HISTORY (BA)

Chair: Richard Bailey, PhD

Introduction

Students of history see the past as a fascinating and constantly changing place. They explore the past and develop understanding of the process of change over time by carefully examining evidence relevant to the specific cultures, periods, and geographic regions that excite their interest. History students at Canisius pursue their interests through a wide variety of courses ranging from the ancient to the modern periods, focusing on various geographical regions, and incorporating diverse political, social, economic, cultural, and intellectual themes. They learn that the historian’s craft is multifaceted, incorporating not only knowledge of particular events and people, but also skills in critical thinking and both expository and argumentative writing. By emphasizing those skills, the study of history provides excellent preparation for careers in law, communications, journalism, library science, government service, teaching, and business.

For a more detailed description of our program, faculty, and academic and co-curricular opportunities please go to the History Department website (https://www.canisius.edu/academics/programs/history/).

Qualifications

Students must maintain a 2.0 overall average to graduate with a degree in history.

Advisement

All students should have an advisor in the major and should contact the department directly to have an advisor assigned if they do not already have one. Meetings with academic advisors are required prior to students receiving their PIN for course registration each semester. All majors should work closely with their advisor in discussing career expectations, choosing their major electives, developing their entire academic program and planning their co-curricular or supplemental academic experiences.

Major Experiences

The history department offers a departmental honors program consisting of two advanced seminars: HIS 401 Historical Methodology and HIS 411 Senior Honors Thesis. These courses are designed to develop the research, writing, and analytical skills necessary for graduate and professional school. Students who complete HIS 401 and HIS 411 with a 3.25 average, and a 3.00 average in all their history courses, graduate with honors in history. The History Honors program is appropriate for students majoring in history as well as Social Studies Education. It is compatible with the All-College Honors Program as well as the Core Curriculum. History majors also pursue a variety of off-campus experiences. Canisius offers study abroad programs in Europe, Asia, Latin America, and Australia; any of these programs can be combined with the history major. The department offers a variety of opportunities for academic travel. In recent years students and faculty members have combined travel with study of the Holocaust, the American Civil Rights Movement, and Native American History. History students also undertake internships which offer the opportunity to explore opportunities outside academia, particularly in the exciting field of public history. A variety of extracurricular and co-curricular activities are organized by the History Club. Qualified students are invited to join Phi Alpha Theta, the national honors society in history.

Additional Course Considerations

Students majoring in history are strongly encouraged to study either an ancient or modern foreign language. Foreign language study is essential for those who plan to study history at the graduate level; at the undergraduate level, it plays a vital role in achieving the Core goal of global awareness as well as the history program’s objective of developing historical knowledge which is characterized by geographical and cultural breadth.

Double Majors

Students who wish to expand their educational opportunities may decide to declare a double major. This decision may be based on career goals, planned graduate studies, and/or other student interests. Before a student declares a double major, it is important to meet with the appropriate academic departments for advisement. In order to declare a double major, the student must complete the appropriate double major request form and get the signature of each department chairperson and the appropriate associate dean.

Per college policy, each additional major requires a minimum of 15 credits that do not apply to the student’s first or subsequent major. Some double major combinations can be completed within the minimum 120 credit hour degree requirement, but in other cases additional course work may be required. Please note that students will receive only one degree, regardless of the number of majors they complete.

History is multifaceted; its students find connections with nearly every other discipline. Our students pursue dual majors in a wide variety of fields including Anthropology, Business, Communications, English, European Studies, International Relations, Mathematics, Modern Languages, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, and Urban Studies. History majors also pursue Pre-Law and Pre-Medical programs.

History majors interested in teaching at the secondary level often pursue a dual major in history and Adolescent Education/Social Studies. Those interested in this option should consult with faculty members in both departments to coordinate the dual major. Alternatively, history majors may enter the teaching profession by pursuing a master’s in education. Those interested in this “five year plan” should consult with their advisor in the department.

Minors in Other Disciplines

Minors provide students the opportunity to pursue additional interests but generally do not require as many courses as a major. Minors generally range from five to eight required courses. The minors page (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/minors/) provides a complete list of minors and provides links to each minor. Some majors and minors can be completed within the minimum 120 credit hour degree requirement, but in some cases additional coursework may be required. Students must complete the appropriate minor request form.

Curriculum

An Ignatian Foundation

All undergraduate students must complete either the Canisius Core Curriculum (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/academics/core-curriculum/) or the All-College Honors Curriculum (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/academics/core-curriculum/all-college-honors-program/). Many schools refer to their college-wide undergraduate requirements as “general education” requirements. We believe that the core curriculum and the honors curriculum are more than a series of required classes; they provide the basis...
for a Jesuit education both with content and with required knowledge and skills attributes that are central to our mission.

**Free Electives**

Students may graduate with a bachelor’s degree with more but not less than 120 credit hours. Free electives are courses in addition to the Canisius Core Curriculum or All-College Honors Curriculum and major requirements sufficient to reach the minimum number of credits required for graduation. The number of credits required to complete a bachelor’s degree may vary depending on the student’s major(s) and minor(s).

### Major Requirements

The History major consists of twelve three-credit courses for a total of 36 credits. At least one course must be from the period before 1800. A maximum of four 100-level courses, including transfer and AP courses, can be applied to the major.

- **Code**
- **Title**
- **Credits**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>HIS 299</td>
<td>Historian’s Craft</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>American History: two courses</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>European History: two courses</td>
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<td></td>
<td>African/Asia/Latin American History: two courses</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Senior Seminar</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Major elective: 1 history course at the 300 level</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Major electives (3 courses)</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>36</strong></td>
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Courses at the 100 and 200 level assume no prior college-level study. They are introductory courses for the major, and satisfy Field 4 requirements in the Core Curriculum. 100-level courses are broad surveys which furnish students with a general knowledge of the history and traditions of various regions and periods. 200-level courses are somewhat more specific in approach, focusing on individual nations outside the United States, specific populations, or particular themes. Both 100- and 200-level courses provide the student with an intellectual and chronological framework for further historical study and for work in other disciplines. Courses at the 300 and 400 level deal with a wide variety of specialized areas of historical inquiry. Some courses focus on major national or geographic areas, while others emphasize period, topical, thematic, or methodological approaches. These upper-level courses provide students with an opportunity for further development of their historical understanding as well as their skills in writing and critical thinking. They are appropriate for history majors and minors and for non-majors who have completed the Field 4 requirement and wish to continue their study of history at a more advanced level.

### Roadmap

**Freshman**

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<th>Fall</th>
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<td>1-2 History courses</td>
<td>1-2 History courses</td>
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**Sophomore**

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<th>Fall</th>
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<tr>
<td>HIS 299</td>
<td>1-2 History courses</td>
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### Learning Goals & Objectives

**Student Learning Goal 1**

Majors will develop skills in historical writing. Students will:

- Objective A: Compose a chronological narrative;
- Objective B: Construct a thesis, and support it with historical evidence;
- Objective C: Evaluate historical evidence in a variety of primary and secondary sources;
- Objective D: the ability to use citation practices appropriate to the historical profession to document evidence found in a variety of sources.

**Student Learning Goal 2**

Majors will learn to think historically. Students will:

- Objective A: Assess the significance of events, ideas, or artifacts in their historical context;
- Objective B: Distinguish cause and effect and recognize multiple causalities in history;
- Objective C: Recognize and evaluate different historical interpretations.

### Minor

The history minor complements majors in other academic departments by providing students with exposure to the study of history that is both comprehensive and intensive. The minor is appropriate for any student who enjoys and wants to pursue an interest in history. Students in related disciplines such as Business, English, Communications, Modern Languages, Psychology, Political Science, Philosophy, and Religious Studies, as well as students interested in law, may be especially interested in the history minor.

The history minor consists of seven three-credit courses:

- Two or three 100-level courses
- Four or five courses above the 100-level.

The seven courses must include:

- At least one course focusing on the period before 1800
- At least one course in American history
- At least one course in European history
- At least one course in the history of Africa, Asia, or Latin America

With the permission of the department chair, transfer students and students with an exceptional secondary background in history may be allowed to substitute upper-level courses for the 100-level requirement.

### Courses

In addition to the following history classes, many classics courses ([catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/classics/#coursestext](http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/classics/#coursestext)) may be used to fulfill requirements of the history major or minor.
HIS 106 The Medieval World 3 Credits
The development of a distinctive European civilization between 500 and 1500. Emphasis on Europe's contacts and conflicts with the 'competing' cultures of Byzantium and Islam. This course may be used for the American history or pre-1800 period requirement for the history major or minor.
Fulfills College Core: Field 4 (History), Global Awareness
Offered: occasionally.

HIS 107 History of Modern Europe to 1815 3 Credits
The major political, economic, social and intellectual currents in Western Civilization from 1500 to 1815. This course may be used for the European history or pre-1800 period requirement for the history major or minor.
Fulfills College Core: Field 4 (History), Global Awareness
Offered: fall and/or spring.

HIS 108 History of Modern Europe since 1815 3 Credits
The major political, economic, social and intellectual currents in Western Civilization from 1815 to the present. This course may be used for the European history requirement for the history major or minor.
Fulfills College Core: Field 4 (History), Global Awareness
Offered: fall and/or spring.

HIS 109 History of Asia to 1800 3 Credits
Comparative study of civilizations, cultures, religions and institutions of the Far East and South Asia. This course may be used for the African/Asian/Latin American history or pre-1800 period requirement for the history major or minor.
Fulfills College Core: Field 4 (History), Global Awareness
Offered: fall.

HIS 110 History of Asia since 1800 3 Credits
The various independence and revolutionary movements and their evolution into the modern nation-states of Asia. This course may be used for the African/Asian/Latin American history requirement for the history major or minor.
Fulfills College Core: Field 4 (History), Global Awareness
Offered: spring.

HIS 111 Men and Ideas in History 3 Credits
This course is a survey of the role of ideas in historical change in the period from the Renaissance to the nineteenth century. It will examine the political, religious, and social characteristics of western Europe. It emphasizes the importance of individuals since ideas are the products of human minds, and these individuals offer us an encounter with a variety of historical contexts in which the ideas of Western civilization have been shaped. In short, by studying the ideas which have shaped the Western tradition, we study history itself and not some abstract phenomena created in a vacuum.
Fulfills College Core: Field 4 (History)
Offered: occasionally.

HIS 123 History of the United States: The Colonial Period to Reconstruction 3 Credits
Introduction to major themes of American history through the Civil War including: the Columbian Exchange and colonization, American Revolution, paradox of freedom and slavery, emergence of a market economy, secession and Reconstruction. This course may be used for the American history or pre-1800 period requirement for the history major or minor.
Fulfills College Core: Diversity, Field 4 (History)
Offered: fall and/or spring.
HIS 211 Women In The Western World  3 Credits
Comparative history of women in Europe, Britain and America from Renaissance to present. Deals with the changing role of women in society, politics and the economy and on the development of feminism as an intellectual and political force. This course may be used for the European or American history requirement for the history major or minor.
Fulfills College Core: Field 4 (History), Global Awareness
Offered: occasionally.

HIS 213 Twentieth Century Europe  3 Credits
Major political, economic, social and intellectual currents in Europe since 1900. This course may be used for the European history requirement for the history major or minor.
Fulfills College Core: Field 4 (History), Global Awareness
Offered: fall and/or spring.

HIS 220 The History of Food  3 Credits
Explores the evolving role of food in western societies from the middle ages to the present. Topics will include the medieval fascination with spices, Europe's adoption of 'New World' foods like potatoes and tomatoes, the role of food shortages and rationing in wartime, and the recent emergence of a diverse international 'foodie culture.' This course may be used for the European or African/Asian/Latin American history requirement for the history major or minor.
Fulfills College Core: Field 4 (History), Global Awareness
Offered: occasionally.

HIS 226 History of Ireland  3 Credits
Examines political, social and cultural developments from medieval origins through invasion, conquest, colonization and finally independence from Great Britain. Special emphasis on the development of Irish nationalism and on the emergence of Eire as a modern European state. This course may be used for the European history or pre-1800 period requirement for the history major or minor.
Fulfills College Core: Field 4 (History), Global Awareness
Offered: occasionally.

HIS 229 The Violent Century in Films  3 Credits
The major events of the 20th century, including World Wars I and II, the Russian Revolution, the Great Depression, the rise of Fascism and the Vietnam War. This course may be used for the European or African/Asian/Latin American history requirement for the history major or minor.
Fulfills College Core: Field 4 (History)
Offered: fall and/or spring.

HIS 230 The Holocaust in Historical Perspective  3 Credits
A historical survey of the Holocaust that places Nazi Germany's campaign to exterminate European Jewry during World War II (1939-45) in a broader historical context by tracing the history of anti-Semitism from its origins in late antiquity to the emergence of racial anti-Semitism in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. This course may be used for the European history requirement for the history major or minor.
Fulfills College Core: Field 4 (History)
Offered: fall and/or spring.

HIS 235 From Jamestown to Yorktown: Making the United States  3 Credits
Explores the political, economic, social, and cultural stories of North America from the era of pre-European contact through the settlement of the English colonies in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries to the 'revolutions' of the late seventeenth century, including the period of the American Revolution. This course may be used for the American history or pre-1800 period requirement for the history major or minor.
Fulfills College Core: Diversity, Field 4 (History)
Offered: fall.

HIS 236 From Washington to Lincoln: The Making of American Democracy  3 Credits
Class focuses on the story of American history from the end of the Revolutionary War to the end of the American Civil War, especially examining political, economic, social, and cultural issues. This course may be used for the American history requirement for the history major or minor.
Fulfills College Core: Diversity, Field 4 (History)
Offered: every other year.

HIS 251 Sport in America  3 Credits
Investigates sporting endeavors from informal folk games to today's multi-billion dollar entertainment industry. Looks at the decline of amateurism, use of steroids, and practice of stadium welfare, as well as how America's sporting culture has shaped society and been influenced by industrialization, urbanization, and commercialization. This course may be used for the American history requirement for the history major or minor.
Fulfills College Core: Diversity, Field 4 (History)
Offered: spring.

HIS 255 African American History  3 Credits
This is an introductory course on African American history which receives credit for Area Studies IV and International & Cultural Diversity within the college's Core Curriculum. In largely chronological fashion, it covers a wide variety of topics, including the motherland of Africa, enslavement in British North America, emancipation, Jim Crow, and the varying strategies to achieve justice and equality, including black nationalism, Pan-Africanism, and the civil rights movement. Besides influential African Americans, attention is paid to cultural expression, the world of work, family structure, coping mechanisms, and political gains. The course's focus is less on how whites controlled African Americans than on black life, struggles, and creativity.
Fulfills College Core: Diversity, Field 4 (History)
Offered: occasionally.

HIS 260 Canada and the World  3 Credits
A survey of Canada's place in world history from the colonial period to the present. Among the topics examined are Native-Canadians, the British-French rivalry for North America, Canada's emergence as a nation within the British Empire, Canada-U.S. relations and the modern multicultural Canadian state. This course may be used for the American history requirement for the history major or minor.
Fulfills College Core: Field 4 (History), Global Awareness
Offered: occasionally.

HIS 263 Wars of Latin America  3 Credits
Wars of independence and major conflicts of the nineteenth century. Military history of Mexican, Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions. Border clashes and guerilla insurgencies of the twentieth century. Argentina's war with England. This course may be used for the African/Asian/Latin American history requirement for the history major or minor.
Fulfills College Core: Field 4 (History), Global Awareness
Offered: every other year.

HIS 278 The Making of Modern Africa  3 Credits
Development of modern Africa from the diverse societies of pre-colonial Africa through the impact of imperialism to an examination of the problems facing modern African states. This course may be used for the African/Asian/Latin American history or pre-1800 period requirement for the history major or minor.
Fulfills College Core: Field 4 (History), Global Awareness
Offered: every other year.
HIS 299 Historian’s Craft  3 Credits
These courses are designed to introduce students systematically to the analysis of historical texts, the standards of historical writing, and the methods of historical research while exploring specific topics of historical interest. Topics vary each semester; a course in this category will be offered each year. Recent topics have included the Civil Rights Movement Revisited, The History of Everyday Life, and Stalinism and Nazism.
Fulfills College Core: Advanced Writing-Intensive
Offered: fall and/or spring.

HIS 300 Historical Geography  3 Credits
Examines the interaction between the historical process and human, physical and cultural geography. Required for dual major in history and social studies education. This course may be used for the European or African/Asian/Latin American history requirement for the history major or minor.
Offered: every third semester.

HIS 302 Life and Theology in Colonial Atlantic  3 Credits
Investigates the story of the colonial Atlantic world through the life and experiences of one of America’s founding fathers, such as the philosopher and theologian Jonathan Edwards, focusing on the early modern European context of which most colonists were heirs, the founding of the New England colonies in the 17th century. This course may be used for the American history or pre-1800 period requirement for the history major or minor.
Fulfills College Core: Field I (Religious Studies and Theology)
Offered: occasionally.

HIS 306 American Religious Experience  3 Credits
Overview of major thoughts, movements and personalities of American Religious History from colonial era to the present. Catholicism used as a model, focusing on themes of immigration and Americanization as central to understanding religious landscape of the U.S. This course may be used for the American history requirement for the history major or minor.
Fulfills College Core: Field I (Religious Studies and Theology)
Offered: occasionally.

HIS 309 World War I  3 Credits
A study of the origins, conduct and aftermath of the Great War from a global perspective. Emphasis on the diplomatic, social and military aspects of the War. This course may be used for the European history requirement for the history major or minor.
Offered: occasionally.

HIS 321 Russian History and Culture from Ivan the Terrible to Vladimir Putin  3 Credits
This faculty-led seminar in Moscow and St. Petersburg will focus on Russian and Soviet history from the Muscovite period of the 1300s to the Putin era of today. In preparation, students will complete a series of readings giving a broad overview of Russian history and culture. During the trip, they will read brief texts for daily discussions on visits to historic landmarks, museums, cultural sites, and lectures from Russian scholars. Each evening students will gather in a group to discuss their impressions, the readings, and broader questions relating to the experiences of the day. Please contact the instructor ASAP about the fees associated with this course.
Offered: occasionally.

HIS 331 British Monarchy  3 Credits
The history of Britain’s monarchy from the end of the middle ages to the present. Emphasis on the transformation of the monarchy from the center of government in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries to a largely symbolic, even vestigial constitutional mechanism in the twenty-first. This course may be used for the European history or pre-1800 period requirement for the history major or minor.
Fulfills College Core: Oral Communication
Offered: occasionally.

HIS 339 Nazi Germany, World War II and the Holocaust, 1933-45  3 Credits
An intensive study of the Third Reich from Hitler’s appointment as chancellor in 1933 to the defeat of Nazi Germany in 1945. Course will focus on the political, diplomatic and military history of the Third Reich with special attention on the mass murder of European Jewry. This course may be used for the European history requirement for the history major or minor.
Offered: every other year.

HIS 342 The Global Cold War  3 Credits
In 1946 Winston Churchill proclaimed that an ‘Iron Curtain’ had fallen across Europe, dividing the world into two hostile camps—the ‘freedom loving West,’ and the ‘Totalitarian East.’ This course examines the history of the Cold War from the Soviet-dominated side of the Iron Curtain, focusing on events such as the arms race, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the war in Afghanistan. This course may be used for the European or African/Asian/Latin American history requirement for the history major or minor.
Offered: every other year.

HIS 345 Russia and the Soviet Union in the Twentieth Century  3 Credits
This course examines the social, political, and cultural history of Russia and the Soviet Union in the twentieth century. Special emphasis will be placed on the causes and consequences of the 1917 revolutions, the development of Stalinism, the Cold War, and late Soviet society. Students will also explore the fall of Communism, the rise of the “mafia state” in the 1990s, and contemporary Russia under Vladimir Putin.
Offered: occasionally.

HIS 346 The Age of European Fascism, 1919-1945  3 Credits
A comparative analysis of fascist movements and regimes in Europe between the two world wars with particular attention devoted to fascist Italy and Nazi Germany. This course may be used for the European history requirement for the history major or minor.
Offered: every other year.

HIS 347 The History of Marxism  3 Credits
History of Marxism as an intellectual tradition, with emphasis on writings of Marx and Lenin, from the nineteenth to the twentieth century. This course may be used for the European history requirement for the history major or minor.
Fulfills College Core: Field 2 (Philosophy), Justice
Offered: every other year.

HIS 348 Twentieth Century Marxism  3 Credits
Examines the history of Marxist thought from the beginning of the 20th century to the collapse of the Communist regimes in central and eastern Europe in the turmoil of the early 1990s. This course may be used for the European history requirement for the history major or minor.
Fulfills College Core: Ethics, Field 2 (Philosophy)
Offered: every other year.
HIS 356 Modern China 3 Credits
Examines the evolution of Chinese society from the imperial era, through the world wars, the Communist Revolution and the re-emergence of China as a major economic and political power. This course may be used for the African/Asian/Latin American history requirement for the history major or minor.
Offered: occasionally.

HIS 358 Traditional Japan 3 Credits
This course examines the roots of Japanese history and culture from ancient times. Among the topics studied are early Japanese religion and society, the court culture of the Heian era, Japanese feudalism and the transition to the modern world in the Tokugawa period. Development of modern Japan from Restoration of 1868 to the present. This course may be used for the African/Asian/Latin American history or pre-1800 period requirement for the history major or minor.
Offered: occasionally.

HIS 365 U.S.-Latin American Relations since 1898 3 Credits
U.S. occupations in the Caribbean and Central America. The Mexican Revolution. The CIA operations in Guatemala and Cuba. The Cold War in Latin America. The Nicaraguan Revolution and turmoil in Mexico. This course may be used for the American or African/Asian/Latin American history requirement for the history major or minor.
Offered: every other year.

HIS 382 New York State History 3 Credits
This course explores the history of New York State from its colonial origins through the twentieth century in the context of major themes in American history. Special attention paid to slavery, ante-bellum reform movements, New York City, progressivism, immigration. This course may be used for the American history requirement for the history major or minor.
Offered: every other year.

HIS 386 The Civil War Era 3 Credits
Covers the events leading up to the War, including abolitionism and Bleeding Kansas. There will also be an in-depth examination of the military strategies and tactics of the War as well as the process of modernization that War engendered. The course will conclude with an analysis of the successes and failures of Reconstruction. This course may be used for the American history requirement for the history major or minor.
Offered: every other year.

HIS 387 Representations of the Holocaust in Film, Literature, Art and Music 3 Credits
For many historians, the defining moment of the twentieth century is the Holocaust -- the systematic and deliberate extermination of an estimated ten to twelve million people, of whom six millions were Jews. This course explores representations of the holocaust in literature and film since the end of World War II. This course may be used for the European history requirement for the history major or minor.
Fulfills College Core: Ethics, Field 3 (Literature and the Arts)
Offered: every other year.

HIS 394 Modern Middle East 3 Credits
History of Middle East from the last days of the Ottoman Empire through mandate system established by Versailles Peace Conference to struggle for independence during and after World War II. This course may be used for the African/Asian/Latin American history requirement for the history major or minor.
Offered: every other year.

HIS 396 Politics and Society in American Film 3 Credits
This course explores the history of film, the quintessentially democratic art, in the United States with special attention to the origins of the moving pictures, Hollywood and its Golden Age, and the assault against the movies by the House Un-American Activities Committee. This course may be used for the American history requirement for the history major or minor.
Offered: occasionally.

HIS 401 Historical Methodology 3 Credits
Methods of historical research and criticism, including consideration of basic bibliographical and reference works, note-taking, and evaluation of sources. Research paper required.
Prerequisite: HIS 299
Fulfills College Core: Ethics, Field 3 (Literature and the Arts)
Offered: occasionally.

HIS 405 History Seminar: US National Security 3 Credits
US foreign relations, military history and intelligence.
Prerequisites: HIS 299 or HIS 401
Fulfills College Core: Ethics, Field 3 (Literature and the Arts)
Offered: occasionally.

HIS 406 History Seminar: Soccer in Global History 3 Credits
History of soccer in a global perspective.
Prerequisites: HIS 299 or HIS 401
Fulfills College Core: Ethics, Field 3 (Literature and the Arts)
Offered: occasionally.

HIS 407 History Seminar: Nazi Germany and the Jim Crow South 3 Credits
This seminar will explore the similarities and differences in racial theory and practice as it developed in Germany and the United States in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Using the tools of the historian and with attention to the specifics of time and place, we will analyze how racism in Nazi Germany and the Jim Crow South challenged each nation. How racial politics and the use of mass media, the economy, and terror evolved in each historical context provides the central question. The responses to persecution both at home and abroad -- sometimes from the same voices -- provide a strong counterpoint to the racial violence that plagued the two societies.
Prerequisite: HIS 299 or HIS 401.
Offered: occasionally.

HIS 408 History Seminar: Social Movements through Song 3 Credits
Social Movements in US history as represented through music.
Offered: occasionally.

HIS 409 History Seminar: Race in Early America 3 Credits
The issue of race in America from the early explorations to the 19th century.
Offered: occasionally.

HIS 410 Revolution and Violence in Russian History 3 Credits
This course examines key moments in Russian and Soviet history in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Students will be exposed to the major historical debates surrounding the Russian revolutionary movement, anti-Semitism, the Russian Civil War, Collectivization, the Stalinist Terror and Gulag, WWII, issues pertaining to the Cold War, and other major events. The course will be centered around discussions of articles and books chosen to provide differing viewpoints on the topics listed above. Open to juniors and seniors only.
Offered: occasionally.

HIS 411 History Honors Thesis 3 Credits
Research and writing of a thesis to satisfy requirements for graduation with Honors in History.
Prerequisite: permission of the instructor and/or the chair.
Fulfills College Core: Advanced Writing-Intensive
Offered: fall.
HIS 414 Black Lives Matter 3 Credits
Ever since Africans were brought to North America in chains, they have protested their enslavement and, once freed 250 years later, protested racial oppression in order to claim their identity as unique, equal, and empowered members of American society. This new Core Capstone course will consider the plight of African Americans in different historical periods, two seemingly antithetical objectives of black protest (assimilation and nationalism), and different methods to improve their lot. Behind leaders, such as Henry Highland Garnet, Frederick Douglass, Ida B. Wells, W.E.B. Du Bois, Marcus Garvey, Jo Ann Gibson Robinson, Martin Luther King, Jr., James Farmer, Malcolm X, and Alicia Garza, African Americans have pressed for fundamental human rights. Their methods of protest have included petitions, speeches, conventions, editorials, boycotts, marches, demonstrations, riots, lobbying, and social media. Throughout the course, we will consider the actions of the Black Lives Matter movement that emerged in the wake of Trayvon Martin’s killing by a self-appointed vigilante.
Fulfills College Core: Core Capstone
Offered: Occasional.

HIS 420 Food in Time and Place: Culture, Society, Power, and Politics 3 Credits
Topics will include the influence of the “Columbian Exchange,” the effects of industrialization, the impact of famine and food shortages, the development of nutritional science and dietary reform movements, and the recent emergence of both global and locavore “foodie cultures.” By investigating how food supplies, food policies, and even individual diets have changed over time, we will examine relationships of power and class, the impact of trade and technology, and the process of economic and cultural globalization. The course will focus primarily on developments in Europe and the Americas, but discussion of trade and globalization will lead us to consider non-western traditions as well. As an upper-level seminar, this course is designed to introduce students to literature in the growing field of food history, and also to the nature of historical research. Consequently, Students will explore the topic through a variety of primary and secondary readings as well as images and (sometimes edible) artifacts, and will engage in their own research projects. Seminars normally open to seniors and juniors.
Prerequisite: HIS 299.
Offered: occasionally.

HIS 421 Nature and the Arts of Angling, Restoration, and Contemplation 3 Credits
As an exercise in the genre of cultural history, this course is an introduction to the history, literary and cultural significance, and practice of fly fishing in America, as well as around the world. Students will also examine the religious themes and the ‘spiritualization’ often attached to fly fishing, which have been expressed in some of the most loved writings in the English language. This course may be used for the American history requirement for the history major or minor.
Fulfills College Core: Core Capstone
Offered: once a year.

HIS 440 History Seminar: 20th century Genocide and Human Rights 3 Credits
Focuses on world genocides in the 20th century.
Prerequisites: HIS 299 or HIS 401
Offered: occasionally.

HIS 450 America and the Holocaust 3 Credits
Explores the response of the United States to the Holocaust, the systematic extermination of an estimated ten to twelve million people, of whom six million were Jews, during World War II. It examines the implications of the American response to the Holocaust for the inequities and prejudices that remained at the core of American life in the mid-twentieth century. This course may be used for the American history requirement for the history major or minor.
Fulfills College Core: Core Capstone
Offered: occasionally.

HIS 460 The Life and Times of Theodore Roosevelt 3 Credits
Arguably, Theodore Roosevelt ranks among the most widely quoted American presidents. His daughter Alice once remarked: “My father always wanted to be the corpse at every funeral, the bride at every wedding and the baby at every christening.” This capstone will evaluate the trials and tribulations that TR faced during four decades of public service and his legacy to the modern world. As Roosevelt famously said in 1910 “ It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena … who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.” This course may be used for the American history requirement for the history major or minor.
Fulfills College Core: Core Capstone
Offered: once a year.

HIS 470 American Women in History and Literature 3 Credits
From devilish corsets to the Devil wearing Prada, from separate spheres to glass ceilings, and from Settlement House Cookbooks to Julia Child, American women have had myriad experiences over the past centuries. This course will explore women’s lives from various perspectives using the rich literature written by women of various backgrounds. Sources include fiction and non-fiction and include memoir, autobiography, political speeches, novels, shorts stories, and musical lyrics. Much of the literature reflects on how women have defined and redefined themselves as citizens and as individuals. This course may be used for the American history requirement for the history major or minor.
Fulfills College Core: Core Capstone
Offered: occasionally.

HIS 478 Representations of the Holocaust in Film, Literature, Art and Music 3 Credits
For many historians, the defining moment of the twentieth century is the Holocaust -- the systematic and deliberate extermination of an estimated ten to twelve million people, of whom six millions were Jews. This course explores representations of the Holocaust in literature and film since the end of World War II. This course may be used for the European history requirement for the history major or minor. Students cannot take this course if they have taken HIS 387.
Fulfills College Core: Core Capstone

HIS 498 Internship 3 Credits
Internships may be arranged with a variety of organizations including the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation, the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, and the Coloured Musicians Club museum. Internships require an application and approval by the associate dean.
Prerequisite: permission of the instructor, department chair, & associate dean.
HIS 499 Independent Study 3 Credits
Offers the opportunity to conduct a program of independent readings and/or research on a topic of the student’s choice under the supervision of a member of the History Department. Independent studies require an application and approval by the associate dean.
Prerequisite: permission of the instructor, department chair, & associate dean.