

# Department of History

## Spring 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**

**TTh 10:45-12:00**

**Online synchronous**

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 210**

#### **Humanities in the Western Tradition**

**Prof. Michael Levin**

**TTh 9:15-10:30**

**TTh 2-3:15**

**Online synchronous**

Course description: We will discuss the question, What is "Western Civilization"? In other words, why do we in "the West" think the way we do? In this course we will use a combination of history, art, literature, and philosophy to explore the roots of our society. We will examine what has changed, and what has not changed, in our thinking about big questions: love, death, politics, and the meaning of life. This course will survey Western culture from ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia to the Italian Renaissance.

**\*\*Gen Ed:** Humanities, Critical Thinking

### **History 210**

#### **Humanities in the Western Tradition**

**Prof. Michael Graham**

**MW 2:00-3:15**

**Dual Delivery—so students have the option of attending in person or tuning in remotely via MS Teams**

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 2-3:15**

**MW 3:30-4:45**

**Online synchronous**

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:** Humanities, Global Diversity

**3400: 221**

**Humanities in the World Since 1300**

**Prof. Martha Santos**

**TTh 10:45-12**

**TTh 12:15-1:30 pm**

**Online synchronous**

This course covers some the major global intellectual, political, and artistic trends since 1300, and the ways in which those trends in the humanities reveal both the interconnections and conflicts among continents, regions, nations, and peoples in the modern era. The course also focuses on how gender affects the human experiences of people cross-culturally and how men and women interpret those experiences differently; and on the ways in which art, music and literature both reflect and define the societies in which they were created.

**\*\*Gen Ed:** Humanities, Global Diversity

**History 221**

**Humanities in the World since 1300**

**Prof. Janet Klein**

**MWF 11:50-12:40**

**MWF 12:55-1:45**

**Online synchronous**

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**

**MWF—10:45-11:35**

**Online Synchronous**

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. Gina Martino**

**MWF—9:40-10:30 a.m.**

**Online Synchronous**

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 from Absolutism to the French Revolution**

**Prof. Michael Graham**

**MWF 10:45-11:35**

**Dual Delivery—so students have the option of attending in person or tuning in remotely via MS Teams**

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. Note that students will be expected to write two to three papers in this course.

### **History 323**

#### **Europe from Revolution to World War, 1789-1914**

**Prof. Stephen Harp**

**MW 5:10-6:25 p.m.**

**Online synchronous**

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:** Critical Thinking

### **History 351**

#### **Global History: Encounters and Conflicts**

**Prof. Martin Wainwright**

**TTh 3:05- 4:45**

**Online synchronous**

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 attempt 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.

### **History 452/552**

#### **American Revolutionary Era**

**Prof. Gina Martino**

**MWF—12:55-1:45 p.m.**

**Online Synchronous**

History 452/552 explores the political, cultural, and military event known as the American Revolution. In this class, you will make complex historical connections about the American Revolution on large and small scales while strengthening your analytical skills and writing. Through a combination of readings, discussion, and lectures, we will explore the origins of the Revolution, the war that accompanied it, and the tumultuous nation-building process that created the United States.

Portions of the course will focus on traditional subjects associated with the Revolutionary Era—the Boston Tea Party, the Declaration of Independence, and figures such as George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. We will also dedicate a substantial amount of time to examining the roles of popular movements, women, slaves, and Native nations. Course assignments include short analytical papers and an original research paper based on primary sources.

### **History 457/557**

#### **The United States since 1945**

**Prof. Greg Wilson**

**TTh 12:15-1:30**

**Online synchronous**

This course examines change and continuity in the United States since WWII, examining events and issues such as the Cold War and foreign policy, social movements, political changes, cultural trends, and the environment. Coursework includes lectures, readings, writing, discussion.

### **History 470/570**

#### **Ohio History**

**Prof. Kevin Kern**

**TTh 9:15-10:30**

**Online synchronous**

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 495/595, War and Politics in the Renaissance****Prof. Michael Levin****TTh, 10:45- 12:00****Online synchronous**

Course description: In this course we will explore how Renaissance thinkers and rulers tried to answer big (and timely) political questions, such as: What makes a good ruler? When should a state go to war? What is the relationship between politics and religion? We will also examine such topics as the rise of the modern nation/state, the origins of modern diplomatic practice, the development of European imperialism, and the impact of major political thinkers such as Machiavelli and More. We will begin in early Renaissance Italy, and then turn to the rise of Atlantic powers such as Spain, England and the Netherlands.

**History 496/596, Empire, Genocide, and Mass Violence****Prof. Janet Klein****MW 3:30-4:45****Online synchronous**

Empire, Genocide, and Mass Violence

Course description: This course explores the histories of twentieth and twenty-first century mass violence and genocide, as well as the debates surrounding them. Focusing on examples that begin with the Armenian genocide and conclude with current cases, we will explore the role of modern identity politics, imperialism, and ideology in mass murders and genocides. We will conduct this class as a seminar, which means we require extensive reading (as well as writing) assignments and regular participation from students in discussions. History majors may apply this course to either the Group II (Europe) or Group III (non-Western, etc.) area distribution requirement depending on their needs, and possibly also to Group I (American).

Course goals/learning outcomes: (1) to encourage students to examine episodes of genocide and mass violence comparatively, and critically assess the theories used to investigate them; (2) to improve students' analytical skills through the interpretation and discussion of the course readings; (4) to improve students' writing skills; (3) to improve students' oral expression in class discussions.

**Honors Course:****Honors Colloquium****History of Sexuality in Latin America****Prof. Martha Santos****TTh 3:30-4:45****Online synchronous**

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.