Department of History
Spring 2022 Courses

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

History 200
Empires of the Ancient World
Mr. Jerrad Lancaster
Asynchronous-Online

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 worlds regions formed the basis of the increasingly globalizing economies and societies of the last five hundred years. These encounters include the spread of agricultural 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 200
Empires of the Ancient World
Mrs. RoseMarie Eichler
Asynchronous-Online

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 worlds regions formed the basis of the increasingly globalizing economies and societies of the last five hundred years. These encounters include the spread of agricultural 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 221
Humanities in the World since 1300
Prof. Janet Klein
TuTh 10:45a.m.-12:00p.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 221
Humanities in the World since 1300
Prof. Martha Santos
MWF 10:45-11:35a.m. OR 11:50a.m.-12:40p.m.

This course examines some the major global intellectual, political, and artistic trends since 1300, and the ways in which those trends reveal both the interconnections and conflicts among continents, regions, nations, and peoples in the early modern and modern era. The course also analyzes how art, music, dance, religion, and literature both reflect and define the societies in which they were created. Activities include lecture and discussion, analysis of primary and secondary sources, writing of mid-term and final examinations, among others.

**Gen Ed: Tier II: Humanities, Tier III: Global Diversity
History 250
U.S. History to 1877
Prof. Gina Martino
MWF 11:50a.m.-12:40p.m.

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
U.S. History since 1877
Prof. Gregory 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 308
Greece
Prof. Eugenia Gorogianni
TuTh 9:15-10:30a.m.

This course is a multimodal survey of Ancient Greece from the prehistoric cultures of the Minoans and the Mycenaeans to the expansion of the Greek world to the East with the conquest of the Persian Empire by Alexander of Macedon. Our examination is informed by the archaeological and literary evidence as we trace the development of much admired and appropriated cultural forms and institutions, such as democracy, temple buildings, theater, philosophy.
History 310
Historical Methods
Prof. Gina Martino
MWF 9:40-10:30 a.m.

In Historical Methods, you will learn to practice the craft of the historian. Over the course of the semester, we will explore the art and the science involved in discovering and evaluating a diverse range of sources, constructing an argument, and finding your voice as a writer. As this is a course in historical methodology, you will work toward producing a final research paper using the research and writing skills you develop. Far more than simply a course on writing footnotes and bibliographies, this class emphasizes the experience of finding a topic that inspires you to learn more about it and sharing the results of your scholarly exploration through writing. This course counts toward requirements for a major in History and programs in the College of Education.

History 322
Europe: Absolutism to Revolution, 1610-1789
Prof. Michael Graham
MWF 10:45-11:35 a.m.

This course will examine the political, social, intellectual and cultural history of Europe, especially western Europe, from about 1600 to about 1800. During these two centuries Europe witnessed two major political revolutions - one in England and one in France - as well as several other profound intellectual, social and cultural shifts which have been described as "revolutionary," shaping the culture of the modern world. It was also during this period that some European powers extended their political and economic influence to the far corners of the globe in an imperial competition whose repercussions are still felt today. We will study and analyze this history through lectures, readings (including substantial primary source readings), discussion and the viewing of an historical film.

History 323
Europe: From Revolution to WW, 1789-1914
Prof. Stephen Harp
TuTh 5:10-6:25 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 340**

**Selected Topics: The History of Anti-Semitism**

**Prof. Michael Levin**

**TuTh 10:45a.m.-12:00p.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 course 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.

**History 351**

**Global History: Encounters and Conflicts**

**Prof. Stephen Harp**

**TuTh 3:05:4:45p.m.**

This class in global history begins in the 15th century and ends in the 21st. To give coherence to such a broad sweep, we’ll use commodities and trade to organize the material. In addition to a textbook, William McNeill’s *The Webs of Humankind*, we’ll read and discuss Paul Freedman’s *Out of the East: Spices and the Medieval Imagination*, Kevin Grant’s *The Congo Free State and the New Imperialism*, and Sven Beckert’s *Empire of Cotton: A Global History*. We’ll also discuss Prof. Gregg Mitman’s new environmental history of Firestone in Liberia as well as his UA lecture this spring. Students will write three short papers and do two exams. Class sessions will be a mix of lecture and discussion of short primary source readings loaded onto brightspace (in addition to the longer course texts). Our theme will be simple; this was a world characterized by global encounters and conflicts long before “globalization” became a fashionable word in the 1990s.

**History 416/516**

**Modern India**

**Prof. Martin Wainwright**

**TuTh 12:15-1:30p.m.**

India is one of the world’s most complex societies with one of its longest written records. In order to focus on comparatively recent events in the context of this long history, this course examines the ways in which the more distant past has been used to justify contemporary social and political developments in India over the last two centuries. These developments include Hindu-Muslim rivalry, Sikh and Tamil separatism, British imperialism,
modernization, gender roles, and India and Pakistan’s role in the world community. Special attention will be paid to the Indian subcontinent’s involvement in Islamic and Hindu militancy, the nuclear arms race, and the global economy. No prior knowledge of Indian history is necessary.

History 424/524
The Renaissance
Prof. Michael Levin
TuTh 2:00-3:15p.m.

This course will examine the social, political, intellectual, and artistic developments in Europe during the period called “the Renaissance,” c. 1350-1600. The first half of the course will focus on the Renaissance in Italy, and in the second half we will look at how Renaissance ideas and culture affected the rest of Western Europe. We will discuss the meaning of the term “Renaissance,” both at the time and for modern historians. We will analyze various primary sources, and discuss alternate theories about what happened and why, and how it still affects us today.

History 463/563
US Constitutional History
Prof. Gina Martino
MWF 12:55-1:45p.m.

The Constitution of the United States is the key founding document of this country and has played a central role in many of America’s most heated debates. Americans often view the Constitution primarily as a great achievement of the nation’s founders. Yet, the content and even the meaning of the Constitution has changed society and been changed by society for over two hundred years. Through an examination of legal documents, newspapers, art, film, articles, and books, students will explore both the origins of the Constitution as well as more recent relationships between the Constitution, the courts, and American society. **Gen Ed: Complex Issues Facing Society**

History 470/570
Ohio History
Prof. Gregory Wilson
Online live TuTh 9:15-10:30a.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.
**Classics Courses:**

**Classics 230**  
Sports & Society in Ancient Greece and Rome  
Prof. Eugenia Gorogianni  
Asynchronous Online

In Sports and Society in Ancient Greece and Rome, we focus on the world of sports of the Ancient Greeks and the Romans and investigate the connections between sports and society. Our examination is informed by the archaeological and literary evidence for the types of sports that were popular in the ancient world, the sporting arenas, the occasions that called for sports, and the people who participated in them. We also investigate sports’ social, political, and religious roles in the ancient world and compare them with modern attitudes. Throughout our investigation, we discover that ancient Mediterranean societies faced many similar social issues and challenges, which helps us infuse our discussions of and approaches to current issues concerning the sports world.

**Gen Ed: **Humanities

**Classics 289**  
Mythology of Ancient Greece  
Mr. Jerrad Lancaster  
TuTh 9:15-10:30a.m. OR 10:45a.m.-12:00p.m.

Mythology is the study of a body of stories that deal with a variety of topics from the nature of universe and the supernatural to specific practices of a given culture. Beyond providing entertainment and an endless supply of bed-time stories, mythology is a system of explanation, acculturation, and cultural reproduction (education). This course covers the myths of the Greek gods and heroes with reflection on what the stories can tell us about the Greeks and their culture. Also included are comparisons through the adaptations of Greek myth as seen in the Harry Potter movies. How J.K. Rowling incorporates Greek myth in her stories serves as a reflection of our own society.

**Classics 361**  
The Literature of Greece  
Ms. Heather Pollock  
TuTh 10:45a.m.-12:00p.m.  
TuTh 10:45a.m.-12:00p.m. (Online live)

This course is designed to give a sampling of the main genres of Greek Literature. Familiar, classic works have been selected, as well as more obscure texts, in order to give the students a wide range to experience. The primary objective of the course is for the students to gain insight into the “collective mind” of Greek writing: works and ideals that have influenced our literary traditions for centuries. Students will be expected to
synthesize materials and themes surrounding the texts read, challenging them to recognize -and offer critical
analysis of- the role of ancient western tradition literature in the fabric of modern society.

**Honors Courses:  
1870: 340-001  
Honors Colloquium: Social Sciences  
History of Sexuality in Latin America  
Prof. Martha Santos  
MW 3:30-4:45p.m.

What have sex, gender, and sexuality meant across time and space in the Americas? How have people thought about sex, sexuality and gender in Latin America throughout five hundred years of history? What makes the way that gender and sexual norms work particular to specific places, times, and groups of people—and what makes them broader than that? Can we identify peculiarly “Latin American” approaches to sex and gender? How have gender and sexuality in this hemisphere changed over time, broadly speaking? We will explore these interesting questions through analysis of primary sources, scholarly work on these topics, and visual sources, including some feature films.

1870:340-002  
Honors Colloquium  
Minorities, Borders, and Partitions  
Prof. Janet Klein  
TuTh 12:15-1:30p.m. (HCPX 82)

This course explores the history of nationalism and border-making as well as the construction of identities that nationalists employed to rid their new territories of "threatening minorities." We will, analyze case studies such as the end of the Ottoman Empire and the post-war divisions (focusing on the Kurds in particular and the Turkish-Greek population exchange), the partitions of Ireland, Palestine, and India, and others. Students will engage with primary sources, films, and secondary sources to navigate the dynamics of minoritization, nationalism, and citizenship.

1870:350-001  
Honors Colloquium  
Hunting Witches in Early Modern Europe  
Prof. Michael Graham  
MW 2:00-3:15p.m.

This workshop-style course will be an investigation into one of the most bizarre and troubling facets of early modern European history. The witch-hunt directly affected hundreds of thousands of people, and claimed tens
of thousands of victims, killed for committing a crime which modern commentators view as imaginary. While
recognizing the barbarity of what took place, we will seek to explain it within its historical context. What was it
which caused people at all levels of society, including the most educated, to live in fear of black magic? How
could such fears have made sense to them? How did those fears develop, and by what process did they
eventually ease? After several weeks surveying the general outlines of the witch-hunt, we will delve into the
actual records of several witchcraft trials, so see how the legal process operated in such cases, and to better
understand the ways in which the witch-hunt has been documented. Finally, we will look at the ways in which
people wrote about the witch-hunt, in the early modern popular media of pamphlet and news-sheet, in
scholarly works dedicated to the respectable topic of “demonology”, and in dramatic works. This last phase of
the course will allow students to offer their own creative take on the hunt in styles similar to those popular in
early modern Europe - i.e. tabloid pamphlet or dramatic presentation.