

Department of History

Fall 2026/2027 Courses

****Classics courses are listed after the History courses.**

****Graduate courses are listed after Classics**

HIST:200-501 & HIST:200-502

Empires of the Ancient World

Prof. Michael Selzer

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 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 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 Perspectives**

HIST:221-001

Humanities in the World since 1300

Prof. Martha Santos

MWF 10:45am-11:35am

HIST:221-002

Humanities in the World since 1300

Prof. Martha Santos

MWF 11:50am-12:40am

This course examines how peoples from across the globe have understood and explained their identities, their encounters or conflicts with others, their environment, and their histories since 1300 and into the present. Through a focus on important developments in the arts, religion, culture, and politics during the early-modern and modern era, this course surveys how people across culture, place, and time have given meanings to their human experience. We will do this through analysis and discussion of primary sources, with lectures that provide context. ****Gen Ed: Humanities, Global Perspectives**

HIST:221-501

Humanities in the World since 1300

Prof. Janet Klein

Asynchronous - Online

HIST:221-004

Humanities in the World since 1300

Prof. Janet Klein

MWF 12:55pm-1:45pm

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 expressions in class discussions. ****Gen Ed: Humanities, Global, Global Perspectives**

HIST:241-001

U.S. History & Civics to 1877

Prof. Kevin Kern

TTh 2:00pm – 3:15pm

Historical survey with an emphasis on civic literacy from the Age of Discovery and North American colonization through the creation of the United States to the Civil War and Reconstruction.

****Gen Ed: Social Science, Domestic Global Perspectives**

HIST:241-501

U.S. History & Civics to 1877

Prof. Lucius Wedge

Asynchronous – Online

HIST:241-502 & HIST 241-503

U.S. History & Civics to 1877

Prof. Michael Megery

Asynchronous – Online

HIST:241-504

U.S. History & Civics to 1877

Prof. Matt Nowak

Asynchronous – Online

HIST:251-501

U.S. History Since to 1877

Prof. Lucius Wedge

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 Global Perspectives**

HIST 310 Historical Methods

Professor Martha Santos

MW 2:00-3:15 pm

This course is an invitation to explore the historical discipline and the practice of writing history. Over the course of the semester, we will familiarize ourselves with the objectives and methodology of historical research. The course will be organized around the general subject of modern Latin American history, but each student will choose a particular question or topic to investigate within this context to produce a research paper that is based on original source material. Students will then select primary sources with which they would like to work, and formulate research questions around which they will write the 10-12 page research paper that will be the final product of their work in this course. This course counts toward requirements for a major in History and programs in the College of Education.

HIST:321-001

Europe 1350-1610: Renaissance Religious War

Prof. Michael Levin

MWF 9:40am-10:30am

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.

HIST:324-001

Europe: WW1 to the Present

Prof. A. Martin Wainwright

MWF 9:40am-10:30am

War, fascism, ethnic violence: many historians have labeled the history of twentieth-century Europe as a history of barbarism unleashed, a history of ideological extremism, and a time of terror. But twentieth-century Europe also witnessed times of peace and profound social progress. Indeed, the history of Europe after 1914 is the story of how a continent dominated by so much war eventually moved towards peace. Post-1914 Europe, then, is a history of parallels: Europeans pursued war and also alternatives to war; they committed acts of ethnic violence and also sought out racial harmony; they established authoritarian dictatorships while also pursuing democracy. In this course, we will survey Europe and its multiple histories from the outbreak of WWI to the present.

****Gen Ed: Tier III Global Perspectives**

HIST:350-001
U.S. Women's History
Prof. Gina Martino
TTh 10:45am-12:00pm

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 women's daily lives and ideas about their social roles have 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 Perspectives

History 351-001
Global History: Encounters & Conflicts
Prof. Janet Klein
TTh 3:05pm-4:45pm

This course explores global encounters among societies, and the changes that have resulted. It focuses on major themes that show how connections between the world's regions created the modern world with its achievements and disparities. Examples of such forms of encounter include those hinging on labor (such as slavery, servitude, and industrial workers), food production and consumption (including the impacts of agricultural revolutions, the spice trade, and the Columbian exchange), and technology and the production of commodities such as textiles (including Old World trading routes, the Atlantic economy, and the origins of industrialization). Rather than attempting to cover the entire history of the world, which is clearly an impossible task, this course uses examples drawn from diverse regions and historical eras, to demonstrate the world's interconnectedness. The course provides relevant background as far back as prehistory, but the focus is on developments of the last six hundred years, particularly those pertaining to our modern global economy and society.

HIST:470-001/HIST:570-001
Ohio History
Prof. Kevin Kern
TTh 10:45am-12:00pm

Ancient earthworks, steamboats, Civil War, Yankee farmers, underground railroads, airplanes, factories, and American Presidents are just a few aspects of Ohio's rich history. In this course we will examine major social, political, and economic themes of Ohio's history while also exploring and evaluating (through electronic media and optional site visits) the state's prehistoric and historic landscapes, built environments, museums, and historic sites. In addition to attending lectures and completing reading and short writing assignments, students will compile an Ohio history portfolio or mini-internship and produce a final project. Although suitable for any history student, this course is also a requirement for some education majors. A particular emphasis will be on using Ohio as a learning laboratory for understanding, teaching, and enjoying history.

HIST:487-001/HIST:587-001
Science and Technology in World History
Prof. Kevin Kern
TTh 9:15am-10:30am

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.

.....
****CLASSICS****

CLAS:230-501, 502, & 503
Sports & Society in Ancient Greece and Rome
Dr. Evi Gorogianni
Asynchronous-Online

During this course, we will 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 the social, political, mythical, and religious roles of sports in the ancient world, and compare these with the modern appreciation of sports. Throughout our investigation, we will discover that many of the social issues and challenges that ancient Mediterranean societies faced were reflected in sport, just like in our modern culture. This understanding will help us navigate our discussions of and approaches to current social issues and concerns.

CLAS:289-001
Mythology of Ancient Greece
Heather Pollock
TTh 2:00pm-3:15pm

CLAS 289-501
Mythology of Ancient Greece
Jami Baley-Craig
Asynchronous - Online

In Mythology of Ancient Greece, we look at the nature of mythology, exploring mythmaking as a vital human function, and myths as elemental in the fabric of human culture. The exciting world of the Ancient Greeks is a fascinating place for this work: the gods and heroes of this rich culture are embedded in our Western Tradition 'membership'. Time does not suppress them; these archetypal stories are with us in our modern art, literature, films, poetry, and personal psychology. We will spend a little time with Joseph Campbell as we draw the hero out of ancient origins and into our current times. In this class we will embrace both the specifics of Greek Mythology and the universality of its characters and stories.

CLAS:363-001

Women in Ancient Greece and Rome

Dr. Evi Gorogianni

TTh 3:30pm-4:45pm

"Women in Ancient Greece and Rome" is a course, which examines the lives, livelihood, status, roles, and relationships of women in the Ancient World, drawing on textual and archaeological evidence, as well as theoretical advances in archaeological, anthropological, and literary theory which helps us populate the ancient world with women. This course returns us to the past and two cultures that are often credited with being the cradle of Western civilizations, explores ancient archetypes and compares them to ancient and modern realities.

****GRADUATE COURSES****

HIST: 601-801

Graduate Research Seminar in History (4 Credits)

Prof. Gregory Wilson

M 5:10pm-8:30pm

Research seminar designed to train graduate students in the skills of researching and writing history, with a particular emphasis on completing the capstone project.

HIST:610-801 (4 Credits)

**Graduate Reading Seminar: Comparative Studies of World Civilizations
(History in Video Games)**

Prof. A. Martin Wainwright

W 5:10pm-8:30pm

Comparative historiography on world civilizations: East Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and the Americas. Emphasis on key themes: kingship, empire, colonization, nationalism, resistance, post-colonialism.

HIST 672-801 (4 Credits)

Reading Seminar in Applied History

Prof. Gregory Wilson

W 5:10pm-8:30:pm

The purpose of this reading seminar is to introduce the practice of public or applied history. It is one of the core courses for the MA in Applied History and Public Humanities. Using a variety of materials and class discussions, we will explore the meaning of public history and some of the major activities, methodologies, theories, practical tools, and issues historians face in the field. We may also do site visits.

HIST:689-801

Historiography (4 Credits)

Prof. Gina Martino
T 5:10pm-7:40pm

What is history? How has the practice of history changed over time? And how can historians practicing today apply these innovations to their own work? In Historiography, you will examine the most significant theoretical and methodological approaches to the practice of history. Each week, we will focus on one of these approaches, using recent books in American history (from the colonial era through Reconstruction) as case studies. By the end of the semester, you will have a deeper understanding of the work we do as professional historians who research and teach about the past in applied and academic settings.

****Honors Courses****

HONOR:350-001
Honors Humanities Colloquium: The History of Anti-Semitism
Prof. Michael Levin
MWF 12:55pm-1:45pm

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 experience to the class. The emphasis of the course will be on discussion, with a final project to be determined.