YC: HIS-courses spring 2023

The Transformations of Europe
Hist. 1102 (required course for History major; satisfies CUOT Core requirement)
T/Th 4:30-5:45
Prof. Jeffrey Freedman

This introductory course surveys the history of Europe and its relations with other parts of the world from the eighteenth century to the present as well as providing an introduction to basic historical concepts and methods of source criticism.

Grading: midterm, final, two document analyses (2-3 pages), and class participation.

Survey of US History II
Hist. 1201
M/W 6:30-7:45
Prof. Doug Burgess

This introductory course will explore the development of the US from the end of Reconstruction to the present.

Grading: midterm, final, and class participation and attendance
Social Movements in American History
Hist. 2225 (satisfies COWC Core requirement)
T/Th 4:30-5:45
Prof. Hadassa Kosak

Social movements and protest politics have become a familiar presence in our contemporary political landscape. We read about Black Lives Matter, QAnon, Anti Vaxxers, to mention a few. This course will offer a historical perspective on the movements of today by comparing them to those of the past. We’ll explore the ideology, political structures, mobilization, identity, and empowerment strategies of Abolitionism, the Women’s Movement, populism, the KKK, movements of the era of the great Depression such as the Labor Movement, those of the 1960s such as the Civil Rights and Anti-War Movements, and the New Right. A comparative survey of contemporary movements which erupted in 2011 in Europe, in the US, and the Middle East (including Israel), will conclude the survey.

Grading: Midterm and a final exam; two short papers based on interpretation of documents; attendance and class participation.

Modern Israel
HIS 2304/JHI 1510
T/Th 3:00-4:15
Prof. Hadassa Kosak

Survey of Israeli society, culture and politics from 1948 to the present. Topics: Israel and the Palestinian national movement; global political factors that shaped the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; the social, cultural, and political divisions of Israeli society, and the challenges facing Israel in the twenty-first century.

Grading: Midterm and final exams, paper, class participation and attendance.
This course examines the different ways in which German Jews responded to the challenges of modernity from the mid-18th century to the eve of the Holocaust. Between those two dates, Jews, who had lived for centuries as outsiders in German-speaking lands, entered the mainstream of middle-class Germany society. They interacted—and frequently intermarried—with non-Jewish Germans. From the standpoint of the law, they became fully equal citizens. And they made enormous contributions to modern German culture. Yet, for the most part, they retained a consciousness of being seen as different. This hybrid identity—part insider and part outsider—gave them a unique perspective on the world that they inhabited.

Grading: Midterm and final exams, paper, class participation and attendance.

**Ideas of History**

**Hist 3001 (required course for History major)**

M/W 4:30-5:45

Prof. Will Stenhouse

Why read or write history? How can we know about the past? What can historians’ work tell us about the period in which they wrote? This course is designed to address these questions, which are fundamental to the discipline of history, by studying a selection of historians from antiquity to the Renaissance. Although we will see that these historians are often very different to contemporary historians in their approaches, by examining their assumptions and practices, we will develop a privileged perspective on history writing today.

Grading: discussion and presentation, short tests, and a research paper.
The arrival of Columbus’ caravels on the Caribbean islands of Guanahani, 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.