

History

Brautigam, Curtis, Lian, Luttmer, Murphy, Thornton, M. Vosmeier, S. Vosmeier.

Major: History courses – Nine, including 371 and 471 (culminating experience), but not including 111. Recommended: 211, 212, 213, 214.

Comprehensive evaluation, with passing grade.

Minor: History courses – Five.

History courses are designed to engage students in substantive historical inquiry, encourage independent and creative thinking, and promote excellence in undergraduate scholarship. Students should expect to consider and eventually to identify significant historical questions, to analyze primary documents with care and precision, to evaluate alternative arguments, to develop coherent interpretations of historical problems, and to write with clarity, precision, and authority.

The history curriculum consists of a diverse range of courses, organized in a progressive sequence. Introductory courses (111, 211-214) are integrative and comparative courses designed to provide students with a foundation for more specialized work in upper-level courses organized by geographic areas, time periods, and themes.

The history curriculum is intended for all students of the liberal arts, history majors and non-majors alike. There are no prerequisites to history courses. Upper-level courses presuppose greater sophistication in analytical and interpretive skills, but they do not assume knowledge of particular content.

History majors, in consultation with their advisers, are expected to develop a well-balanced major program combining breadth and depth and including both introductory and upper-level courses from different areas of the history curriculum. Majors are encouraged to enroll in some or all of the courses in the Western Civilization sequence (211-214). For their culminating experience, history majors are to pursue an Independent Study (471), a semester-long research and writing project resulting in a substantive and original thesis paper. The history comprehensive examination is designed to test seniors both on their understanding of different civilizations and eras and on their ability to analyze and interpret historical problems and to integrate material from across the curriculum. The history department endorses the development of individual plans of study, including internships and directed studies.

Introductory Courses in History

His 111. Foundations of the Modern Age. An introduction to the ideas, institutions and events which shaped modern Western civilization, focusing on Western Europe and North America but also giving attention to the relationship between the West and the rest of the world. Satisfies General Degree Requirement IV.B. Not open to students enrolled in the Eurasia sequence.

His 161. Diversity and Difference: The Modern West. An examination of the historical causes and consequences of diversity and difference in societies. In combination with Soc 161, satisfies the Modern Societies LADR and GDR IV.A and IV.B.

His 163. Order and Change: The Modern West. Focuses on the historical causes and consequences of order and change in societies. In combination with Soc 163, satisfies Modern Society LADR and General Degree Requirement IV.A and B.

His 165. The Family and the Modern West. An examination of issues related to the family in the history of modern society. Focuses on Western Europe and North America but also attends to the relationship between the West and the rest of the world. In combination with Psy 165 satisfies the Modern Society LADR and GDR IV.A and IV.B.

His 211. The History of Western Civilization, Ancient to 1492. Offered alternate Fall Terms. (See description below.)

His 212. The History of Western Civilization, 1492-1750. Offered alternate Winter Terms. (See description below.)

His 213. The History of Western Civilization, 1750-1914. Offered each Fall Term. (See description below.)

His 214. The History of Western Civilization, 1914 to Present. Offered each Winter Term. (See description below.)

By integrating European and American history, encouraging innovative comparative approaches, and giving consideration to the relationship between the West and the world, the four-course “core” sequence in Western civilization is designed to provide students with a broad geographical, cultural, and historical context for evaluating and interpreting historical problems, and to give a solid foundation for more advanced work not only in history, but also in other disciplines.

Advanced Courses in U. S. History

His 225. The History of the American Midwest. A survey of America’s heartland from the time of European contact to the present, examining the history of European exploration of the region, European and Native American relations, immigration and settlement, territorial organization and statehood, economic development, and the creation and meaning of Midwestern regional identity. Offered alternate years.

His 226. Abraham Lincoln and the American Dream. A course that uses biography, Abraham Lincoln’s own words, and popular culture to examine the 16th president in historical context – as a product of the cultural and intellectual currents of 19th-century American – and in America’s collective memory, as an image and continuing symbol of national values and ideals. Offered alternate Spring Terms.

His 227. Twentieth-Century America and Your Family. An examination of twentieth-century American life, considering the intersection of national history and lived experience. Students will interview family members, using their own interviews and those of their colleagues to make historical arguments about national events and everyday life. Offered alternate Spring Terms.

His 228. The Family in Western Civilization. A historical study of family life in Europe and America, including gender roles, childrearing practices, economic strategies, and the material conditions of everyday life. Considers the family from ancient times to the present, giving special attention to the American experience.

His 229. American Women’s History. A survey of American women’s experiences from the colonial era to the present, giving special attention to the “public sphere” (including politics, the workplace, and the law).

His 230. American Military History, 1600-1903. A survey of the American military history through the conclusion of the Philippines conquest, studying the military campaigns conducted by the Americans during this period. In addition to studying strategy, tactics, and weapons, issues such as the social composition of the armed forces, the influence of new technologies on warfare, the tension between “professional” and “citizen” soldiers, popular attitudes toward war and the military, and the effects of war on American society will be explored. Offered alternate years.

His 231. American Military History, 1903 to Present. A survey of the American military from 1903 to the present, studying the military campaigns conducted by the Americans during this period. In addition to studying strategy, tactics, and weapons, issues such as the social composition of the armed forces, the influence of new technologies on warfare, the tension between “professional” and “citizen” soldiers, popular attitudes toward war and the military, and the effects of war on American society will be explored. Offered alternate years.

His 232. Studies in American Indian History: (Course Title). An examination of selected topics in the history of the native cultures of North America, their response to the advent of the Europeans, and their evolving relationship with the United States. Content may vary. May be repeated for credit with permission of instructor. Offered alternate years during Spring Term. Satisfies General Degree Requirement IV.C.

His 234. Studies in American Cultural History. An examination of selected topics in the cultural history of the United States, exploring the ways popular culture, material culture, and everyday life have both reflected and influenced American society. Content may vary. May be repeated for credit with permission of instructor.

His 235. American Autobiography. An examination of American autobiographical works (published autobiographies as well as diaries, self-portraits, and other forms of self-representation). Focuses on the analysis of primary sources but also provides an overview of American history from the colonial era to the recent past. Offered alternate years.

His 330. Studies in the History of American Thought: (Course Title). An examination of selected topics in the intellectual history of the United States, exploring the ways ideas have helped shape the meaning of the American experience. Content may vary. May be repeated for credit with permission of instructor. Offered alternate years.

His 331. American Constitutional and Legal History, 1600-1865. A survey of the nature and function of law in American society through 1865, including an assessment of the impact of American space, wars, new people, and new technology. Offered alternate years.

His 332. American Constitutional and Legal History, 1865 to Present. A survey of the nature and function of law in American society from 1865 to the present, including an assessment of the impact of American space, wars, new people, and new technology. Offered alternate years.

His 333. American Colonial History, 1600-1750. The chronological survey of the European settlement of North America and the development of English colonies with special emphasis on the political, social, economic, and cultural developments. Offered alternate years.

His 334. The New American Nation, 1750-1815. The chronological survey of the American Revolution, the War of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, the drafting and ratification of the Constitution, the establishment of the new government, and the presidencies of Washington, Adams, Jefferson, and Madison. Offered alternate years.

His 335. Toward a More Perfect Union, 1815-1877. The chronological survey of a critical period in U.S. history that witnessed national expansion and economic development, the rise of mass political parties and a celebration of democratic culture, movements for social reform, dispossession of Native Americans, slavery, sectional crises, the Civil War, and Reconstruction. Offered alternate years.

His 336. The Search for Order, 1877-1945. The chronological survey of the period when the United States simultaneously became an urban industrial nation and a world power. Offered alternate years.

His 337. Modern America, 1945 to Present. The chronological survey of the history of the United States from the onset of the Cold War through its termination, and the profound social changes which marked the nation during those years. Offered alternate years.

Advanced Courses in European History

His 241. Tsarist Russia. A survey of Russian history from the earliest times to the emancipation of the serfs in 1861. Offered alternate years.

His 242. The Soviet Union. A study of the events, developments, and personalities that led to the disintegration of tsarist Russia and the beginnings of a new society which has produced tremendous upheaval, millenarianism, intense hostility, and incredible brutality. Offered alternate years.

His 243. Tudor and Stuart England. An examination of the economic, social, political, and intellectual history of England during the reigns of the Tudor and Stuart monarchs. Offered alternate years.

His 244. Studies in Early Modern Europe: (Course Title). An examination of selected problems in the history of early modern Europe. Content may vary. May be repeated for credit with permission of instructor. Offered alternate years during Spring Term.

His 245. Studies in Modern Europe: (Course Title). A study of selected topics in modern European history. Content may vary. May be repeated for credit with permission of instructor. Offered alternate years during Spring Term.

His 246. German History from the Beginnings to World War I. A survey of events, developments, and personalities that shaped German-speaking Europe from Roman times to the early 20th century, focusing on the major political organizers: the Franks, the Stauffers, the Hapsburgs, and the Hohenzollerns; on the sociopolitical legacy of the Holy Roman Empire; on German unification and the "German question;" and on the events leading to World War I. Offered alternate years.

His 247. German History, 1945 to Present. From ruin to riches to reunification: an examination of the postwar period; of Germany's defeat, occupation, and division; of the economic miracle and its consequences; of major forces, events, and developments leading to the second unification; and of Germany's role in Europe. Offered alternate years.

His 251. Greek History. A survey of Greek history from the Aegean Bronze Age to the age of Alexander. Identical to Classics 251. Offered every third year.

His 252. Roman History. A survey of Roman history from the founding of the city to the fall of the Roman Empire. Identical to Classics 252. Offered alternate years.

His 344. The High Middle Ages. A study of European history from the 11th through the 13th centuries. Offered alternate years.

His 345. The Renaissance. A study of the history of the Renaissance, focusing on Italy from the 14th through the 16th centuries. Offered alternate years.

His 346. The Reformation. A study of European religious history during the period of the late Middle Ages and Reformation. Offered alternate years.

His 347. The Enlightenment. A study of early modern European intellectual history, focusing on the Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment. Offered alternate years.

His 348. The French Revolution and Napoleon. An in-depth examination of the turbulent 25-year period that dramatically reshaped concepts of politics, power, and social relations, polarized contemporary European society, and served as a model of change ever since. Offered alternate years.

His 349. Nazi Germany. A study of the forces and conditions which made it possible for the Hitler movement to seize power in Germany; of the policies pursued on behalf of and in opposition to National Socialism; of the war; and of the movement's legacies. Offered alternate years.

His 350. Florence in the Age of Dante and Petrarch. Studies in the history and literature of Florence in the 13th and 14th centuries. Taught in Florence during the Spring Term in alternate years. Identical to Eng 350. Prerequisite: Satisfaction of GDR II.B.

His 352. Genocide and the Holocaust. An in-depth examination of the ideological underpinnings, implementation, and legacy of the Nazi effort to exterminate every Jew in Europe. The course will also consider the question of the uniqueness of the Holocaust in the context of examples of other manifestations of genocide. Offered alternate years.

His 358. The British Empire. An examination of the development, maintenance, and dismantling of the British Empire from the late 18th century to the late 20th century. In addition to learning the narrative of the history of the British Empire, students will examine the reciprocal effects of imperialism on the social, intellectual and political experience of each of the cultures involved, with special emphasis on Britain, India, and the African continent. Offered alternate years.

Advanced Courses in Asian, Latin American, and World History

His 261. The World Outside the West, 1500 to Present. A study of Asian, Middle Eastern, African, and Latin American civilizations since 1500. Satisfies General Degree Requirement IV.C. Offered alternate years.

His 263. Latin American History. A study of the history of political, economic, and cultural developments of Latin America, including the American and European backgrounds, the European discovery and conquest, colonial period, independence, and the growth of modern nations. Satisfies General Degree Requirement IV.C.

His 264. The World since 1945. A survey of events and developments throughout the world from the end of the Second World War to the present. Satisfies General Degree Requirement IV.C. Offered alternate years.

His 265. Studies in World History: (Course Title). An examination of selected topics and themes in world history. Content may vary. May be repeated for credit with permission of instructor. Satisfies General Degree Requirement IV.C. Offered alternate years.

His 266. History of China. An introduction to the history of China from ancient times through the modern era. Satisfies General Degree Requirement IV.C. Offered alternate years.

His 267. History of Japan. An introduction to the history of Japan from the beginning of Japanese civilization through the modern era. Satisfies General Degree Requirement IV.C. Offered alternate years.

His 268. History of Modern Science. This course examines the major developments in the formation of modern science from the 17th century to the present. It focuses on science as human creative endeavor and examines episodes of scientific discovery, debate, and controversy to generate consideration and discussion of such issues as the nature of scientific discovery and the relationship of scientific theories to their social and cultural contexts. Offered alternate years.

His 362. Modern China. An examination of current scholarship on modern and contemporary China, focusing on topics such as the 1911 Revolution, the Communist Revolution, and the Cultural Revolution. Satisfies General Degree Requirement IV.C. Offered alternate years.

His 363. Modern Japan. This course examines the paradoxical development in modern Japan that brought the nation both democracy and authoritarianism, international influence, and military expansionism. Satisfies General Degree Requirement IV.C. Offered alternate years.

His 364. Traditional China. An examination of social and intellectual changes in ancient China by studying Chinese texts (in translation). Satisfies General Degree Requirement IV.C. Offered alternate years.

His 365. History of the Middle East. An introduction and examination of the history of the Middle East from pre-Islamic times to the modern era. Satisfies General Degree Requirement IV.C. Offered alternate years.

His 366. Studies in Historiography. An examination of selected topics in the history, philosophy, and methods of historical investigation. Content may vary. May be repeated for credit with the permission of the instructor. Offered alternate years.

His 367. Christianity and Modern China. Explores the role of Christianity in the political and social changes as well as the cultural transformations of Modern China. It also examines how China's turmoil since the Opium War has helped shape an emerging popular Christianity that is becoming a permanent part of the religious and cultural landscape of the country. Does not satisfy the Cultures Other than the West GDR or the Other Cultures LADR. Alternate years.

His 369. History of Modern India. A survey of the history of India from its beginnings to the present. Offered alternate years.

Special Courses

Offered as indicated.

His 260. Special Topics. New courses offered on a trial basis.

His 307. Directed Study. .50 unit. To be arranged with faculty director.

His 357. Internship. Off-campus supervised experience in History.

His 360. Special Topics. New courses offered on a trial basis.

His 370. Directed Study. One unit. To be arranged with faculty director.

His 371. Historical Research. A seminar exploring historiographical traditions and methods of historical analysis. Intended for history majors in their junior year.

His 457. Internship. To be arranged with advisor and faculty sponsor.

His 471. Independent Study. To be arranged with faculty director.