power changed over time. Students will approach women’s history from multiple perspectives, exploring sources such as film, art, and music as well as books, articles, and historical documents.

**Gen Ed: Domestic Diversity**

**History 425/525**
The Reformation
TTH 12:15-1:30 p.m.
Dr. Michael Graham

"The Reformation" is a term which has been applied both to a series of religious movements and a period in European history, generally reckoned as beginning at about 1500 and ending sometime between 1600 and 1700. This course will take those religious movements as its theme, but will interpret the term "Reformation" very broadly, in order to consider not only the things which influenced the religious movements and the movements themselves, but also their effects, both short- and long-term. The time period considered will be late 1400s-late 1600s. The area covered will be Europe (including the British Isles) west of Russia. The themes covered will include: religious reform (both "protestant" and Catholic), Humanism, the impact of print technology, family life, and witchcraft. The course will include substantial primary source readings and one film.

**3400: 443/543**
Churchill’s England
TTH 2:00-3:15 p.m.
Dr. Martin Wainwright

This course uses the life of Winston Churchill as a starting point from which to examine the history of Britain in the late-nineteenth through mid-twentieth centuries. It emphasizes the changes in world view that the British population experienced as its nation weathered the storms of two world wars and a precipitous decline in stature as a world power. It also focuses on cultural and social changes by using the British documentary 1900 House as a means of comparing life, particularly as it related to popular culture, leisure time, class, and gender, at the beginning and the end of the century. The format for this course will rely on diverse forms of historical documentation, including videos, music, and travel guides to chart the evolution of twentieth-century Britain.
History 456/556
The United States through World Wars and Depression
Prof. Kevin Kern
MWF 12:55-1:45 p.m.

This course examines the development of the United States during its most turbulent era of the past 140 years: In this single generation, the country went from being a largely isolated and rural nation to being the world’s most important military and economic power. Through the formative influences of world wars and international economic depression, we will trace the major social, economic, and political evolution of the modern United States. Major themes will include the making of the modern American political landscape; race, class, and gender relationships; demographic, cultural, and intellectual developments; the permanent retreat from American isolationism; and the development of American economic and military hegemony.

History 470/570
Ohio History
Prof. Greg Wilson
MWF 9:40-10:30 a.m. OR MWF 10:45-11:35 a.m.

This course covers the span of Ohio history from prehistoric eras to the recent past. It focuses on issues including land and environment, Native American settlement, frontier life, industrial and urban growth, wars, technology, social and cultural issues, and political events. The class may include visits to local Ohio history sites.

History 487/587
Science and Technology in World History
Prof. Kevin Kern
MWF 9:40-10:30 a.m.

This course examines the development and diffusion of science and technology in human history. It will focus on the rise and evolution of science and technology in both the Western and non-Western worlds by situating these phenomena in the political, economic, intellectual, global contexts. It will also examine how these developments influenced society, culture, and daily life. Thematic in structure and interdisciplinary in approach, the course is intended to help students integrate history with other disciplines (e.g., philosophy, literary studies, anthropology, natural sciences) to trace not only the development and effects of certain specific technologies, but also the larger relationships between the Asian, Islamic, and Euro-American scientific traditions.

History 489/589
Ottoman State and Society
Prof. Janet Klein
MW 3:30-4:45 p.m.

The Ottoman Empire ruled over the crossroads of Eurasia and North Africa for six centuries—from the heartland of Anatolia in what is now Turkey, the empire stretched from Algeria to Iraq, from the gates of Vienna to Yemen. This enduring multiethnic Islamic empire was soon competitive with, if not superior to, European empires in terms of military and economic power, as well as cultural wealth. By the time the Ottoman Empire came to an end in the early 20th century, caught between the imperialist ambitions of Europe and Russia and nationalistic rebellions in its own provinces, it appeared impoverished and vulnerable to the modernizing West. What happened along the way? And how did this empire at the center of the Old World impact and react to the European, African, and Asian societies on its frontiers? What are the facts and fictions of Ottoman decline? The Imperial Harem? Tradition and modernity? What was the legacy of the Ottoman Empire on its successor states? Find out answers to these questions and more about the people and institutions of the Ottoman Empire in the context of early modern and modern world history.

**For History students this course fulfills requirements in both the non-Western and European fields.
Honors Course:

1870: 350
Honors Humanities Colloquium: The History of Anti-Semitism
Prof. Michael Levin
MWF 2:00-2:50 p.m.

Why do people hate Jews? Is anti-Semitism different from other forms of prejudice? And what does it mean to be Jewish in the first place? In this colloquium we will explore the historical roots of these questions, using various primary sources as a springboard for discussion. We will start in Biblical times, and cover such topics as the Spanish Inquisition, the Holocaust, and events in modern America. There will be guest lectures from other professors in the History Department, who will bring their own expertise and experiences to the class. The emphasis of the course will be on discussion, with a final project to be determined.