



2022-2023 CORE SEMINARS

WHAT IS A CORE SEMINAR?

Students in the Major and Medial degree plans in the Department of History enrol in a core seminar in the second year.

In addition to the subject matter of the courses, the core seminars prepare students for the upper-year seminars by providing in-depth training in historical methods. Students learn techniques for reading different kinds of historical sources, how to use the library effectively to find primary and secondary sources, and various modes of writing historical essays. The core seminars engage students in discussions on methodology, critical thinking, schools of historiography, academic writing, and presentation skills. Students must secure a minimum of C+ in a core seminar to continue in a Major or Medial plan.

History seminars are small classes, limited to fewer than 25 students, and are only available to History Majors and Medials to encourage active discussion among student peers and with instructors. Students value the small learning environment where they can collectively debate and discuss the finer points of historical scholarship with their colleagues and strengthen their communication skills.

In 2022-23, students will select 1 of 9 core seminars on a variety of different topics. This bulletin offers an exclusive preview of next year's core seminars.

HIST 304

DR. ROSANNE CURRARINO

THE CIVIL WAR AND THE MAKING OF AMERICA



This seminar examines causes, events and consequences of the Civil War in the United States. It focuses on slavery, antebellum social and political divisions, the experiences of soldiers and civilians during the war itself, Reconstruction's efforts to remake the nation, and the place of the Civil War in American culture since 1877. It also introduces second-year students to the historian's craft, with particular emphasis on analyzing primary documents and examining historiographic debates.

HIST 306

HOLOCAUST: PROBLEMS AND INTERPRETATIONS

DR. GORD DUECK

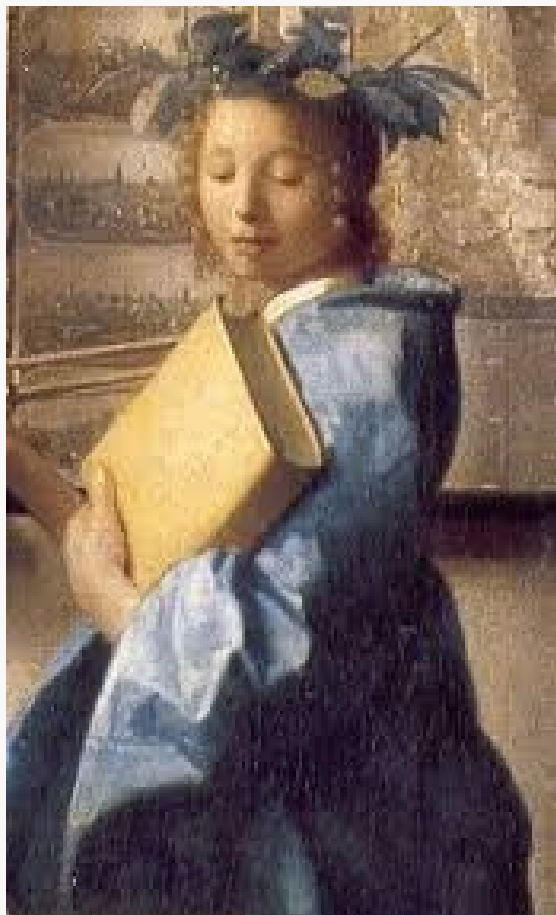
A fall/winter course taught in conjunction with HIST-295, the first half is a lecture that gives a broad overview of the Holocaust, and the second half is a seminar in which the main themes of Holocaust historiography are examined. Subjects to be covered: the difference between anti-Judaism and anti-Semitism, the origins of the "Jewish problem", European nationalism in the inter-war era, Nazi racial policies before WWII, the rise of the police state, the organization of the concentration camps and death camps, and the victims, perpetrators, and by-standers of the Holocaust.



HIST 307

INTRODUCTION TO HISTORIOGRAPHY

DR. DANIEL WOOLF



This seminar is designed to introduce history majors and medials to the idea of historiography, taken as both the writing of history and the study and analysis of that writing.

1. The different meanings of the term historiography
2. The history of the practices of researching and writing history both in the Western world and globally
3. Seminal ideas about historical processes
4. How present-day issues and concerns can influence the writing of history
5. The work of select prominent historians from antiquity to the twentieth century
6. Key concepts in historical thought
7. Historical errors and fallacies
8. The use of counterfactual thinking
9. The ethics of historical practice
10. How historical works come into existence
11. The process of peer review
12. Alternative approaches to the past

The course will include what may be described as practical elements (including visits to the university archives and special collections), and discussions of how and why the historical “discipline” or profession is organized institutionally in the ways that it is. Students will learn how to develop a bibliography, search for sources, evaluate and criticize a historical article, differentiate among historical arguments and positions, summarize historical arguments concisely, and conduct a formal presentation in front of their peers.



Visit the Department of History website to learn about course offerings, internship opportunities, independent research projects, careers in History, and more!

HIST 313

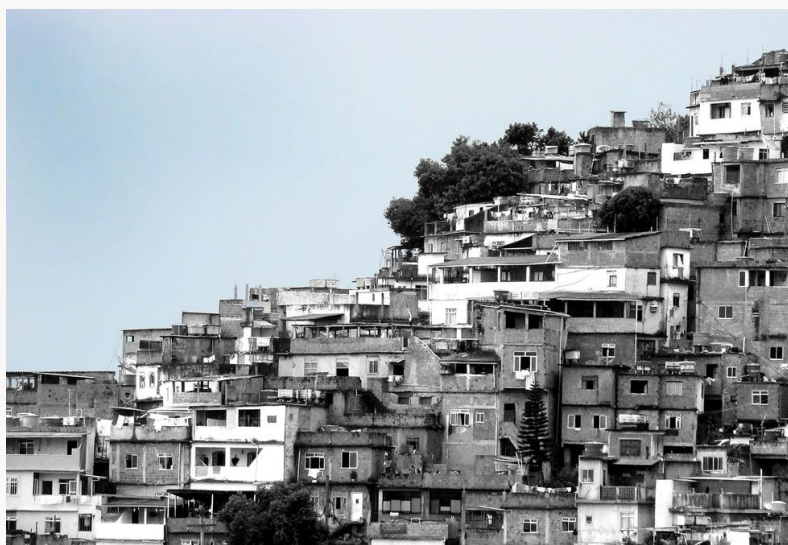
BRITISH NORTH AMERICA,
1759-1867

DR. JEFF MCNAIRN

This course covers a wide range of topics and approaches to the history of northern North America from roughly the establishment of Halifax in 1749 to the late nineteenth century. Topics



will include British “conquests,” Indigenous-newcomer relations, slavery and race relations, schooling, and the social, political, and cultural history of the settler-colonial societies that became Canada. The course is designed around opportunities to work with primary sources – including maps, petitions, diaries and letters, newspapers, and government records – to better understand the past and how historians write about it. Visits to the archives, art gallery, and rare book library on campus are included. Finally, the relationship between the study of history as an academic discipline and other uses of the past such as public history and commemoration is an additional theme. No previous background in Canadian history is assumed.



HIST 315

MODERN LATIN AMERICAN
HISTORY: SOURCES AND
DEBATES

DR. DAVID PARKER

A survey of Latin American history from 1850 to the recent past. Major events of the 20th century will be examined in historical context, with special attention to issues of development, nation building, and political and social conflict. Emphasis is on the critical interpretation of original period sources (the raw materials from which historians try to reconstruct the past), on the debates that happen when historians disagree, and on the development of speaking, research, and writing skills.

HIST 316

EUROPEAN POLITICS AND SOCIETY SINCE 1789

DR. REBECCA MANLEY



This course seeks to introduce students to major themes in modern European history and to acquaint students with a range of methodological approaches to the study of the past. Chronologically, our course will be bounded by two momentous events: the French Revolution of 1789 and the dismantling of the Berlin Wall exactly two centuries later. Some of the topics to be covered in between these two bookends include European colonialism; labour history and the working class; nations and nationalism; modern state practices and ideologies in the western democracies, the fascist states, and the socialist Soviet Union; violence and warfare, culture and consumption, memory, and decolonization.

HIST 318

MODERN EAST ASIA

DR. EMILY HILL

How did the modern states of East Asia emerge? This core seminar course considers the formation of China, Vietnam, Korea, and Japan in historical and regional contexts. Topics include the concepts of “East Asia” and “Confucian civilization,” forms of monarchical rule, integration into regional and global networks of commerce and intellectual exchange, the rise of imperial Japan, anti-colonial, socialist, and communist movements, and experiences of social and cultural change since the 1970s. Format: Short introductory lectures, seminar discussion, and oral reports. Assignments: Like other seminar courses, HIST 318 is structured to teach critical reading and research skills. Reading assignments include fiction, pioneering scholarly works, and news analysis. (Continued on next page)



(HIST 318 continued) The writing assignments are short essays, in-class analytic exercises, a longer essay based on research conducted in stages during the year, and a take-home final exam. In addition, participants will join teams to prepare for and lead class discussion. During two end-of-term class conferences, participants will present brief overviews of their research in progress and take questions from classmates.

HIST 320 INDIGENOUS HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICA

DR. SCOTT BERTHELETTE

This course examines the Indigenous History of North America. Through our weekly readings and seminar discussions, we will explore themes as diverse as Euro-Indigenous relations, sovereignty and possession, warfare and slavery, the fur trade and métissage (cultural hybridity), religion and spirituality, women and gender, dispossession and destruction, and reclamation and revival. Over the span of the course, students will acquire knowledge of the ethnohistory of Indigenous societies and cultures as well as gain knowledge of the political history of Indigenous peoples in Canada and the United States. Through this course, students will also understand contemporary Indigenous issues, their foundations, and their social and political impacts.



HIST 330 JEWISH AND WORLD CIVILIZATIONS (FROM BIBLICAL TIMES TO THE PRESENT)

DR. VASSILI SCHEDRIN

A thematic-chronological exploration of Jewish history from ancient times to the post World War II period. Topics to be covered include: emergence of Biblical Judaism; political, social, religious and cultural interactions of the Jews and other ancient and medieval civilizations and religions, such as Babylon, Greece, Rome, Christianity and Islam; the rise of rabbinic Judaism and Jewish communities in Diaspora, political



emancipation of the Jews in Western Europe; Jewish attempts to integrate into European societies; reform and counter-reform of Judaism; rise of modern antisemitism; Holocaust; emergence of Zionism and establishment of the Jewish state. The geographic span of the course includes Western and Eastern Europe, North America, and Middle East. The seminar traces continuity and change of Judaism and Jewish civilization through examination of a variety of source material: primary historical texts, historiography, and works of art, including literature and film.

Questions about degree options,
requirements or course planning?

Email Alex at hist.undergrad@queensu.ca or visit
www.queensu.ca/history/undergraduate



DEPARTMENT OF
HISTORY