Course List

Courses for History and Literature Concentration Credit

Fall 2013

Freshman Seminar 46p: Human Rights in Peace and War
- Jacqueline Bhabha and Jennifer Leaning
- Explored the idea of “human rights”, beginning with its conception as a part of the emerging post-war international order and continuing on to consider it in the context of contemporary economic and political issues. We discussed the way that the concept has been analyzed as a tool of Western cultural and political hegemony.

Spring 2015

HL97: Sophomore Tutorial
- Kristen Roupenian and Willeke Sandler
- I studied key themes and ideas in postcolonial history and literature through an East African lens. I concluded by writing a sophomore paper and doing a small scale oral exam.

Fall 2015-Spring 2016

HL98: Junior Tutorial
- Anouska Bhattacharyya
- We spent the first semester of this tutorial developing and working through the content of our own, student-developed syllabus, writing a literature review and then concluding the experience by writing a capstone paper. I spent the second semester writing a junior paper on British police officers in the Raj.

Fall 2015

History 1042: History of US Imperialism from 1600 to 1900
- Holger Droessler
- This was a survey course of American History conducted with a focus on the ways that the United States of America could be thought of as an empire. Emphasizing the role of the state in the story of westward and overseas expansion, this course taught American history alongside theories of imperial expansion and economic development.

Spanish 71a: Continuity and Discontinuity in Colonial Latin America
- Nicole Legnani
- This class overviewed the literary and cultural production in the Americas before and after the Spanish invasion. Topics included pre-Columbian visual and verbal forms of literature; narratives of Spanish discovery and conquest, the historiography of the New World; and native depictions of the colonial world. Taught in Spanish.
Spring 2016

English 61a: Literature of Empire
- Marina Bilbija
- This class provided an overview of major literary texts produced either within the context of, or in response to, the phenomenon that was the British Empire. It introduced us to the themes and ideas common in literary productions from various time periods and geographical locations relevant to this aspect of British history, while giving us basic understandings of the historical events and contexts they arose from.

Government 1118: Political Geographies of Violence
- Alison Mountz
- This class explored the relationship between violence, space, and location. It considered how location influences how, where, and when political struggles unfold, how we define violence, and how the definitions we hold vary from one context to the next.

Fall 2016-Spring 2017

HL99: Senior Tutorial
- Rebecca Kennedy Lorenzini
- I planned and wrote a senior thesis on the literature of George Lamming, and then prepared for oral exams.

Fall 2016

History 1880: The Middle East from 1750 to 1914
- Khaled Fahmy
- This survey course covered the social, cultural, and political history of the Middle East during the century and a half preceding the First World War, the moment when the current map of the region was drawn. We began with a historical survey of the Middle East from the rise of Islam to the fifteenth century, learned about the two empires that dominated the region for the following three centuries (the Ottoman and Iranian Empires), and finally considered Europe as a rising power in the area.

English 188GF: Global Fictions
- Kelly Rich
- This course introduced the global novel in English and surveyed critical approaches to transnational literature. Specifically, it addressed issues of migration, colonialism, “new Englishes,” cosmopolitanism and globalization, the influence of religion and fundamentalism, environmental concerns, racial and sexual politics, and international kinship.

History 1457: History of American Capitalism
- Shaun Nichols
- Surveying American history from the 1600s through the 1990s, this course explored how (and why) capitalism came to be the dominant economic order in the United States. Our
course material historicized capitalism, encouraging us to think about how we should define capitalism and how it has changed over time.

Spring 2017

HL90: Cultures of Commodity Production Across the Americas

- Frances Sullivan
- This seminar uses social and cultural approaches to explore the history of Latin American and Caribbean commodity production, from silver to cocaine. Drawing on historical texts, poetry, fiction, and film we study the communities created by those who mined, planted, harvested, and labored in the region’s major export industries.

Non-Concentration Credit Courses

Philosophy 132: Marx and Marxism

- Tommie Shelby
- This course introduces the political philosophy and social theory of Karl Marx, exploring his theory of history, his account of human self-alienation, his theory of ideology, his attempt to establish that capitalism is exploitative, his critique of liberalism, and his conception of freedom. We also read and discuss some contemporary philosophical writings in the Marxist tradition.

Topics List

Peripheral Landscapes in the Imperial Imagination

Primary

- James Wyld, “Map of India: constructed with great care and research from all the latest authorities and intended more particularly to facilitate a reference to the civil and military stations” (1842).

Secondary


The British Empire and the Development of Industrial Capitalism

Primary

• The Treaty of Balta Limani (1838).
• “Report from the Committee on the state of the woollen manufacture of England” (1806).
• Oxford Union. Dr. Shashi Tharoor MP - Britain Does Owe Reparations (2015).

Secondary


Exploring 20th Century Legal Geography

Primary

• Woodrow Wilson, “Fourteen Points” (1918).

Secondary

• Huw Bennett, "The Mau Mau Emergency as Part of the British Army's Post-War Counter-Insurgency Experience" (2007).
• Achille Mbembé, "Necropolitics" (2003).

Rewriting the British 19th Century Novel

Primary
• Thomas Babington Macaulay, “Minute on Education” (1835).
• Tsitsi Dangarembga, Nervous Conditions (1988).

Secondary


Identity and Allegiance in the Context of Multi-Ethnic Empire.

Primary

• John Jacob Thomas. Froudacity: West Indian Fables by James Anthony Froude (1889).
• Marcus Garvey, "The Principles of The Universal Negro Improvement Association” (1922).
• Sam Selvon, Lonely Londoners (1956).
• Shailja Patel, Migritude (2010).

Secondary

• Martha Nussbaum, “Patriotism and Cosmopolitanism” (1994).

Bibliography

Primary Sources

Bartolomé De Las Casas, A Brief Account of the Destruction of the Indies (1552).


C.W.L. Bulpett, “Introduction” and “Desolation Camp” in A Picnic Party in Wildest Africa: Being a Sketch of a Winter’s Trip to Some of the Unknown Waters of the Upper Nile (1907).
The Husayn-McMahon Correspondence (1915-1916).

The Balfour Declaration (1917).


Albert Camus, The Stranger (1942).

British Film Institute. Hello! West Indies (1943).


George Lamming, In the Castle of My Skin (1953).

Frantz Fanon, “On Violence” in Wretched of the Earth (1961).

Perry Henzell, The Harder They Come (1972).

Wole Soyinka, Death and the King's Horseman (1975).

Jamaica Kincaid, A Small Place (1988).


Secondary Sources


Walter Benjamin, “Theses on the Philosophy of History” (1940).


Fredric Jameson, “Postmodernism, or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism” (1984).


James Wyld, “Map of India: constructed with great care and research from all the latest authorities and intended more particularly to facilitate a reference to the civil and military stations” (1842).