Emergence of Europe
His 1101 (required course for History major)
T/Th 3-4:15
Staff

This course examines the history of Europe from the rise of ancient Greece (around 600 BCE) to the aftermath of the Renaissance and Reformation (around 1650 CE). It aims to introduce the study of history alongside the pre-modern history of Europe: as well as considering the central political, cultural, and religious developments of the era, we look in detail at some primary sources created at the time, to try to understand how historians can use them to learn about the past. These sources include images, letters, and satirical tracts, as well as more familiar historical and biographical accounts.

Assessment is by participation, short responses, papers, and exams.
The course will examine the history of modern Jewish settlement in Palestine under the Ottoman rule and the British Mandate, up to the establishment of the state in 1948. We will begin with a discussion of Zionism, its rise in the second half of the 19th century, in an era of secular nationalist movements, and an era marked by imperialism, colonialism, and the attendant theories of race. The growing popularity of Zionism resulted in the Jewish settlement (Yishuv) in Palestine, where it encountered Palestinian Arabs and the British authorities. The material covered will reflect the history of British colonial politics, the social, economic, and ideological factors that shaped the emergence of the institutions of the Yishuv and of the Palestinians, and the political and national aspirations of the two communities.

Requirements: midterm; final; participation in class discussions; and one research paper due at the end of the semester.
History of New York City
Hist 2231
M: 3:10-4:25
W: 3:35-4:50
Professor Hadassa Kosak

New York City from colonial times to 21st century and its status as a postindustrial city. Focuses on following themes: the people of the city; its immigrants; its neighborhoods; its cultures; the post-World War II trend of urban renewal and its effects; the rise and fall and resurgence of some neighborhoods; urban politics; the status of the city facing the economic and political trends of a globalizing world.

Requirements: midterm; final; participation in class discussions; museum trip(s); and a research paper due at the end of the semester.
This introductory course will explore the settlement and establishment of the American colonies, and their evolution into an independent nation. The purpose of the course is to provide students with a foundational knowledge of US history, from the earliest colonies to the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Grading: midterm, final, and class participation and attendance.
This course surveys the history of media from the ancient world to the present. Taking ‘media’ in the broadest sense to encompass the full range of communications technologies, we will begin with the papyri scrolls of ancient Greece and move from there through the manuscript codex of the Middle Ages, the printed book of the age of Gutenberg, newspapers in the 18th and 19th centuries, radio and film in the 20th century, and the internet and social media of our own digital age. Several recurrent questions will frame our survey of media landscapes: How, to what ends, and in what institutional settings are particular media used? How do they affect modes of thinking? And what are the relations of different media to the various historical forms of religious, political, and economic power?

Requirements: midterm, final, ten one-paragraph reading reflections (ungraded but required), and class participation.
The arrival of Columbus’ caravels on the Caribbean islands of Guanahaní, Haiti and Cuba in the Fall of 1492 forever changed the course of world history. There could be no turning back for either the Europeans or the Americans. This course examines the nature of that encounter—beginning with Columbus and following it through the first 150 years of European exploration, conquest and colonization of the Americas. How did European travel writers make sense of the “New World”? How did they relate to the people that inhabited the “West Indies”? Where can we find the voices of the Native Americans? How did the encounter transform the Europeans and the Native Americans? What challenges do we as modern, western readers face when we attempt to understand the Columbine encounter?

We will explore the ways in which the Americas and the Americans were imagined, as well as how the “imaginers” fashioned themselves. How did writing about others impact the self-understanding and self-presentation of the writer/observer?

We will focus on several Spanish narratives of the discovery and conquest of the Americas. In addition, we will consider the deceptions, distortions and illuminations offered by film. Shakespeare’s *The Tempest* will serve as a dramatic epilogue.

Requirements: active engagement during class discussions, weekly reflections on the readings, formal and informal presentations, museum trip, two close reading essays and a research project.
This course introduces students to the history of Germany from the establishment of the Reich in 1871 to the present. It will be organized chronologically, with units corresponding to the major political divisions of modern German history: unification under Prussian leadership; Imperial Germany; World War I; the Weimar Republic; the Nazi dictatorship; the establishment of the Federal Republic and Communist East Germany; reunification following the fall of the Wall; and Germany today.

In addition to a textbook, we’ll be reading several “literary” texts (two novels, a short story, and personal diaries) as well as viewing films for the 20th-century component of the course. The methodological question of how to use such literary and cinematic documents as historical sources will be a recurrent theme.

Requirements: one essay (4-5 pages) on an assigned topic; midterm examination; end-of-term research paper; and class participation.