SHSU
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
UPPER-LEVEL COURSE OFFERINGS
FALL 2017

Textile workers, Alexander Deineka, 1927

MAIN CAMPUS
THE WOODLANDS CENTER
& ONLINE
Around the year AD 400, Jerome composed a Latin translation of the Bible, known as the Vulgate, that stood as the authoritative version of the scriptures in the western Christian world for a thousand years. Then, in the fourteenth century, the Bible in Europe started to be translated into vernacular languages, that is, people's everyday, spoken tongues. Moreover, top scholars such as Erasmus published critical editions of the Bible. By the early sixteenth century, Martin Luther, John Calvin, and other reformers elevated the Bible to the level of supreme authority and according to it they judged an array of matters, starting with the most sacred ones of salvation, the sacraments, and the Church. Their efforts triggered a variety of reform movements, Protestant as well as Catholic, that profoundly affected life in Europe, from its politics, society, morality, and economy to its values, rituals, and worldviews. The course will examine the reforms’ intended and unintended consequences on European and world history. The Fall 2017 semester coincides with the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, which began on October 31, 1517 when Luther posted his 95 Theses in the university town of Wittenberg.
This course takes up the epic story of modern economic growth, its glories, dislocations, profundities, and details, from 1750 to our own time. We shall discuss the great advances in agriculture and technology of two centuries ago, the entrepreneurs and the workers of the nineteenth century, the booms and recessions of the twentieth century, and the enormous impact on living standards and basic ways of life that the Industrial Revolution has sustained in global society for now a quarter of a century. Other important topics treated include the international monetary system, the gold standard, and economic thought.

“Still, I think we can all take some pride in being one of the signature bankruptcies of our time.”

HISTORY 3338
ECONOMIC HISTORY
THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION TO THE PRESENT
DR. DOMITROVIC
MWF 10 AM
This course will look at how Germany and Germans developed as a result of their experiences of war, violence, and revolution from the time of Frederick the Great through the unification of the German state in the nineteenth century, and conclude with a study of German participation in World War I, World War II, and the Cold War in the twentieth century. Topics include violence, war, and militarism and their complex influences on German society, culture, and politics.

Fürst Otto von Bismarck, Franz von Lenbach, 1890
This course introduces students to the Middle Eastern history between 500 CE and 1700 CE. It will proceed chronologically, focusing mainly on political events. Throughout the semester, we will discuss the rise of Islam, the age of Caliphates, the Crusades, the Mongols, and the Gun-powder empires of the Muslim world. The last part of the course considers the foundation and the rise of the Ottoman Empire, the longest-lasting Islamic empire. In discussing religious, political, and economic events that dominated the Middle East between 500 and 1700, the course will also emphasize the formation of the Islamic tradition, its evolution across different regions and cultures in time, and its interaction with other traditions.
This course will acquaint students with the political, social, economic and cultural history of Russia and the Soviet Union from earliest times to the present. The first part of the course will look into origins of the Eastern Slavic states up until the Mongol Invasion of the 13th century. The second part will investigate the impact of Mongol and Tatar rule and the rise of Moscow as a Eurasian empire. The Third part of the course will look at the impact of Russia's interaction with Europe from Peter the Great to Nicholas II. The fourth part of the course will investigate the domestic and foreign crises of the Russian Empire, which led to World War, revolution and the foundation of the Soviet Union. The fifth part of the course will evaluate the 74 years of Soviet rule. The Final part will briefly survey the Post-Soviet era.
This course examines European military history and its links to political, social, and cultural changes from 1600 to the present day. It will concentrate on political and military ideologies that formed over last 400 years, how those lead to colonial competition which ultimately resulted in wars that grew ever larger, longer, and more destructive over time. Ultimately, this course will discuss the expansion of European Wars into World Wars, which by the twentieth century had become the most destructive events to date in human history.
This course will examine the major political, cultural, economic, social, and artistic developments that occurred in Europe during the Early Modern Period. Some of these topics will include Europe in Crisis prior to 1648, the Thirty Years’ War, Absolutism & Constitutionalism, Society & the Economy under the Ancien Régime, The Agricultural, Industrial, and Scientific Revolutions, the Enlightenment, the French Revolution & the Napoleonic Era, and the changing status and conditions of women.
Europe's long nineteenth century witnessed the acceleration of everyday life, the intense imaginings of nationalists, and the rapaciousness of imperialism. This course will investigate the tumult, promise, and problems of such issues through a close examination of German unification, French Antisemitism, Austrian democracy, and socialist revolutionaries. It will be taught in an unorthodox style, as students will be asked to put themselves into the mentalities of Europeans at crucial moments.
This course examines United States history from 1877 to 1945 and will include discussions of the Industrial Revolution, the Populist and Progressive movements, World War I, the era of the 1920s, the Great Depression and New Deal, and World War II.
How did the United States come to be what it is today? This course will answer that question by exploring the politics, social movements, economy, culture, and foreign policy of the United States since 1945. Topics will include the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War, the global war on terrorism, public policy debates about the role of the federal government in the modern economy, the evolution of popular culture, the continuing centrality of race in the American experience, and the emergence of a new economy in the 21st century. By reading primary source material from the time period under study, including the memoir of a civil rights activist, a novel about the Vietnam War, and a national bestseller assessing the current state of American racial politics, we will endeavor to understand our contemporary world in a more sophisticated and nuanced way.
This course examines the military, social, and political history of the American Civil War. We consider how slavery plunged a young republic into four years of fratricidal conflict; the political combat of the 1840s and 1850s; and the secession crisis. We examine the military campaigns and the experiences of common soldiers; the tortuous road to emancipation; and the war’s physical and emotional scars. Finally, we ponder the manifold challenges of Reconstruction, sectional reconciliation, and the legacies of Union victory and Confederate defeat.
Whether due to slavery, indenture, the spread of capitalism, or domestic labor needs, the voluntary and forced movement of peoples has been central to the formation of the modern world and especially to the United States. HIST 3382 is arranged around the major themes of citizenship, identity, inclusion and exclusion, racial formation, resistance, and immigration policy. In this writing-enhanced course, students will examine immigration and ethnic history through group discussion, film, analysis of primary sources, and key secondary sources.
An examination of the history of women in the United States, focusing on everyday concerns (including work, marriage, family, sexuality, reproduction, and education) and of the social forces which have aided or blocked change in women’s roles in American society. Particular attention is paid to differences in race, class, and ethnicity.
An examination of the problems, potentials, and upheavals of Modern Africa. Emphasis is on such topics as the impact of the slave trade on African society, racial conflicts, apartheid, the emergence of African nationalism, the end of white colonial rule, and the difficulties of achieving economic and political stability in contemporary Africa.

AFRICA PAST AND PRESENT
HIST 3389
TR 2 PM
This course introduces students to the history of colonial Latin America, beginning with the diverse and complex pre-Columbian Indian civilizations of Mesoamerica and the Andes. The Spanish conquest of the Americas and the Portuguese colonization of Brazil gave rise to hybrid cultures and unique politics and religious beliefs. Texts, primary documents, and film immerse the student in the world made after the last encounter in human history of two civilizations mutually unaware of the other’s existence.
As a study of the Greater Southwest, this course examines Spanish expansion and the Spanish-French rivalry in the lower Mississippi region and Texas. Special emphasis is given to geographic factors and cultural developments.
As the lifeblood of Texas culture, the state’s history has long represented a unique identity, although one based mostly on 19th-century stereotypes. Students taking this course will expand their views beyond such narrow depictions and come to embrace a new usable past capable of informing 21st-century Texans. It will place well-known chapters into perspective, while introducing new ideas and concepts that bring long-marginalized peoples into the mainstream of Texas history. It will also illustrate the role of the state in wider contexts. For more information, including a syllabus with a list of required books and weekly assignments, please visit Dr. Cashion’s website: shsu.edu/his_rtc
The JFK Presidency, is a course in how to do history like the pros. We shall learn how to write a great historical research paper from scratch. We shall discern the difference between primary and secondary sources. We shall learn how to find evidence and scholarship, how to present findings, how to make arguments, and how to write in the becoming fashion that makes all the world love a good historian. Our vehicle for all this will be that ever-fascinating 1000-day episode in American history, of which we are blessed with an abundance of sources, primary and secondary alike, the presidency of John F. Kennedy from 1961 to 1963.
Modern East Asia in World History
Senior Seminar
HIST 4399
Dr. Vanden Bussche & Dr. Cox
TR 9:30 AM
AB4 452

East Asia has undergone profound changes over the past two hundred years. Covering the period from the mid-nineteenth century to the present day, this course examines the histories of Japan, China, and Korea through a comparative lens. We will discuss the major transformations that have shaped the region through the analysis of different kinds of primary and secondary sources. Topics include the Meiji Restoration, the demise of the Qing dynasty, Japanese colonization in Korea and Taiwan, World War II, the Chinese Communist revolution, and the economic rise of East Asia in the post-war period. Students will develop an understanding of the major historical transformations in East Asia, explore historiographical debates, and have the opportunity to participate in lectures and discussions with guest speakers. For more information, contact thc001@shsu.edu / ericvb@shsu.edu
This course is devoted to medieval stories of Christian conversion. Placing a strong emphasis on “primary” sources (in English translation), we shall investigate the Christianization of a variety of monarchs starting with the Roman emperor Constantine, the Armenian king Trdat, and the Georgian king Mirian in the early fourth century. Our horizon will expand to include the whole of Christendom, from western Europe to the expansive Iranian world and southwards to Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa. Because conversion stories were typically written long after the events they purport to describe, we shall pay special attention to the political and religious function of such texts. In addition, we shall handle all of our sources in a comparative manner, searching for common threads and cultural distinctiveness. Because this is an advanced research seminar, expect an ambitious schedule built around critical reading, writing, and in-class discussion.

For more information contact Dr. Rapp at srapp@shsu.edu
Study Abroad History in Mexico
Summer I 2018
Six hours of upper-level credit toward the degree
HIST-3399 Special Topics: History Of Mesoamerica
HIST-3388: Public History: Memory, Tourism, Globalization
(Graduate courses will be offered too)

This program of study will provide six (6) credit hours. We shall visit more than a dozen pre-Hispanic sites of the Maya, Zapotec, and Aztec civilizations as we travel through Mexico, stopping along the way to visit Spanish colonial cities as well. We shall finish our travels in the megalopolis, Mexico City. Studying Pre-Columbian Mesoamerica is as much about contemporary society’s values and how knowledge is constructed in the disciplines of history, archeology, and anthropology as it is about the past. In other words, the present and the past cannot be separated. Furthermore, in Memory, Tourism, and Globalization in Indigenous Mexico, students are introduced to concepts of Public History, including architectural preservation and restoration, museum studies and history as it relates to the history of indigenous Mexico

For more information contact Dr. Littlejohn or Dr. Heath
littlejohn@shsu.edu    cvh003@shsu.edu

GENEROUS FUNDING in the form of scholarships and grants are available for qualified students. In 2016 our student travelers received almost $2,000 each in grants and stipends to help defray cost of the trip.

See our student testimonial video here