

SCW: Hist-courses spring 2025

The Transformations of Europe

Hist 1102-D1 (required course for History major)

M/W 1:25-2:40

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.

Jews in Medieval Spain

Hist 2149-B/JHIS 2149-B

M/W 10:25-11:40

Ronnie Perelis



This course will investigate the cultural history of the Jews of Spain (the Sephardim), from the Muslim conquest of the Iberian Peninsula in 711 until the expulsion of 1492. Medieval Spain, with its vibrant Muslim and Jewish populations, was one of the most complex and culturally rich European societies of its time. Its experiment with *convivencia* –“the living together” of three different religions within the same society – was unheard of in pre-modern

Europe. With *convivencia* as our lens, we will examine the possibilities and limitations of multi-cultural tolerance by studying the socio-political

and cultural trajectory of the Sephardim and their Christian and Muslim neighbors.

Expectations: weekly readings, short reflections on the reading, participation in class discussions, a midterm and a research project.

Spanish Inquisition: Varieties of Heresy in the Iberian World
Hist 2103-C/JHIS 2103-C
M/W 11:55-1:10
Ronnie Perelis



Explores the history of the Spanish and Portuguese Inquisitions from multiple vantage points. The focus is on Jews and Conversos, the main targets of the Inquisition's persecution, and on the dynamics of crypto-Judaism in Iberia and the Americas. But we will also consider the experiences of other groups targeted by the Inquisition such as Moriscos, Protestants, free-thinkers, witches, and different groups of non-conformists.

Grading: midterm and final exams, reaction papers, research project, and class participation

History of Modern Russia
Hist 2154-L
T/Th 11:50-1:05
Josh Zimmerman



This course examines the history of modern Russia from Peter the Great to the collapse of the Soviet Union. Topics include Peter the Great's Westernization policies (1703-1725), territorial expansion under Catherine the Great (1764-1796), Alexander II's Great Reforms (1860s-1870s), the period of reaction and revolution in late Czarist Russia, the nationalities, and the collapse of the Russian Empire in 1917. The second part of the course covers the history of Soviet Russia, between the 1917 revolution and the Soviet Union's collapse in 1992.

Grading: midterm, final, and one research paper.

American Jewish History, 1654-2025
Hist 2240-C/JHIS 2240-C
M/W 11:55-1:10
Jeffrey Gurock



An examination, through primary and secondary sources, of the social, economic, religious and political history of the Jews in the United States within the contexts of American and Jewish history from the Colonial period to the beginning of the 21st century.

Grading: midterm and final

Puritan New England: From Settlement to Salem
Hist. 2202-K (Honors)
T/Th 10:25-11:40
Israel Benporat



This course explores the rise and fall of Puritanism in England and America. Students will examine the origins and evolution of Puritanism and its transplantation to New England, focusing on theology, politics, and law. Other key topics include the English Civil Wars, cross cultural contact, the Salem witchcraft trials, and historical memory. Readings draw from both primary sources and secondary scholarship.

Grading: midterm, final, research paper and presentation

Ideas of History

Hist 3001-J (required course for History major)

T/Th 9:00-10:15

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.