

Department of History
Undergraduate History Course Descriptions
Summer 2023

HIS 1075-020

Topic: Significance of Race in America

M T W R 11:00-1:20 pm

Summer Session II

Angelo Repousis

Why were relations between Native Americans and white colonists violent almost from the beginning of European settlement? How could slavery thrive in a society founded on the principle that “all men are created equal”? How comparable were the experiences of Irish, Jewish, and Italian immigrants, and why did people in the early 20th century think of them as separate "races"? What were the causes and consequences of Japanese Americans’ internment in military camps during World War II? Are today’s Mexican immigrants unique, or do they have something in common with earlier immigrants? Using a variety of written and oral sources, this course examines the racial diversity of America and its enduring consequences.

Attributes: Core History

HIS 1165-035

Topic: American Empire

T R 5:20-7:00 pm

Summer Session III

Eugene McCarraher

Most Americans never think of their country as an empire -- but it is and has been. Indeed, white Americans have harbored imperial ambitions from the earliest days of our history. In this course, we will trace the history of American empire from the Puritan "city on a hill," through the 19th century belief in "Manifest Destiny," to the tribulations of global hegemony in the 20th century. We will conclude with a consideration of how the U.S. will fare as its imperial status is challenged -- and perhaps chastened -- in the 21st century.

Attributes: Core History

HIS 1250-015

Topic: Ancient Near East

M T W R 11:00-1:20 pm

Summer Session I

Kelly Diamond

The ancient cultures of Egypt and Mesopotamia represent two high civilizations that flourished in the ancient Near East. These two high cultures are documented in hieroglyphic and cuneiform inscriptions respectively, art, objects, and architecture. Despite the relative proximity of these ancient cultures, they each developed in a unique and distinctive fashion. Although the history of these areas has been reconstructed by the two separate disciplines of Egyptology and Assyriology, this class will bring together both ends of the Fertile Crescent. This course will cover the time period from approximately 3200 BCE to 1500 BCE. After this point the Near East became quite diverse and there was a significant increase in the interaction between different cultures, resulting in the transference of ideas, technologies, etc. The repatriation of ancient artifacts is a major theme this semester and students will work on a series of projects that will challenge them to evaluate the sources and decide how these delicate and controversial issues might be resolved.

Attributes: Core History

HIS 2993-030

History Internship

TBA

Summer Session III

Restrictions: Permission of Director required

HIS 2996-030

History Internship

TBA

Summer Session III

Restrictions: Permission of Director required

HIS 2998-035

Topic: U.S. Constitution & Legal History

M W 5:20-7:00 pm

Summer Session III

Emil Ricci

Over the past thirty years, American legal history has become a dynamic and popular field of academic study. At the same time, the United States Constitution—its drafting, ratification, and interpretation—has attracted the attention of many scholars. Many historians study the history of American law and the Constitution to better understand contemporary social, cultural, economic, and political questions. Similarly, historians examine the origins and development of American law to offer innovative perspectives which may help lawyers and judges resolve current legal disputes. As a result, a growing historiography has developed studying how legislatures, courts, administrative agencies, and constitutional debates have shaped American society and politics. This summer our class will focus upon how law has been an important part of American society. Beginning with the first English settlers in America, the colonists developed a set of laws and legal institutions which gradually changed to meet the conditions of a new social and political order. English common law, based upon court decisions, was brought to America, along with various customs and usages derived from English boroughs and villages. After the American Revolution, common law was still important, but by the early nineteenth century federal and state constitutions, statutory law, as well as federal and state court decisions became vital sources of legal authority. By the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century, rules made by government agencies also contributed to a distinctive legal culture.

Beginning with colonial society, our course will examine the development of American law and the Constitution. We will focus upon the vast economic, political, and social changes of the nineteenth century: industrialization, slavery, the Civil War, Reconstruction, labor unrest, and the rights of newly freed African Americans. The twentieth century looks at the impact of the progressive movement, economic regulation, the New Deal and Franklin Roosevelt's efforts to change the Supreme Court, freedom of speech, civil rights, the feminist movement, and the Supreme Court under Earl Warren and Warren Burger. Some attention is given to the Rehnquist Court. Topics such as constitutional interpretation, statutory development, property law, contracts, due process, the commerce clause, the Fourteenth Amendment, and the importance of federal and state court decisions will be discussed.

Attributes: Cultural Studies

HIS 5515-030

Independent Research

TBA Summer Session III

Restrictions: Permission of Director required. Must be History major.