Spring 2019 Course Descriptions  
Department of History

3400: 200  
Empires of the Ancient World  
Monday/Wednesday, 8:45-10:00 a.m.  
Mr. Nathaniel Bassett  

This course will apply a global lens to the rise and fall of the world’s earliest civilizations and empires across Eurasia. Students will explore global encounters and parallel development from the ancient civilizations of the Fertile Crescent and Egypt, through the rise of Mediterranean and Asiatic empires, culminating in the expansion of Islam and the Mongol conquests. Special consideration will be placed on the role of the Silk Road global history as a means of economic connection and a tool of cultural diffusion. Topics will include the growth of urban trade centers, the spread of religious and philosophical ideas, and the role of large state structures in world history.

3400: 210  
Humanities in the Western Tradition  
Monday/Wednesday, 10:15-11:00 a.m.  
Dr. Michael Levin  

In this course 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. This course fulfills a portion of the General Education Program requirements (old and new system).

3400: 210-320  
Humanities in the Western Tradition  
Monday/Wednesday, 8:45-9:35 a.m.  
Mrs. RoseMarie T. Eichler  

This course provides an introduction to the human condition as manifested in ideas, religions, visual arts, and music of Western civilization from the Ancient Greeks through the Italian Renaissance. The Humanities in the Western Tradition is a single, unified course of instruction, consisting of lectures, followed by small group discussions. Thus, you must be enrolled in both lecture and an affiliated discussion. The goal of the lecture is to convey the general cultural background of selected topics. The principle goals of the discussion class are discussion of the assigned readings in the required texts and of the ideas presented in the lectures. This course fulfills a portion of the General Education Program requirements (old and new system).
3400: 210-580
Humanities in the Western Tradition
Online
Mrs. RoseMarie T. Eichler/Mrs. Laura Conley

This course provides an introduction to the human condition as manifested in ideas, religions, visual arts, and music of Western civilization from the Ancient Greeks through the Italian Renaissance. The Humanities in the Western Tradition is a single, unified course of instruction, consisting of both a lecture section and a discussion section. The goal of the lecture is to convey the general cultural background of selected topics. The principle goals of the discussion section are discussion of the assigned readings in the required texts and of the ideas presented in the lectures through postings and written assignments of the required texts and of the ideas presented in the lectures. Thus, you must enroll in both lecture and discussion sections. This course fulfills a portion of the General Education Program requirements (old and new system). Note – since this is a completely online class students must have sufficient computer skills in order to be successful in the course.

3400: 221
Humanities in the World since 1300
Tuesday/Thursday, 10:15-11:05 a.m.
Dr. Janet Klein

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.

3400: 221-210
Humanities in the World Since 1300
Monday/Wednesday, 4:15-5:05 p.m.
Dr. Stephen Harp

This course surveys several developments in history, the arts, religion, and culture generally during the early modern and modern eras. Like Humanities I, it has two hours of lecture and two hours of discussion each week. Readings include a textbook and abundant primary source readings. Requirements include two midterms and a final, a paper, and discussion. The course meets both old and the new General Education requirements.
3400: 250-010
US History to 1877
Tuesday/Thursday, 8:45-10:00 a.m.
Dr. Kevin Kern

This course outlines the development of what is now the United States from the time of its earliest inhabitants to the Civil War and Reconstruction. Lectures, discussions, and audio-visual presentations will highlight major themes of this period, including Native-American cultures, European contact, conquest, and rivalries, the American Revolution and the origins of the United States of America, and the major social, economic, and political trends that characterized the United States during its often-turbulent first century after independence. At the same time, this course is designed to enhance critical thinking and writing skills through the use of discussion sections, interpretive essays, and essay exams.

3400: 250-580
US History to 1877
Online Course, First 7-Week Session
Dr. Gina Martino

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 catastrophic 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.

3400: 251-580
The United States since 1877
Online Course
Dr. Gregory Wilson

This is an 100% online course, equivalent to the traditional 4-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.
3400: 301
Modern China
Monday/Wednesday, 8:45-10:00 a.m.
Dr. Gang Zhao

This course examines the domestic and global roots of China's 20th century modernization and their relationship to the challenges China now faces.

3400:310
Historical Methods
Monday/Wednesday 11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m., A&S 205
Dr. Gina Martino

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.

3400:310-801
Historical Methods
Thursday 5:20-8:40 p.m.
Dr. Gregory Wilson

The main purpose of Historical Methods is to take you inside the craft of doing history. We will use a common theme of the 1960s to examine how historians practice their craft and, in the process, provide students with the ability to both evaluate and pursue historical research and writing. Among the valuable skills addressed are learning to evaluate scholarly writing, to analyze primary and secondary sources, and to write a scholarly paper, which includes selecting a topic, constructing an argument, and identifying and collecting proper research materials.

3400: 319
Medieval Europe: 500-1200
Tuesday/Thursday, 10:15-11:30 a.m.
Dr. Jennifer Stiles

This course covers the history of Western Europe from the late Roman Empire to the twelfth century. The purpose of this course is to provide an understanding of the main political, social and cultural developments of the period. A wide variety of primary sources, as well as images of artifacts, will be used to investigate the diverse cultures that interacted in Europe during the Early Middle Ages. The course will familiarize students with the key individuals, events and social forces shaping Western Europe during the Late Antique and Early Medieval periods. Students will develop historiography skills through critical evaluation of primary and secondary sources. Students will also gain composition and collaborative research skills though completing short-answer quizzes, essay examinations and class presentations.
3400: 323  
**Europe: Revolution to World War, 1789-1914**  
Tuesday/Thursday, 1:15-2:30 p.m.  
Mrs. RoseMarie T. Eichler

This course surveys the major political, social, and cultural developments in Europe from the French Revolution to World War I. During the “long nineteenth century,” Europe dominated the world. The rivalries and internal strife experienced by European nations shaped future notions of politics, economics, ethnicity, and nationalism. By using both primary and secondary source readings, lecture, and film, the course promotes critical thinking, writing, and discussion in the examination of topics. The student should gain a deeper grasp of current world affairs along with the ability to identify cause/effect relationships.

3400: 324  
**Europe: World War I to the Present**  
Tuesday/Thursday, 10:15-11:30 a.m.  
Mrs. RoseMarie T. Eichler

This course surveys the major political, social, and cultural developments in Europe from 1914 to the present. During this timeframe, the rivalries and internal strife experienced by European nations culminated in their decline as world powers and the loss of their empires. Special attention will be given to the two world wars, nationalism, national identity, ethnic conflicts, the Cold War, and the emergence of the European Union. The course will also examine the globalism and issues attendant to it. In looking at these topics, the student should acquire a more well-rounded comprehension of current world affairs.

3400: 351  
**Global History: Encounters and Conflicts**  
Tuesday/Thursday, 2:45-4:25 p.m.  
Dr. Michael Sheng

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 and impossible task, this course uses examples drawn from diverse regions and historical eras, to demonstrate the world’s interconnectedness. The course provides background 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.
3400: 352
The American West
Monday/Wednesday, 2:45-4:00 p.m.
Dr. Walter Hixson
This course focuses on American history on the “frontier” (borderlands) west of the Mississippi River. We will focus on events and developments in the West as well as the vast mythology and appeal of the imagined West. After analyzing the antecedents of westward expansion, we will assess indigenous cultures and Indian removal policies; imperial rivalry; economic issues ranging from the fur trade, mining and cattle industries, to Hollywood film and policies pertaining to land use as well as to various animal species. Assignments will include an individual student paper.

3400: 377
History of Women in Latin America
Tuesday/Thursday, 4:15-5:30 pm
Dr. Martha Santos
This course examines the experiences of Latin American women since the colonial period until the present, through the lens of gender. We will analyze norms and expectations about “appropriate womanhood” and how these concepts were related to social structures, including race and class, and to changing political contexts. We will explore how women approximated, challenged, and transformed these gender definitions in their lives. Through a focus on female icons, such as Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Xica da Silva, Malinche, and Frida Kahlo, we will reflect on women’s roles in shaping the history of Latin America and on the ways they have been represented in various media. Readings include testimonial literature, memoirs, novels, and church documents as well as monographs and scholarly articles.

3400: 400/500
Gender and Culture in China
Monday/Wednesday, 1:15-2:30 pm
Dr. Gang Zhao
This course examines the dynamic between gender and culture from late imperial to post-socialist China, with connections drawn to public policies in different periods.

3400: 424/524
The European Renaissance
Monday/Wednesday, 11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Dr. Michael Levin
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.
3400: 443/543
Churchill’s England
Monday/Wednesday, 11:45 a.m.-1:00 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.

**Graduate Student Field(s):** Europe, 1750 to present

3400: 463/563
US Constitutional History Since 1870
Monday/Wednesday 10:15-11:30 a.m., A&S 205
Dr. Gina Martino
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 political and cultural 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 politics and culture.

**Graduate Students:** This course can be counted toward either US History field.

3400: 470/570
Ohio History
Tuesday/Thursday, 11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Dr. Kevin Kern
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.
3400: 496/596
Empire, Genocide, and Mass Violence
Tuesday/Thursday, 1:15-2:30 p.m.
Dr. Janet Klein

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 the Sudan, 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.

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.

**History majors may apply this course to either the Group I (U.S.), Group II (Europe), or Group III (non-Western, etc.) area distribution requirement depending on their needs.

3400: 601
Graduate Research Seminar
Wednesday, 5:20-8:40 p.m.
Dr. Walter Hixson

Graduate students will work with me as well as another professor in designing, researching, writing, and revising a substantial research paper on a topic of their own choosing. This course thus presents an ideal opportunity to advance an MA thesis, option paper, or doctoral dissertation. We will begin by determining a research topic and the primary and secondary sources to be exploited in its construction. Students will be required to present a rough draft on a pre-determined date and to revise the draft on the basis of the critique by the two professors. Finally, students will be required to present a summary of their research at the end of the semester.

3400: 634
Reading Seminar in Modern European History
Monday, 5:45-8:45 p.m.
Dr. Stephen Harp

The topics of this course are consumption, empire, migration, and mobility. We’ll read as I want to cover enough ground that students are essentially ready for comps afterward. Students will write a review essay on a theme of particular interest. That essay will serve as the basis for one of a student’s comp questions and, ideally, is related to the focus of her/his option paper, thesis, or likely dissertation topic. The course will be a bit Franco-centric simply because I am a bit Franco-centric (though students are strongly encouraged to write their review essays about other subfields).