

Fall 2019

Department of History



GRADUATE Course Description Guide

University of Massachusetts
Department of History
Graduate Course Description Guide

Fall 2019

Advanced undergraduates are invited to inquire about enrolling in graduate courses. Such enrollment depends on the permission of individual instructors who should be contacted directly. Questions can also be directed to the Graduate Program Coordinator, Mary Lashway, at gradprogram@history.umass.edu.

605	Approaches to Global History	J. Higginson
626	Comparative Memory	J. Olsen
659	Intro to Public History	S. Redman
691P	Intro to History	D. Glassberg
692C	US Immigration History	J. Fronc
693W	Workers and Work in the Americas	K. Young
698D	Professional Development	M. Miller

You may take two courses outside the department for degree credit. Check Spire to see graduate course offerings beyond our department. Students often find relevant courses in Anthropology, English, the W.E. B. Du Bois Department of African American Studies, Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning, Public Policy, and other programs around campus.

History 597

Under the University Numbering System, M.A. students wishing to enroll in an upper-level undergraduate course (at UMass or on one of the Give College campuses) may do so under the special topics number, History 597, with permission from the instructor and also with the understanding that instructors will require additional work of graduate students in those courses. signed by the faculty member teaching the course (turn this in to Mary Lashway in Herter 612). Check SPIRE for the listings of undergraduate courses.

There are forms available in Herter 612 describing the additional work to be performed for graduate credit; these must be signed by the instructor. Students will be responsible for discussing the course requirements with instructors. Please see the Graduate Program Assistant about registration to ensure that a grade will be submitted for you at the end of the semester. Only two 597 courses may count as topics courses towards completion of the M.A. degree.

History 696 or 796 (Independent Study)

Students may enroll in independent studies as either History 696 (reading independent study) or History 796 (research/writing independent study) with a faculty member overseeing the plan of study.

To enroll in History 696 or 796 pick up an independent study form from Mary Lashway in Herter 612. This form must be filled out including name, student number, course number (696 or 796), credits, a detailed description of the plan of work for the independent study (e.g. research paper, book reviews, historiography, essays, etc.), and signed by the professor overseeing the independent study. After it has been filled out and signed it needs to be returned to Mary Lashway to be entered on Spire. Only two independent studies may be counted towards completion of the M.A. degree.

Scheduled Courses:

605

Approaches to World History

John Higginson

Wednesday, 2:30pm-5:00pm

Our course begins with a glance at the world before the dramatic geographical shift of the lines of power and wealth that precipitated the rise of the North Atlantic countries of Western Europe at the close of the fifteenth century. There was no single reason for the shift from the countries bordering the Indian Ocean and Mediterranean Sea to those on the northern coast of the Atlantic Ocean. Nor did it happen all at once. But by the end of the eighteenth century, from the vantage point of European observers like Adam Smith, it appeared to be permanent and indelible. Meanwhile Qen Lung, the Qing Emperor of China, thought it hardly worthy of notice. What made for such a disparity in perspectives? Much of our work this semester will be focused on such questions. We will also be concerned to examine the historiography of global or world history since the publication of Fernand Braudel's *La Méditerranée*. The course ends with an examination of the world since the practical application of powerful forces such as fossil fuels, nuclear power, microprocessing and genetic engineering. At its conclusion, the course will pay particular attention to the challenge that North Pacific Asian economic performance and a global resurgence of Islam offer to continued western dominance of global affairs. This course satisfies the historiography requirement for M.A. students.

626

Comparative Memory

Jon Olsen

Tuesday, 2:30pm-5:00pm

The phenomenon of cultures of memory has emerged over the past decade as a subject of serious historical scholarship. The aim of this seminar is to discuss the problem of national memory cultures since the Second World War. We will begin the semester by looking at theories of memory and national identity since 1945. Although the primary thrust of our readings will deal with remembering the Second World War, we will also delve into other areas of remembering. The German concept of *Vergangenheitsbewältigung*, or coming to terms with the past, and its relationship to national identity will serve as our guiding analytical tool for our investigation into this topic. We will look at a variety of nation-states in Europe as well as the United States and Japan in order to compare and contrast national forms of memory culture and ponder questions of universality versus distinct historical experience. We will also concentrate on the political and cultural aspects that different national forms of remembering have had on the historical development of these nations. Student evaluation will involve book reviews, class presentations, and a research paper.

659

Intro to Public History

Samuel Redman

Wednesday, 2:30pm-5:00pm

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the world of public history – both the ideas and questions that make it tick, and the practical, on-the-ground concerns that confront public historians in a variety of professional settings. The course will turn on five key concept areas that inform the world of public history: History and Memory; Shared Authority and/or Inquiry; Agendas and Audiences; Legal and Ethical Frameworks; and Economics and Entrepreneurship. By the end of the semester, you will have read some of the most significant past and contemporary literature in the field of public history, and, through discussions in and beyond the classroom, have formed your own answers to the questions that drive and shape public history practice. Each student in the course will also contribute to a semester long, team-based field service project, completing a Public History project for a community partner. Through our shared readings, conversations with guest speakers, and your own public history fieldwork you will have a clearer idea of what it means to work in a variety of public history settings.

691P

Intro to History

David Glassberg

Monday, 2:30pm-5:00pm

This course is required for all incoming GRADUATE students. It is designed to introduce students to various fields of study and the research and graduate teaching interests of faculty in the UMass/Five College Graduate Program in History. Through the study of scholarly monographs and other readings we will explore different methods of research and writing history.

692C **US Immigration History**

Jennifer Fronc

Tuesday, 2:30pm-5:00pm

This course will focus on readings that examine the movement of people to, and throughout, the United States, focusing on the period from the 1850s to the present. Special attention will be paid to the movement of immigrants from Europe, Asia, and South America throughout the twentieth century, as well as the experiences of refugees and asylum seekers. The course will also consider developments in immigration law and policy. Students should expect to write several short papers over the course of the semester, as well as a longer historiographical essay.

693W **Workers and Work in the Americas**

Kevin Young

Thursday, 2:30pm-5:00pm

This seminar introduces students to the study of labor and the working class, broadly defined, from the early 1800s to the present. We will begin by exploring the varied understandings of labor and the working class associated with liberalism, Marxism, anarchism, and other theoretical traditions. From there we will survey the development of the field of labor history, focusing on the so-called new labor histories of the 1960s and onward, characterized by “bottom-up” approaches and an emphasis on the interplay of political economy, social relations, and cultural identities. Since the 1980s the field has taken new turns, for instance by emphasizing the roles of race, gender, sexuality, religion, and art in working-class life and labor movements. Specific topics will include slavery and slave resistance, the rise of mass production and the modern corporation, trade unionism and other worker strategies, the segmentation of the workforce along ethnic, gender, and other lines, the connection between labor relations and environmental degradation/sustainability, increased capital mobility over the past century, and worker migration both within and between nations. By examining a wide range of case studies from the modern United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean, we will seek to understand both the diversity of specific experiences and the global forces that shape workers’ lives across the hemisphere.

698D **Professional Development**

Marla Miller

Tuesday, 5:30pm-7:00pm

"I say this to my past self, and maybe to some of you: the more you take charge of your career during graduate school, the better off you'll be. You can get away with some passivity in undergrad (just get a degree) but grad school, esp PhD, is entirely different."--Jennifer Polk (From PhD to Life)

In this 1-cr pass/fail course, students will explore the many identities of professional historians. Historians are professors, preservationists, administrators, teachers, archivists, journalists, museum professionals, policy analysts, publishers/editors, and more. In this course, students will learn about these different fields and careers; meet with invited guests and potential mentors; and connect with resources on campus that support students during and after graduate school. Through readings, discussions and events, students in this course will 1) gain familiarity with the range of ways to contribute to the historical profession; 2) identify and develop skills that will serve them in any future career as a historian, in academe and beyond; and 3) explore their own goals as professional historians and public intellectuals.

Additional Course Options

— enrollment requires instructor permission

You may take two courses outside the department that will count toward your degree. Below are several that may be of interest to you. As always, please refer to SPIRE for the most current class information, and contact the course instructor directly for permission to enroll. This is just a sampling of courses from outside the History Department that may be of interest to our graduate students. Please see Spire and/or departmental websites to see what other courses are available.