The History major is for students who understand that shaping the future requires knowing the past. History courses explore many centuries of human experimentation and ingenuity, from the global to the individual scale. History majors learn to be effective storytellers and analysts, and to craft arguments that speak to broad audiences. They make extensive use of Yale's vast library resources to create pioneering original research projects. Students of history learn to think about politics and government, sexuality, the economy, cultural and intellectual life, war and society, and other themes in broadly humanistic—rather than narrowly technocratic—ways.

History is one of Yale College's most popular and intellectually diverse majors, encompassing nearly every region and time period of the global past. The study of history is excellent preparation for careers in many fields, including law, journalism, business and finance, education, politics and public policy, social activism, and the arts.

**COURSE NUMBERING**

Courses numbered HIST 001 to 099 are first-year seminars, with enrollment limited to eighteen. Remaining course numbers are organized by region, not by rigor or difficulty. Courses numbered in the 100s explore the history of the United States or Canada; those in the 200s, Europe, Russia, and Britain; and those in the 300s, Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. Courses numbered in the 400s address global topics. Courses whose numbers end with the letter "J" are departmental seminars; all departmental seminars are available for preregistration by History majors and are capped at fifteen students.

**PREREQUISITE**

The prerequisite for the major is two term courses in History. Courses completed in fulfillment of the prerequisite may be applied toward the requirements of the major.

**REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR**

Ten term courses in History are required, including prerequisites, and in addition to the senior essay.

Upon declaration, all History majors select either the global or the specialist track. The global track is designed for students seeking a broad understanding of major trends in the history of human societies throughout the world. The specialist track is for students seeking to focus in a particular geographic region, such as the United States, or in a thematic pathway, such as empires and colonialism. Majors may change tracks until the end of the course selection period in the second term of the junior year.

The global track requires one course in each of five different geographic regions (see below). Students must also take two preindustrial courses, covering material before the year 1800, and two departmental seminars, identified by a "J" suffix to the course number (e.g., HIST 140J).

The specialist track requires at least five (and up to eight) courses in a particular geographic region or in a thematic pathway (see list below). Courses appropriate for each region and pathway are listed on the department website. Students must also take at least two courses outside their area of specialization, and their overall course work must include at least three geographic regions. Like students in the global track, students in the specialist track must take two preindustrial courses, covering material before the year 1800, and at least two departmental seminars, identified by a "J" suffix to the course number (e.g., HIST 140J). Students in the specialist track may design an area of specialization with the approval of a faculty adviser and the director of undergraduate studies (DUS).

Regions: United States; Europe; Latin America; Asia; Middle East and Africa.

Pathways: cultural history; empires and colonialism; ideas and intellectuals; international history; politics and law; race, gender, and sexuality; religion in context; science, technology, and medicine; social change and social movements; war and society; the world economy.

Students in either track may count the same courses toward geographical, preindustrial, and seminar requirements. For instance, a departmental seminar on premodern Japan simultaneously fulfills the preindustrial, seminar, and Asia geographical requirements.

**Departmental seminars** All students who declare the History major are entitled to preregister for two departmental seminars (designated by a course number ending in J, such as HIST 140J). Many seminars are popular and fill up quickly. Students may use their preregistration privileges at any time after declaring the major, in their sophomore, junior, or senior years. Sophomores contemplating study abroad are urged to consider taking at least one seminar in the sophomore year. Residential college seminars, study-abroad courses, and courses in other departments that count toward the History major do not fulfill the departmental seminar requirement.

**Distinction in the major** Students who receive an A or A– on the two-term senior essay and who receive the requisite grades in their remaining course work are awarded Distinction in the Major. (See under Undergraduate Curriculum, Honors. Students who do not complete the two-term senior essay are not eligible for Distinction.

**Credit/D/Fail** Departmental seminars cannot be taken Credit/D/Fail.
Roadmap See visual roadmap of the requirements.

SENIOR REQUIREMENT

Students in the History major are not passive consumers of historical knowledge: they create original works of history themselves. As seniors, History majors complete a work of original research in close consultation with a faculty adviser. The range of acceptable topics and methodological approaches is wide. The aim is to take on study of a significant historical subject through research in accessible primary source materials.

Most students choose to write a two-term independent senior essay, for two course credits toward the major. The two-term essay is required to earn Distinction in the Major. A smaller number of students choose to write an independent one-term senior essay, for one course credit toward the major.

The one-term senior essay History majors may choose to write a one-term independent senior essay during the fall term under the guidance of a faculty adviser; however, students who choose the one-term option are not eligible for Distinction in the Major or history prizes. The one-term essay is a substantial research paper (roughly half the length of the two-term senior essay) based on primary sources, along with a bibliographic essay. Seniors receive course credit for their departmental essays by enrolling in HIST 497 during the fall of senior year. In rare circumstances, with permission of the adviser and Senior Essay Director, a student enrolled in HIST 497 during the fall term may withdraw from the course in accordance with Yale College regulations on course withdrawal and enroll in HIST 497 during the spring term. Additional details about the senior essay are provided in the Senior Essay Handbook, available on the History website.

The two-term senior essay History majors seeking to earn Distinction in the Major must complete a two-term independent senior essay under the guidance of a faculty adviser. The typical senior essay is 40–50 pages (no more than 12,500 words), plus a bibliography and bibliographical essay. Seniors receive course credit for their departmental essays by enrolling in HIST 495 (first term of senior year) and HIST 496 (second term of senior year). The grade for the final essay, determined by an outside reader in consultation with the faculty adviser, is applied retroactively to both terms. Additional details about the senior essay are provided in the Senior Essay Handbook, available on the History website. History majors graduating in December may begin their two-term senior essay in the spring term and complete the senior essay during fall term.

Additional option for the senior essay Some students embark on the two-term essay but discover that their choice is not a good fit. Students who enroll in HIST 495 during the first term may opt out in consultation with their faculty adviser and the senior essay director. This decision must be made in accordance with Yale College regulations on course withdrawal. Instead, the student will enroll in HIST 497 in the spring term to write a one-term senior essay. Students who opt out will not be eligible for Distinction in the Major or History prizes. Additional details about the senior essay are provided in the Senior Essay Handbook, available on the History website.

ADVISING

All students who declare the History major are assigned an adviser from among the departmental faculty. The adviser is available throughout the year for consultation about courses and the major. Students in the global track are assigned an adviser from the general History faculty. Students in the specialist track are assigned an adviser in their area of specialization. At the beginning of each term, students majoring in History must have their schedule signed and approved by their departmental adviser or by the DUS. Students may request a specific adviser in consultation with the DUS, though the department cannot always accommodate such requests.

Course substitution History majors are permitted to include up to two courses taught outside the department toward fulfillment of the major, with the approval of the DUS. Nondepartmental courses may fulfill geographic, region/pathway, and preindustrial distribution requirements. They may not fulfill departmental seminar or senior requirements.

Combined B.A./M.A. degree program Exceptionally able and well-prepared students may complete a course of study leading to the simultaneous award of the B.A. and M.A. degrees after eight terms of enrollment. See Academic Regulations, section K, Special Arrangements, "Simultaneous Award of the Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees." Interested students should consult the DUS prior to the sixth term of enrollment for specific requirements in History.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

Prerequisites 2 term courses in History
Number of courses 10 term courses (incl prereqs, not incl senior essay)
Distribution of courses Both tracks -- 2 courses in preindustrial hist as specified; 2 departmental sems; Global track -- 1 course in each of 5 geographical regions (U.S., Europe, Latin America, Asia, Africa/Middle East); Specialist track -- at least 5 courses in specific region or pathway; at least 2 courses outside region or pathway; overall course work must include 3 regions
Substitution permitted 1 or 2 nondepartmental courses approved by DUS
Senior requirement Two-term senior essay (HIST 495 and 496) or one-term senior essay (HIST 497)

FACULTY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Professors Abbas Amanat, Ned Blackhawk, David Blight, Daniel Botsman, Paul Bushkovitch, Deborah Coen, Carolyn Dean, Fabian Drixler, Carlos Eire, David Engerman, Paul Freedman, Joanne Freeman, John Gaddis, Beverly Gage, Bruce Gordon, Valerie Hansen, Robert Harms, Matthew Jacobson, Gilbert Joseph, Paul Kennedy, Benedict Kiernan, Jennifer Klein, Naomi Lamoreaux, Bentley Layton,
Noel Lenski, Kathryn Lofton, Mary Lui, Daniel Magaziner, Joseph Manning, Ivan Marcus, John Merriman, Joanne Meyerowitz, Alan Mikhail, Samuel Moyn, Nicholas Parrillo, Peter Perdue, Mark Peterson, Stephen Pitti, Naomi Rogers, Paul Sabin, Stuart Schwartz, Timothy Snyder, David Sorkin, Harry Stout, John Warner, Anders Winroth, John Witt, Keith Wrightson

**Associate Professors** Paola Bertucci, Crystal Feimster, Andrew Johnston, Joanna Radin, Edward Rugemer, Marci Shore, Eliyahu Stern

**Assistant Professors** Jennifer Allen, Sergei Antonov, Rohit De, Marcela Echeverri, Anne Eller, Denise Ho, Isaac Nakhimovsky, William Rankin, Carolyn Roberts, Jonathan Wyrzyk

**Senior Lecturers** Becky Conekin, Jay Gitlin, Stuart Semmel, Rebecca Tannenbaum

**Lecturers** Sakena Abedin, Laurne Banko, Ivano Dal Prete, Rachel Elder, Jay Gitlin, Ian Johnson, Maria Jordan, George Levesque, Chitra Ramalingam, Terence Renaud, Travis Ross

**First-Year Seminars**

* **HIST 006b / HSHM 006b, Medicine and Society in American History**  
  Rebecca Tannenbaum  
  Disease and healing in American history from colonial times to the present. The changing role of the physician, alternative healers and therapies, and the social impact of epidemics from smallpox to AIDS. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.  
  **WR, HU**

* **HIST 012b / AMST 012b, Politics and Society in the United States after World War II**  
  Jennifer Klein  
  Introduction to American political and social issues from the 1940s to the present, including political economy, civil rights, class politics, and gender roles. Legacies of the New Deal as they played out after World War II; the origins, agenda, and ramifications of the Cold War; postwar suburbanization and its racial dimensions; migration and immigration; cultural changes; social movements of the Right and Left; Reaganism and its legacies; the United States and the global economy. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.  
  **HU**

* **HIST 017a, American Indians in Higher Education: Introduction to the Indigenous History of American Education**  
  Ned Blackhawk  
  Education remains an essential element in Native American history, a complex arena full of conflict, resistance, adaptation, and social change. Charting the centuries-long relationships between Native Americans and Euro-American institutions of higher education, this seminar seeks to expose students to the educational history of Native North America. Through in-class assignments, discussion, and sets of experiential campus and off-campus tours, this class both introduces the educational history of Native North America and links it with the broader political history of federal Indian law and policy. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.  
  **HU**

* **HIST 019b / AMST 028b, The History of the Book in the American West**  
  Staff  
  This course focuses on the history of making, selling, buying, collecting, and reading printed objects in America by focusing especially on western United States. We focus not only on the history of print in the American West, but also on the representation of the American West in print. As a regional examination of the history of the book, this course investigates the historical development of the business models and technologies by which printed materials were created and circulated after about 1790. It examines the social and cultural histories of authorship and reading, both learned and popular. This course also pays particular attention to cultural production of Western Americana as a relatively finite number of collectible materials through the creation of influential lists like the Zamorano 80. Yale alumni have played an outsized role in that historical process, and so this class intersects significantly with the institutional history of this institution. Through conversations with rare book sellers and collectors—and perhaps a field trip or two—students learn about the antiquarian book trade. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.  
  **HU**

* **HIST 020b / ARCG 031b / CLCV 059b / EVST 030b / NELC 026b, Rivers and Civilization**  
  Harvey Weiss  
  The appearance of the earliest cities along the Nile and Euphrates in the fourth millennium B.C. Settlements along the rivers, the origins of agriculture, the production and extraction of agricultural surpluses, and the generation of class structures and political hierarchies. How and why these processes occurred along the banks of these rivers; consequent societal collapses and their relation to abrupt climate changes. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.  
  **HU, SO**

* **HIST 022a, What History Teaches**  
  John Gaddis  
  An introduction to the discipline of history. History viewed as an art, a science, and something in between; differences between fact, interpretation, and consensus; history as a predictor of future events. Focus on issues such as the interdependence of variables, causation and verification, the role of individuals, and to what extent historical inquiry can or should be a moral enterprise. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.  
  **HU**

* **HIST 033a / WGSS 033a, Fashion in London and Paris, 1750 to the Present**  
  Becky Conekin  
  Introduction to the history of Western fashion from the mid-eighteenth century to the present, with a focus on Paris and London. Approaches, methods, and theories scholars have historically employed to study fashion and dress. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.  
  **HU**
* HIST 034b, Cuba from Slavery to Revolution  Anne Eller
Cuba's rich history from the early colonial period to the present. Topics include colonialism, slavery, independence, emancipation, the Cuban Revolution, and the nation's relationship with the United States. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.  WR, HU

* HIST 037a / CLCV 034a / HSHM 002a, Medicine and Disease in the Ancient World  Jessica Lamont
Examination of ancient medicine considering modern fields of pathology, surgery, pharmacology, therapy, obstetrics, psychology, anatomy, medical science, ethics, and education, to gain a better understanding of the foundations of Western medicine and an appreciation for how medical terms, theories, and practices take on different meanings with changes in science and society. All readings in English. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.  WR, HU

* HIST 055b, A History of Modern London  Becky Conckin
Chronological and thematic exploration of modern London as a metropolitan and imperial center from the late-nineteenth-century to the present day. Topics include race, gay rights, women's rights, consumer culture, the experience of war, and the development of a multi-racial society. The fashion, food, and popular music of London emerge as important components of the city's global identity in the twentieth century. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.  WR, HU

* HIST 072a, The History of World History  Valerie Hansen
How the great historians of ancient Greece, Rome, China, the Islamic world, and nineteenth-century Europe created modern historical method. How to evaluate the reliability of sources, both primary and secondary, and assess the relationship between fact and interpretation. Using historical method to make sense of our world today. Strategies for improving reading, writing, and public speaking skills. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.  WR, HU

* HIST 078b, Truth and Post-Truth  Marci Shore
This European intellectual history seminar explores the epistemological question in philosophy: does the world really exist? How do I know it's really there and not just a projection of my consciousness? Is there such a thing as truth? We begin with European philosophy, moving through Descartes, Kant and Husserl and through the role of ideology and lies in 20th century totalitarianism, then to dissident thought in Eastern Europe in the 1970s and 1980s, and finally to the emergence of "post-truth" in the 20th century and its implications in both philosophy and life. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.  HU

* HIST 081b / MMES 080b, Nationalist Myths in the Modern Middle East  Lauren Banko
This course introduces students to the myth-making processes involved in the creation of nation-states in the post-Ottoman Middle East, including Iraq, Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Turkey, as well as in Iran and Egypt. It explores the ways in which national identities and nation-states formed—in ways both organic and forced—around certain myths and ideologies. It examines the impact of these national/nationalist myths on revolutions and uprisings in the late Ottoman and post-Ottoman Middle East. The course readings, sources, and discussions examine the relationship between myths of national origin, revolution, and state-making. The class also addresses the ways in which the control over the creation of myths of origin and ethnic, racial, national, and religious identity shaped society and politics in nation-states, republics, and monarchies especially after 1918. The course focuses partly on the theoretical underpinnings of national myth-making and ideologies of nationalism in order to offer historical understandings as to how states, majority and minority groups, and different national movements in post-Ottoman society created and re-made 'imagined communities' of nations and citizens, sometimes through violence. The course surveys the ways in which new identities became manifested in a number of often-revolutionary ideologies including pan-Arab nationalism, Zionism, Kemalism, Phoenicianism, Baathist socialism, and various anti-imperial and anti-colonial movements. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.  HU

* HIST 090b, The History of Sport  Angela Gleason
Sport has been called both the new world religion and the modern global language. Despite this, modern sport remains one of the least examined aspects of social history. This seminar examines the history of modern American sport from the mid-19th century through the 21st century. Regular discussion themes include race, identity, gender, religion, nationalism, commercialism, professionalism, drugs, technology, and whatever else we decide. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.  WR, HU

Lecture Courses

HIST 101a, The World Circa 1000  Valerie Hansen and Anders Winroth
A study of the world's major societies and the encounters among them circa 1000, when globalization began. Attention to China, India, Europe, the Vikings, Africa, the Islamic world, Amerindians including the Maya. Analysis of written and archaeological sources.  HU

HIST 115a / AMST 188a, The Colonial Period of American History  Staff
This course explores the history of North America from the period of European colonization through the era of the Seven Years' War, from roughly 1492 to 1763. Emphasis is placed on the migration of people from Europe and Africa to North America; their contact and interaction with Native Americans; the formation of new societies and economies; and the corresponding development of new political and social ideas in America, with special attention paid to the evolving relationship between slavery and freedom. Although the course addresses the major themes and issues of early American history, the lectures and readings frequently focus on the lives of individuals, both prominent and obscure, who shaped and were shaped by larger forces and developments.  HU
HIST 119b / AFAM 172b, The Civil War and Reconstruction Era, 1845–1877  David Blight
The causes, course, and consequences of the American Civil War. A search for the multiple meanings of a transformative event, including national, sectional, racial, constitutional, social, gender, intellectual, and individual dimensions.  HU

HIST 122a / DEVN 198a / EPE&E 320a / GLBL 444a / PLSC 402a, Power and Politics in Today's World  Ian Shapiro
A comparative study of power and politics since the Cold War. Topics include the decline of trade unions and increased influence of business; growing inequality and insecurity; changing attitudes towards democracy and authoritarianism; and the character and durability of the new international order. We start with the impact of the USSR's collapse, both in former communist countries and the West, focusing on reordered relations among business, labor, and governments. Next we take up the Washington Consensus on free trade, privatization, and deregulation, and agendas to fight terrorism, prevent human rights abuses, and spread democracy. Then we turn to the backlash that followed the financial crisis, as technocratic elites lost legitimacy, the global war on terror became mired in quagmires, and humanitarian intervention and democracy-spreading agendas floundered. The new politics of insecurity is our next focus. We examine the populist explosions of 2016 and the politics to which they have given rise. This leads to a consideration of responses, where we discuss the policies most needed when congenital employment insecurity is going to be the norm, and the political reforms that would increase the chances of those policies being adopted. Introductory courses in twentieth-century European, American or global history, comparative politics, or political economy are helpful but are not required.  HU, SO

HIST 135b / ECON 182b, American Economic History  Naomi Lamoreaux
The growth of the American economy since 1790, both as a unique historical record and as an illustration of factors in the process of economic development. The American experience viewed in the context of its European background and patterns of industrialization overseas. After introductory microeconomics.  WR, SO

HIST 141a / AMST 141a, The American West  Travis Ross
The history of the American West as both frontier and region, real and imagined, from the first contacts between Indians and Europeans in the fifteenth century to the multicultural encounters of the contemporary Sunbelt. Students work with historical texts and images from Yale's Western Americana Collection.  HU

HIST 140a / HSHM 215a, Public Health in America, 1793 to the Present  Naomi Rogers
A survey of public health in America from the yellow fever epidemic of 1793 to AIDS and breast cancer activism at the end of the past century. Focusing on medicine and the state, topics include quarantines, failures and successes of medical and social welfare, the experiences of healers and patients, and organized medicine and its critics.  HU

HIST 184a / AFAM 160a / AFST 184a / AMST 160a, The Rise and Fall of Atlantic Slavery  Edward Rugemer
The history of peoples of African descent throughout the Americas, from the first African Americans of the sixteenth century through the century-long process of emancipation.  HU

HIST 187b / AFAM 162b / AMST 162b, African American History from Emancipation to the Present  Lauren Meyer
An examination of the African American experience since 1861. Meanings of freedom and citizenship are distilled through appraisal of race and class formations, the processes and effects of cultural consumption, and the grand narrative of the civil rights movement.  WR, HU

HIST 199a / AMST 236a / EVST 318a / HSHM 207a, American Energy History  Paul Sabin
The history of energy in the United States from early hydropower and coal to present-day hydraulic fracturing, deepwater oil, wind, and solar. Topics include energy transitions and technological change; energy and democracy; environmental justice and public health; corporate power and monopoly control; electricity and popular culture; labor struggles; the global quest for oil; changing national energy policies; the climate crisis.  HU

HIST 202a, European Civilization, 1648–1945  John Merriman
An overview of the economic, social, political, and intellectual history of modern Europe. Topics include the rise of absolute states, the scientific revolution, the Enlightenment, the French Revolution and Napoleon, the industrial revolution, the revolutions of 1848, nationalism and national unifications, Victorian Britain, the colonization of Africa and Asia, fin-de-siècle culture and society, the Great War, the Russian Revolution, the Europe of political extremes, and World War II.  HU

HIST 205b / CLCV 205b / HUMS 143b, Introduction to Ancient Greek History  Jessica Lamont
Introduction to Greek history, tracing the development of Greek civilization as manifested in the political, military, intellectual, and creative achievements from the Bronze Age through the end of the Classical period. Students read original sources in translation as well as secondary scholarship to better understand the rise and fall of the ancient Greeks—the civilization at the very heart of Western Civilization.  HU

HIST 211b, The Birth of Europe, 1000–1500  Paul Freedman
Europe during the central and late Middle Ages, from the feudal revolution to the age of discoveries. Europe as it came to be defined in terms of national states and international empires. The rise and decline of papal power, church reform movements, the Crusades, contacts with Asia, the commercial revolution, and the culture of chivalry.  HU
**HIST 217a / CLCV 206a / HUMS 144a, The Roman Republic**  Andrew Johnston
The origins, development, and expansion of Rome from the earliest times to the deaths of Caesar and Cicero. Cultural identity and interaction; slavery, class, and the family; politics, rhetoric, and propaganda; religion; imperialism; monumentality and memory; and the perception and writing of history. Application of literary and archaeological evidence.  HU

**HIST 218b / CLCV 207b, The Roman Empire**  Andrew Johnston
The history of the Roman Empire from its establishment by Augustus to the reign of Justinian. Attention to social, intellectual, and religious changes, as well as to the framework of historical events within which these changes took place, and to the processes by which the Roman Empire was replaced by the institutions of the Western Middle Ages and the Byzantine Empire.  HU

**HIST 225b / CLCV 236b, Roman Law**  Noel Lenski
Basic principles of Roman law and their applications to the social and economic history of antiquity and to the broader history of international law. Topics include the history of persons and things, inheritance, crime and tort, and legal procedure. Questions of social and economic history and the history of jurisprudence from the fifth century B.C.E. to the present.  HU

* **HIST 227a / SPAN 367a, The Spanish Civil War: Words and Images**  Noël Valis
An introduction to the history and cultural-literary impact of the Spanish Civil War (1936–39) from national and international perspectives. Views both from within and from outside the war; women and the war; memory and the war. Authors include George Orwell, Ernest Hemingway, Javier Cercas, Alberto Méndez, Mercè Rodoreda, Ramón J. Sender, W. H. Auden, and Stephen Spender. Open to students who have placed into L5 courses or who have successfully completed an L4 course in Spanish. Counts toward the Spanish major.  L5, HU

**HIST 228b, Vikings**  Anders Winroth
Introduction to the history, literature, and culture of Scandinavia between 700 and 1250. Viking raids, skaldic and eddic poetry, Icelandic sagas, and northern myths; runestones, ships, halls, and swords in literature and history; Viking women, northern trade, colonization, Christianization, and Viking landings in America.  HU

**HIST 229a, From Oligarchy to Democracy in Britain, 1780-1914**  Stuart Semmel
British politics, society, and culture in the long nineteenth century, a period of constitutional reform, industrial development, social dislocation, imperial expansion, and cultural criticism.  HU

* **HIST 230b, Twentieth-Century Jewish Political History: Holocaust, Israel, American Jewry**  David Sorkin
This course studies Jewish political behavior in response to three key developments of the twentieth century that directly impinged upon Jews: Nazi totalitarianism resulted in the mass murder of Jews, de-colonization resulted in the Jews' return to sovereignty with the establishment of the State of Israel, and the development America's post-war “open” society of equality resulted in American Jewry flourishing in perhaps unprecedented ways. This course aims to study the vexed question of Jews' political behavior in response to these twentieth-century developments. Students write essays about the three events and have the opportunity to undertake original research about one of them.  HU

**HIST 231b / HUMS 277b, What was Enlightenment?**  Isaac Nakhimovsky
A survey of eighteenth-century European intellectual life, considered in its social and cultural contexts and with attention to its historical legacies, focusing on responses to emerging global networks of trade, finance, and empire.  HU

**HIST 230b, Britain’s Empire since 1763**  Stuart Semmel
The varieties of rule in different parts of Britain’s vast empire, from India to Africa to the West Indies. Ways in which events in one region could redirect policy in distant ones; how British observers sought to reconcile empire’s often authoritarian nature with liberalism and an expanding democracy at home; the interaction of economic, cultural, political, and environmental factors in shaping British imperial development.  HU

**HIST 246b / EVST 189b, The History of Food**  Paul Freedman
The history of food and culinary styles from prehistory to the present, with a particular focus on Europe and the United States. How societies gathered and prepared food. Changing taste preferences over time. The influence of consumers on trade, colonization, and cultural exchange. The impact of colonialism, technology, and globalization. The current food scene and its implications for health, the environment, and cultural shifts.  HU

**HIST 249a / JDST 346a, Making European Culture Jewish: Five Media, 1780-1930**  David Sorkin
This course studies the ways in which Jewish writers and artists turned European culture into Jewish culture, that is, how a minority group fashioned its own version of the majority culture. As European Jews encountered European culture and society, they had to grapple with a host of fundamental questions. What was Judaism and who were the Jews: a religion, a history, a culture, a nation? We examine the way in which writers and artists struggled with these issues in five media: memoir, theology, history, fiction, and painting, thereby creating Jewish versions first of Enlightenment, Romanticism, and realism (1780-1870) and then of nationalism, positivism, and modernism (1870-1930).  HU

**HIST 254a / GMAN 208a, Germany from Unification to Refugee Crisis**  Jennifer Allen
The history of Germany from its unification in 1871 through the present. Topics include German nationalism and national unification; the culture and politics of the Weimar Republic; National Socialism and the Holocaust; the division of Germany and the Cold War; the Student Movement and New Social Movements; reunification; and Germany’s place in contemporary Europe.  HU
HIST 263a, Eastern Europe to 1914  Timothy Snyder
Eastern Europe from the medieval state to the rise of modern nationalism. The Ottoman Empire, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, the Hapsburg monarchy, and various native currents. Themes include religious diversity, the constitution of empire, and the emergence of secular political ideologies. HU

HIST 264b / RSEE 268b, Eastern Europe since 1914  Timothy Snyder
Eastern Europe from the collapse of the old imperial order to the enlargement of the European Union. Main themes include world war, nationalism, fascism, and communism. Special attention to the structural weaknesses of interwar nation-states and postwar communist regimes. Nazi and Soviet occupation as an age of extremes. The collapse of communism. Communism after 1989 and the dissolution of Yugoslavia in the 1990s as parallel European trajectories. HU

HIST 271a / HUMS 330a / RSEE 271a, European Intellectual History since Nietzsche  Marci Shore
Major currents in European intellectual history from the late nineteenth century through the twentieth. Topics include Marxism-Leninism, psychoanalysis, expressionism, structuralism, phenomenology, existentialism, antipolitics, and deconstruction. HU

HIST 275a, Revolutionary France, 1789–1871  John Merriman
Dimensions of political, social, and economic change in France during its most turbulent period. The causes and impact of the revolutions of 1789, 1830, 1848, and 1871; demographic change and large-scale industrialization; shifting political elites, republican and socialist alternatives to monarchy, and urbanization. HU

HIST 276b, France since 1871  John Merriman
The emergence of modern France since the Paris Commune of 1871 and the beginnings of the Third Republic. The social, economic, political, and cultural transformation of France; the impact of France’s revolutionary heritage, of industrialization, and of the dislocation wrought by two world wars and decolonialization; and the political response of the Left and the Right to changing French society, including the impact of immigration and the emergence and challenges of the European Union. One discussion section conducted in French; students in this section may count the course toward the French major. HU

HIST 278b / RSEE 278b, Christian Mysticism, 1200–1700  Carlos Eire
An introductory survey of the mystical literature of the Christian West, focusing on the late medieval and early modern periods. Close reading of primary texts, analyzed in their historical context. HU

HIST 280a / ITAL 315a / RLST 160a, The Catholic Intellectual Tradition  Carlos Eire
Introductory survey of the interaction between Catholicism and Western culture from the first century to the present, with a focus on pivotal moments and crucial developments that defined both traditions. Key beliefs, rites, and customs of the Roman Catholic Church, and the ways in which they have found expression; interaction between Catholics and the institution of the Church; Catholicism in its cultural and sociopolitical matrices. Close reading of primary sources. HU

HIST 281b / RLST 268b, Christian Mysticism, 1200–1700  Carlos Eire
An introductory survey of the mystical literature of the Christian West, focusing on the late medieval and early modern periods. Close reading of primary texts, analyzed in their historical context. HU

HIST 280a / ITAL 315a / RLST 160a, The Catholic Intellectual Tradition  Carlos Eire
Introductory survey of the interaction between Catholicism and Western culture from the first century to the present, with a focus on pivotal moments and crucial developments that defined both traditions. Key beliefs, rites, and customs of the Roman Catholic Church, and the ways in which they have found expression; interaction between Catholics and the institution of the Church; Catholicism in its cultural and sociopolitical matrices. Close reading of primary sources. HU

HIST 280a / ITAL 315a / RLST 160a, The Catholic Intellectual Tradition  Carlos Eire
Introductory survey of the interaction between Catholicism and Western culture from the first century to the present, with a focus on pivotal moments and crucial developments that defined both traditions. Key beliefs, rites, and customs of the Roman Catholic Church, and the ways in which they have found expression; interaction between Catholics and the institution of the Church; Catholicism in its cultural and sociopolitical matrices. Close reading of primary sources. HU

HIST 290a / RSEE 225a, Russia from the Ninth Century to 1801  Paul Bushkovitch
The mainstream of Russian history from the Kievian state to 1801. Political, social, and economic institutions and the transition from Eastern Orthodoxy to the Enlightenment. HU

HIST 301a, Roman History, 1463 CE to 312 CE  Daniel Botsman
A survey of Roman history from the Augustan period to the end of the Roman Empire. Themes include political, social, and cultural history. HU

HIST 303b, Japan’s Modern Revolution  Daniel Botsman
A survey of Japan’s transformation over the course of the nineteenth century from an isolated, traditional society on the edge of northeast Asia to a modern imperial power. Aspects of political, social, and cultural history. HU

HIST 304b / EAST 304b, The Making of Japan’s Great Peace, 1550–1850  Fabian Drixler
Examination of how, after centuries of war in Japan and overseas, the Tokugawa shogunate built a peace that lasted more than 200 years. Japan’s urban revolution, the eradication of Christianity, the Japanese discovery of Europe, and the question of whether Tokugawa Japan is a rare example of a complex and populous society that achieved ecological sustainability. HU

HIST 311a / CLCV 311a, Egypt of the Pharaohs  Joseph Manning
Egypt was among the first centralized territorial states in the world, and, because Egyptian history offers us 4,000 years of institutional development and change, the focus of this course is on the long-term development of the ancient Egyptian state, its institutions, and its culture. The course introduces students to the history and culture of ancient Egypt from the rise of the central state to the early Christian period. General historical trends, the relationship of Egyptian history to other contemporary ancient cultures, and the legacy of Egypt to the “West” are also considered. At the end of the course, students have an understanding of the material culture and the historical development of ancient Egypt, and an appreciation for the relationship of the ancient sources to the construction of ancient Egyptian history. HU

HIST 312b / EAST 220b, China from Present to Past, 2015–600  Valerie Hansen
Underlying causes of current issues facing China traced back to their origins in the premodern period. Topics include economic development, corruption, environmental crises, gender, and Pacific island disputes. Selected primary-source readings in English, images, videos, and Web resources. *Optional additional Chinese-language and English-language sections. HU

HIST 325b, Introduction to Latin American History  Anne Eller
Critical themes and events in Latin American history from pre-Columbian times to the present. Major formative epochs such as the pre-Columbian era, colonization, independence, and contemporary moments; modern political flashpoints, including Haiti, Cuba, Argentina, and Peru. HU
HIST 332a / AFST 333a, African Encounters with Colonialism  Daniel Magaziner
How African societies and peoples encountered, engaged, and endured the colonial and postcolonial world, from the arrival of Kiswahili-speaking traders at the shores of Lake Victoria in the 1840s through the rise and fall of European colonialism and the resulting forms of neocolonialism. Transformations and continuities in African religious life; gendered sociability; popular culture.  HU

HIST 335b / AFST 335b / ER&M 335b, A History of South Africa  Daniel Magaziner
An introduction to the history of southern Africa, especially South Africa. Indigenous communities; early colonial contact; the legacies of colonial rule; postcolonial mismanagement; the vagaries of the environment; the mineral revolution; segregationist regimes; persistent inequality and crime since the end of apartheid; the specter of AIDS; postcolonial challenges in Zimbabwe, Angola, and Mozambique.  HU

HIST 340b / AFST 340b, Africa in the Era of the Slave Trade  Robert Harms
Examination of the tumultuous changes experienced by African societies during the era of the Atlantic slave trade, approximately 1450–1850. Focus on the complex interaction between the internal dynamics of African societies and the impact of outside forces.  HU

HIST 345b / JDST 265b / MMES 148b / RLST 202b, Jews in Muslim Lands from the Seventh to the Sixteenth Centuries  Ivan Marcus
Jewish culture and society in Muslim lands from the time of the Prophet Muhammad to that of Suleiman the Magnificent. Topics include Islam and Judaism; Jerusalem as a holy site; rabbinic leadership and literature in Baghdad; Jewish courtiers, poets, and philosophers in Muslim Spain; and the Jews in the Ottoman Empire.  HU  RP

HIST 351b / MMES 193b / RLST 156b, The Golden Age of Islam  Gerhard Bowering
The development of Islamic civilization in the Middle East, North Africa, Spain, Iran, and India from Muhammad through the Mongol invasions to the rise of the Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal empires (600–1500 C.E.). Emphasis on the intellectual and religious history of Islam in the age of the caliphathe and during the rule of regional dynasties.  HU

HIST 352a / LAST 355a, Colonial Latin America  Stuart Schwartz
A survey of the conquest and colonization of Latin America from pre-Columbian civilizations through the movements for independence. Emphasis on social and economic themes and the formation of identities in the context of multiracial societies.  HU

HIST 375a or b / EAST 375a or b, China from Mao to Now  Denise Ho
The history of the People’s Republic of China from Mao to now, with a focus on understanding the recent Chinese past and framing contemporary events in China in historical context. How the party-state is organized; interactions between state and society; causes and consequences of economic disparities; ways in which various groups—from intellectuals to religious believers—have shaped the meaning of contemporary Chinese society.  HU

HIST 416b / EVST 211b / G&G 211b / HSHM 211b, Global Catastrophe since 1750  William Rankin
A history of the geological, atmospheric, and environmental sciences, with a focus on predictions of global catastrophe. Topics range from headline catastrophes such as global warming, ozone depletion, and nuclear winter to historical debates about the age of the Earth, the nature of fossils, and the management of natural resources. Tensions between science and religion; the role of science in government; environmental economics; the politics of prediction, modeling, and incomplete evidence.  HU

HIST 455a / EVST 209a / HSHM 209a, Making Climate Knowledge  Deborah Coen
This is a course about how humans have come to know what we know about our impacts on the earth’s climate and our vulnerability to climate change. When did humans first know that their actions, in the aggregate, could transform the planet? Did scientists bear responsibility to warn of these consequences? In what ways has the modern science of climate both appropriated and undermined traditional and indigenous forms of climate knowledge? Students learn to work with the methods of history of science: we analyze science as a social and material process bound to the cultural and epistemological particularities of its historical context, and we examine the political dimensions of historical narratives about the emergence of the theory of global warming. Via hands-on experience with Yale’s historical collections, students learn to analyze maps, artifacts, and instruments as historical sources. They also gain familiarity with the methods of environmental history, learning to attend to historical evidence of shifting relationships between humans and non-humans. Finally, students become more attuned to the evidence of climate change around them and more confident in their ability to make climate knowledge for themselves.  WR, HU

HIST 479a / AFAM 170a / HSHM 241a, Sickness and Health in African American History  Carolyn Roberts
A history of American medicine through the African American experience covering the period of slavery through #BlackLivesMatter. Oriented around the complex dynamics of medical abuse and medical resistance, key themes include medicine and slavery; gender and reproduction; medical experimentation and ethics; the rise of racial science; lynching and vigilante violence; segregation and public health; African-descended approaches to health and healing; the rise of the African American medical profession; and black health activism from slavery to #BlackLivesMatter.  HU

Departmental Seminars

All History majors must take at least two departmental seminars. Seminars on the history of the United States or Canada are numbered 100J to 199J; seminars on Britain and Europe are 200J to 299J; and seminars on Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East are 300J to 399J. Seminars numbered in the 400s address global topics; students must apply to the director of undergraduate studies in History to count a 400-level seminar toward a particular geographical distribution category. Each departmental seminar aims to acquaint students in a substantial and professional way with the literature of a period in history; to train them as far as possible in the use of primary source...
materials; to introduce them to problems of bibliography, historiography, and historical method; and to give them training in the writing of history. The relative importance of these objectives in any particular seminar depends on its subject matter, the previous preparation of its students, and the availability of materials.

Each term declared History majors should apply for departmental seminars for the following term using the online seminar preregistration site. Preregistration begins after midterm in the fall for seminars offered in the spring term, and after spring recess for seminars offered in the subsequent fall term. All students who wish to preregister must declare their major beforehand.

During the course selection period, application for admission should be made directly to the instructors of the seminars, who will admit students to remaining vacancies in their seminars. Priority is given to applications from juniors, then seniors, majoring in History, but applications are also accepted from qualified sophomores and from students majoring in other disciplines or programs. The department seeks wherever possible to accommodate students’ preferences; for their part, students should recognize that limitations imposed by the size of seminars (normally fifteen students) make accommodation impossible in some instances. HIST 494 and residential college seminars that count toward the History major do not fulfill the departmental seminar requirement.

* HIST 105Jb / ENGL 272b / HUMS 352b, American Imagination: From the Gilded Age to the Cold War  David Bromwich and Bryan Garsten
Survey of major ideas, writings, and cultural movements that have shaped American life and thought from 1880 to 1990. Assignments encompass works of fiction, philosophy, social and political thought, and film.  HU RP

* HIST 106Ja, A History of the United States and Latin America  Gregory Grandin
This seminar focuses on the history of the United States and Spanish, French, and Portuguese America, from the Age of Revolution to the present day. It covers such topics as the American, Haitian, and Spanish-American Revolutions; the Monroe Doctrine; the Confederacy’s foreign policy toward Spanish America, Brazil, and Haiti; William Walker’s invasion and occupation of Nicaragua; the end of slavery throughout the Americas, and the New World consolidation of jus soli (or birthright) notions of citizenship; the War of 1898; the building of the Panama Canal; US counterinsurgencies in Haiti, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic; the Good Neighbor Policy; the politics and culture of the Cold War, including CIA interventions in Guatemala, Chile, and Nicaragua; and the Invasion of Panama. Combining social, intellectual, and diplomatic history, the course covers topics such as the region’s revolutionary wars for independence; comparative republicanisms; the creation of borders; the expansion and abolition of slavery; more revolutions, and counterrevolutions; military interventions and coups; and evolving forms of political economy. The course’s main comparative framework is to examine how the United States and Latin America both advanced, and struggled to define, a set of New World ideas and political forms: Christianity, republicanism, liberalism, democracy, sovereignty, rights, and, above all, the very idea of America.  WR, HU

* HIST 113Jb, Women, Gender, and Work in United States History  Staff
This course examines the histories of women, gender, and work in modern American history. We investigate the following questions: How is work a gendering experience? How have historians of women and gender expanded and redefined the category of work? What is the relationship between gender and notions of value and skill? We examine forms of waged and unwaged labor, including domestic, intimate, consumer, and sexual labors. We consider how questions of work, labor, and gender intersect with the categories of race, sexuality, nationality, empire, disability, religion, and age. We also consider how diverse groups of women understood their experiences of work, negotiated competing responsibilities and expectations, and struggled to transform working conditions and address social problems.  WR, HU

* HIST 115Jb / AFAM 349b / AMST 326b / WGSS 388b, Civil Rights and Women’s Liberation  Lauren Meyer
The dynamic relationship between the civil rights movement and the women’s liberation movement from 1940 to the present. When and how the two movements overlapped, intersected, and diverged. The variety of ways in which African Americans and women campaigned for equal rights. Topics include World War II, freedom summer, black power, the Equal Rights Amendment, feminism, abortion, affirmative action, and gay rights.  HU

* HIST 128Jb / HSHM 475b, Race and Disease in American Medicine  Sakena Abedin
An exploration of the history of race and disease in American medicine from the late 19th century to the present, focusing on clinical practice and clinical research. We discuss cancer, psychiatric disease, sickle cell disease, and infectious diseases including tuberculosis and HIV. We examine the role of race in the construction of disease and the role of disease in generating and supporting racial hierarchies, with special attention to the role of visibility and the visual in these processes. We also consider the history of race and clinical research, and the implications of racialized disease construction for the production of medical knowledge.  WR, HU

* HIST 130Ja / AMST 441a / ER&M 370a, Indians and the Spanish Borderlands  Ned Blackhawk
The experiences of Native Americans during centuries of relations with North America’s first imperial power, Spain. The history and long-term legacies of Spanish colonialism from Florida to California.  WR, HU

* HIST 134Jb, Yale and America: Selected Topics in Social and Cultural History  Jay Gitlin
Relations between Yale and Yale people – from Ezra Stiles and Noah Webster to Cole Porter, Henry Roe Cloud, and Maya Lin – and American society and culture. Elihu Yale and the global eighteenth century; Benjamin Silliman and the emergence of American science; Walter Camp, Dink Stover, and the all-American boy; Henry Luce and the information age; faith and ideology in postwar Yale and America.  WR, HU
* HIST 135Ja, The Age of Hamilton and Jefferson  Joanne Freeman
The culture and politics of the revolutionary and early national periods of American history, using the lives, ideas, and writings of Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton as a starting point. Topics include partisan conflict, political culture, nation building, the American character, and domestic life.  WR, HU

* HIST 137Ja / AFAM 227a / AMST 227a / ER&M 340a, From the Voting Rights Act to #blacklivesmatter  Staff
This course explores the period beginning from 1964 through the emergence of the #blacklivesmatter movement in 2013. Key concepts covered in this course include the Black Panther Party and rise of the Black Power movement; political campaigns of Shirley Chisholm, Jesse Jackson, and Barack Obama. The seminar concludes with an examination of the #blacklivesmatter movement and broader efforts addressing mass incarceration, poverty, and opportunity gaps in education.  HU

* HIST 144Ja / GLBL 250a, Lessons of the Past  Michael Brenes
This course explores how American policymakers have used or misused history in making foreign policy decisions since World War I. In addition to the course readings on this topic, students examine the archives of American diplomats and policymakers behind those decisions. Students are introduced to the vast archival holdings of the Yale Library in diplomatic and international history, and are expected to use archival collections in their assignments. We discuss historical methods and the process of archival research alongside the history of 20th century American foreign policy.  HU

* HIST 150Ja / HSHM 406a, Healthcare for the Urban Poor  Sakina Abedin
Exploration of the institutions, movements, and policies that have attempted to provide healthcare for the urban poor in America from the late nineteenth century to the present, with emphasis on the ideas (about health, cities, neighborhoods, poverty, race, gender, difference, etc) that shaped them. Topics include hospitals, health centers, public health programs, the medical civil rights movement, the women's health movement, and national healthcare policies such as Medicare and Medicaid.

* HIST 151Jb / AMST 422b / ER&M 433b, Writing Tribal Histories  Ned Blackhawk
Historical overview of American Indian tribal communities, particularly since the creation of the United States. Challenges of working with oral histories, government documents, and missionary records.  WR, HU

* HIST 164Ja, Foxes, Hedgehogs, and History  John Gaddis
Application of Isaiah Berlin's distinction between foxes and hedgehogs to selected historical case studies extending from the classical age through the recent past.  WR, HU

* HIST 166Ja / AMST 410a / WGSS 409a, Asian American Women and Gender, 1830 to the Present  Mary Lui
Asian American women as key historical actors. Gender analysis is used to reexamine themes in Asian American history: immigration, labor, community, cultural representations, political organizing, sexuality, and marriage and family life.  WR, HU

* HIST 167Ja / PLSC 209a / PLSC 839a, Congress in the Light of History  David Mayhew
This course begins by studying analytic themes, including congressional structure, incentives bearing on members and parties, conditions of party control, supermajority rules, and polarization, followed by narrative works of major political showdowns entailing Congress such as those in 1850, 1876-77, 1919 (defeat of the Versailles Treaty), 1937 (defeat of court-packing), 1954 (the McCarthy-Army hearings), 1964 (civil rights), 1973-74 (Watergate), and 1993-94 (defeat of health care). Students also examine a series of policy performances, for the better or the worse in today's judgments, ranging from early state-building through reacting to the Great Depression, constructing a welfare state, and addressing climate change. This is a reading course and does not accommodate senior essays.  SO

* HIST 168Jb, Quebec and Canada from 1791 to the Present  Jay Gitlin
The history of Quebec and its place within Canada from the Constitutional Act of 1791 to the present. Topics include the Rebellion of 1837, confederation, the Riel Affair, industrialization and emigration to New England, French-Canadian nationalism and culture from Abbé Groulx to the Parti Québécois and Céline Dion, and the politics of language. Readings include plays by Michel Tremblay and Antonine Maillet in translation.  WR, HU

* HIST 174Ja / AMST 451a / RLST 260a, Religion, War, and the Meaning of America  Harry Stout
The relationship between religion and war in American history from colonial beginnings through Vietnam. The religious meanings of Americans at war; the mutually reinforcing influences of nationalism and religion; war as the norm of American national life; the concept of civil religion; biblical and messianic contexts of key U.S. conflicts.  HU

* HIST 176Ja / HSHM 465a / WGSS 457a, Reproductive Health, Gender & Power in the U.S.  Ziv Eisenberg
This seminar examines women's and men's reproductive health in the United States from the 19th century to the present. How have gender norms and social power structures shaped medical knowledge, scientific investigation, political regulation, and private reproductive experiences? What do the lessons of the history of reproductive health tell us about contemporary policy, legal and economic debates? Topics include abortion, activism, childbirth, contraceptives, eugenics, feminism, fertility, medicalization, pregnancy, reproductive science and technology, sexual health, social justice, and sterilization.  WR, HU

* HIST 179Ja / HSHM 415a, Historical Perspectives on Science and Religion  Ivano Dal Prete
The engagement between science and religion from a historical standpoint and a multicultural perspective. The Islamic, Jewish, Buddhist, and Christian traditions; the roots of modern creationism; salvation expectations and the rise of modern science and technology. General knowledge of western and world history is expected.  WR, HU
* HIST 191Ja / WGSS 354a, Women, Gender, and Grassroots Politics in the United States after World War II  Jennifer Klein
American politics and grassroots social movements from 1945 to the present explored through women's activism and through gender politics more broadly. Ideas about gender identities, gender roles, and family in the shaping of social movements; strategies used on the local, regional, national, and international levels. Connections between organizing and policy, public and private, state and family, and migration, immigration, and empire. WR, HU

* HIST 205Jb, Law and Justice in the Middle Ages  Anders Winroth
There was plenty of law in the Middle Ages, but was there any justice? How could justice be served during a period that is famous for the ordeals of fire and water, feud, judgment by God, torture, oath-helpers, and the lack of legal training? The seminar studies how medieval people sought to achieve fairness in their dealings with each other. None. WR, HU

* HIST 216Ja or b, Eurasian Encounters before 1500  Paul Freedman
People who traveled between Europe and Asia during the Middle Ages. Focus on the Franciscan missionary William Rubruck, Admiral Zheng He's interpreter Ma Huan, the Arabic diplomat ibn Fadlan, and the merchant and fabulist Marco Polo. HU

* HIST 229Ja, London, 1560-1760  Keith Wrightson
A study of London's growth between 1560 and 1760 from a modest city of perhaps 50,000 people to a metropolis with over 700,000 inhabitants. Themes include the dynamics of growth; birth and death, with particular reference to the plague; migration; household life; villages within the city; London as the center of print culture; the royal court; polite society in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries; the "middle sort of people" and consumerism; the world of the poor; and vice and criminality. In September and in January, application for admission should be made directly to the instructors of the seminars, who will admit students to remaining vacancies in their seminars. Priority is given to applications from juniors, then seniors, majoring in History, but applications are also accepted from qualified sophomores and from students majoring in other disciplines or programs. Seminars on the history of the United States or Canada are numbered 100j to 199j; seminars on Britain and Europe are 200j to 299j; and seminars numbered 300j to 399j cover the rest of the world. Seminars numbered in the 400s address global topics; students must apply to the director of undergraduate studies in History to count a 400-level seminar toward a particular geographical distribution category. WR, HU

* HIST 231Ja, The Dark Years: Collaboration and Resistance in Vichy France  John Merriman
The concomitants of collaboration and resistance during Vichy France, 1940–44. Topics include the fall of France in 1940; the return of Pétain's "National Revolution" and its continuities with the French Right during the Third Republic; the extent and nature of resistance (in the context of pre–World War II politics); and the memory of the Vichy years and its influence on subsequent French political life. WR, HU

* HIST 233Ja / HUMS 443a / JDST 270a / MMES 342a / RLST 201a, Medieval Jews, Christians, and Muslims In Conversation  Ivan Marcus
How members of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim communities thought of and interacted with members of the other two cultures during the Middle Ages. Cultural grids and expectations each imposed on the other; the rhetoric of otherness—humans or devils, purity or impurity, and animal imagery; and models of religious community and power in dealing with the other when confronted with cultural differences. Counts toward either European or Middle Eastern distributional credit within the History major, upon application to the director of undergraduate studies. WR, HU

* HIST 242Jb / CLCV 319b / MGRK 300b / WGSS 293b, The Olympic Games, Ancient and Modern  George Syrimis
Introduction to the history of the Olympic Games from antiquity to the present. The mythology of athletic events in ancient Greece and the ritual, political, and social ramifications of the actual competitions. The revival of the modern Olympic movement in 1896, the political investment of the Greek state at the time, and specific games as they illustrate the convergence of athletic cultures and sociopolitical transformations in the twentieth century. HU

* HIST 245Jb / GLBL 289b / PLSC 431b, War and Peace in Northern Ireland  Bonnie Weir
Examination of theoretical and empirical literature in response to questions about the insurgency and uneasy peace in Northern Ireland following the peace agreement of 1998 which formally ended the three-decade long civil conflict known widely as The Troubles and was often lauded as the most successful of its kind in modern history. Consideration of how both the conflict and the peace have been messier and arguably more divisive than most outside observers realize. SO

* HIST 253Ja / LAST 253a, Dissidence and Control in Early Modern Spain and its Empire  María Jordán
Aspects of Spanish culture and society in the Golden Age (c. 1550–1650) that demonstrate discontent, dissidence, and suggestions for reform. Emphasis on the intersection of historical and literary sources and the dynamic between popular and elite cultures. WR, HU

* HIST 256Ja / HUMS 264a, Imagining the Body Politic: Constitutional Art and Theory from Antiquity to the Present  William Klein
Do visual representations of social and political principles have a peculiar power to produce, reproduce, and disturb social and political relations? To what extent might represented principles, with their contradictions and ambiguities, themselves somehow be pictorial, metaphorical, or figurative? This course is an examination of art and metaphorical thinking in the socio-political realm from Plato through Renaissance republicanism to the modern state. HU
* HIST 260Jb / HSHM 468b, Sex, Life, and Generation  Ivano Dal Prete
Theories and practices of life, sex, and generation in Western civilization. Politics and policies of conception and birth; social control of abortion and infanticide in premodern societies; theories of life and gender; the changing status of the embryo; the lure of artificial life. WR, HU

* HIST 260Ja, History and Holocaust Testimony  Carolyn Dean
The history and memoirs of Holocaust testimony. How victims’ experiences are narrated and assessed by historians. Questions regarding memory and history. WR, HU

* HIST 277Jb, Memory and History in Modern Europe  Jennifer Allen
An interdisciplinary study of memory as both a tool in and an agent of modern European history. Collective memory; the media of memory; the organization and punctuation of time through commemorative practices. Specific themes vary but may include memory of the French Revolution, the rise of nationalism, World Wars I and II, the Holocaust, decolonization, the revolution of 1968, the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the end of the Cold War. WR, HU

* HIST 280Jb / HSAR 390b / HSHM 407b / HUMS 220b, Collecting Nature and Art in the Preindustrial World  Paola Bertucci
A history of museums before the emergence of the modern museum. Focus on: cabinets of curiosities and Wunderkammern, anatomical theaters and apothecaries' shops, alchemical workshops and theaters of machines, collections of monsters, rarities, and exotic specimens. WR, HU

* HIST 292Ja / HIST 286J / HUMS 279a / PLSC 286a, Democracy and the French Revolution  Isaac Nakhimovsky
The French Revolution of 1789 and its legacies, as viewed through the late-eighteenth-century debates about democracy, equality, representative government, and historical change that shaped an enduring agenda for historical and political thought in Europe and around the world. WR, HU

* HIST 299Jb / HUMS 192a, Intellectuals and Power in Europe  Terence Renaud
The role of intellectuals in politics, with a focus on social, cultural, and political upheavals in Europe during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Whether intellectuals betray a higher spiritual calling when they enter politics or merely strive to put their own theories into practice. Modern answers to the question of why ideas and intellectuals matter. HU

* HIST 303Ja / EAST 303a, Hong Kong and China: A Cross-Border History  Denise Ho
This departmental seminar studies the historical development of Hong Kong and China in relation to each other, from the colonial and late imperial experience to their shared histories in national and political movements, from postwar industrialization to reform-era economic growth, culminating in the 1997 handover and its attendant political and economic integration. The readings from the first half of the semester come primarily from the literature in history, while the readings in the second half draw from anthropology, economics, political science, and sociology. Each week readings include primary sources in or translated into English. HU, SO

* HIST 305Jb / EAST 402b, Empire and Identity in Qing China  Staff
This seminar covers the history of the Qing empire, which governed China and large parts of Inner Asia from 1644 to 1912, with a thematic focus on a key question: how did the politics of identity manifest in a society organized under a governmental structure and set of intellectual assumptions very different from those we are familiar with today? The course examines the roles of identity categories like ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion, and status in the Qing empire and interrogates the role of the Qing imperial system, as a particular political system, in managing different forms of identity. In addition to its core focus on the Qing, the course includes discussions of Chosön Korea and the Republic of China, to consider both the role of Qing empire in regional politics and the legacy of empire in China’s later history. HU

* HIST 307Ja / EAST 404a, The Written Word in Japan, Prehistory to 1600  Staff
In premodern Japan, text and writing had the power to imbue swords with ritual meaning, evoke the pathos of cherry blossoms, or reveal means of salvation. People from all walks of life produced and consumed the written word in different ways, whether they hoped to shape military regimes or simply send messages to loved ones, as we might today. In what ways did textuality (or, in some cases, its absence or conscious rejection) shape Japan’s social, political, economic, and religious development? What is a “text”? How does understanding its use by diverse peoples across centuries challenge our underlying assumptions about how documents, writing, and communication function in society? Surveying these issues from prehistory to 1600, this course uses writing traditions and documentary culture as a lens through which to understand Japanese history and ways of being in Japan’s premodern world. Students use primary and secondary readings to discuss core issues in writing and textual culture, such as language, orality, transmission, translation, gender, genre, communication, and visualization. A complementary emphasis on how we, as modern readers, writers, and scholars, interpret and use written materials further provides students with new strategies for thinking about how history is recorded, consumed, and evaluated. No previous knowledge of Japanese or Japanese history is required. HU

* HIST 309Ja / EAST 309a, Uses of the Past in Modern China  Denise Ho
Modern China’s use of the past in state-sponsored narratives of nation, in attempts to construct heritage by elites and intellectuals, and in grassroots projects of remembrance. Theories on history and memory; primary sources in English translation; case studies from twentieth-century China. Interdisciplinary readings in art history, anthropology, cultural studies, and history. WR, HU
* HIST 313Ja / SAST 323a, British Raj and the Indian Nation (1757-1947)  Rohit De
Drawing on a wide genre of primary sources, this seminar explores the consolidation of British rule over the Indian subcontinent; the transformations brought about by colonial policies; the subsequent rise of resistance movements; the growth of mass nationalism and partition and independence.  WR, HU

* HIST 330Jb, Modern Mexico: From Mesoamerica to AMLO  Staff
When most Americans north of the U.S.-Mexico border think about their closest southern neighbors (which is rare enough), they generally think about tacos, tequila, or Corona. They might also think about beach resorts, narcoviolence, or the U.S. president’s racist comments about Mexican migrants. Far less often do they think about Mexico’s history, politics, or global presence. Most people in the United States—known as estadounidenses in Mexico—are woefully ignorant of these elements. This course challenges us to do better amid heightened concerns over human rights both in Mexico and at the border, ongoing debates about the so-called new NAFTA deal, and the intensification of related conflicts affecting Mexico’s 124 million citizens (about 12 million of whom reside in the U.S.). We cover over 500 years of Mexican history: from the conquest and colonization of Mesoamerica (for our purposes, “Mexico” before 1492); through the labyrinthine pathways to independence and national sovereignty during the formative yet formidable nineteenth century; to the revolutionary processes of the early twentieth century and their enduring impact on nation-state formation, popular culture, and international relations up until the historic presidential election of 2000 and the equally historic election of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) in July 2018.  WR, HU

* HIST 344Ja or b, The Middle East Before Oil  Staff
For many of us, oil defines Middle Eastern modernity. In fact it defines the Middle East—its economies, its politics, its societies. Focusing on the parts of the Middle East now associated with oil, this course looks first at states and next at economies to ask what, who, and where was modern in the Middle East before oil? How has the Middle East participated in crafting the global modern? Considering issues of capital, empire, and technology, before ending with a discussion of some of the less-studied cultural aspects of oil modernity, the course ultimately asks us to consider what is special—and not—about the Middle East, and about oil. Cultural and political material produced by individuals and states in the region—from maps to music and diaries to film—provide a variety of perspectives on the last years of empire in the region. The diverse economic, political, and technical responses Middle Eastern actors offered to European imperialism and global capital, and the ways those responses in turn shaped imperialist and capitalist, outline an unexpected Middle Eastern modernity.  WR, HU

* HIST 383Ja / AFAM 213a / HSHM 481a, Medicine and Race in the Slave Trade  Carolyn Roberts
Examination of the interconnected histories of medicine and race in the slave trade. Topics include the medical geography of the slave trade from slave prisons in West Africa to slave ships; slave trade drugs and forced drug consumption; mental and physical illnesses and their treatments; gender and the body; British and West African medicine and medical knowledge in the slave trade; eighteenth-century theories of racial difference and disease; medical violence and medical ethics.  HU

* HIST 347Ja / MMES 442a, From the Great Game to the Great Satan: Iran, Afghanistan, and Central Asia in the Age of Empires  Abbas Amanat
Encounters of Iran and its neighbors with Britain, Russia, and the United States since the nineteenth century. Special attention to Western imperial interests in the region and to indigenous forms of resistance to imperial hegemony. Topics include travel, diplomacy, war and hegemony, postcolonial sovereignty, the Cold War and regional power, and the Islamic Republic’s demonizing of America.  WR, HU

* HIST 372Ja / ER&M 342a / LAST 372a, Revolutionary Change and Cold War in Latin America  Gilbert Joseph
Analysis of revolutionary movements in Latin America against the backdrop of the Cold War. Critical examination of popular images and orthodox interpretations. An interdisciplinary study of the process of revolutionary change and cold war at the grassroots level.  WR, HU

* HIST 382Ja, Vietnamese History from Earliest Times to 1920  Benedict Kiernan
Evolution of a Vietnamese national identity, from Chinese colonization to medieval statehood, to French conquest and capitalist development. The roles of Confucianism, Buddhism, gender, and ethnicity in the Southeast Asian context.  WR, HU

* HIST 388Ja, Slavery and the Slave Trade in Africa  Robert Harms
The slave trade from the African perspective. Analysis of why slavery developed in Africa and how it operated. The long-term social, political, and economic effects of the Atlantic slave trade.  WR, HU

* HIST 403Jb / HSHM 473b, Vaccination in Historical Perspective  Jason Schwartz
For over two centuries, vaccination has been a prominent, effective, and at times controversial component of public health activities in the United States and around the world. Despite the novelty of many aspects of contemporary vaccines and vaccination programs, they reflect a rich and often contested history that combines questions of science, medicine, public health, global health, economics, law, and ethics, among other topics. This course examines the history of vaccines and vaccination programs, with a particular focus on the 20th and 21st centuries and on the historical roots of contemporary issues in U.S. and global vaccination policy. Students gain a thorough, historically grounded understanding of the scope and design of vaccination efforts, past and present, and the interconnected social, cultural, and political issues that vaccination has raised throughout its history and continues to raise today.  HU

* HIST 405Jb / ENGL 264b, The Real Thing: Forgery and the Authentic, 1500-1800  Kathryn James
This course leads from the premise that our primary relationship with the textual object, and perhaps most particularly to the forged textual object, is epistemological: we want to believe—but in what? We begin with a condensed “boot camp” for approaching objects, introducing some of the specialized and technical knowledge that can help us make sense of what is in front of us. We consider what
methods and questions can yield the most complex and intriguing answers, and grapple with our own impulses to make meaning, particularly when it comes to objects that do not quite conform to our expectations (or perhaps conform to our expectations a little too closely, as forged materials often do).  WR, HU

* HIST 419Jb / HSHM 439b / WGSS 419b, Gender and Science  Deborah Coen

Exploration of the dual potential of the sciences to reinforce received ideas about gender or to challenge existing sexual and racial hierarchies; the rise of the ideas and institutions of the modern sciences as they have reflected and shaped new notions of femininity and masculinity.

* HIST 420Ja / HUMS 237a / PLSC 334a, Liberalism  Mordechai Levy-Eichel

What is liberalism? And why do arguments about it stand at the epicenter of our political life? Is it a political idea (and what are ideas in politics, anyways?), or is it a philosophy that tries to carve out a space apart from high politics—and is that even possible? Is it about rights, or about equality? Is it about freedom and liberty, or laws and regulations? (And why are these dichotomies anyways?) Is it ancient? Is it modern? Can we even define what liberalism means, or does the attempt to do so in some way even miss the point? This class is a historical, philosophical, and political examination of one of the most important and contested ideas in the modern world. We read both critics and advocates of liberalism. We also examine it historically, sociologically, and comparatively, in order to gain a better sense of what it means in practice, and how that differs from the theories of both some of it's most strong supporters and defenders, and critics. Special attention is paid to the development of the ethos and examples of liberalism. This course is also be a meditation on how to study politics and political theory. What does liberalism mean, and how should we examine it? Where did it come from, and how has it changed over time?  SO

* HIST 426Ja / GLBL 398a, Yale and the World: Global Power, Local History  David Engerman

This course uses moments in the history of Yale University to shed light on the forms, functions, and trajectory of U.S. global power from the late 19th century through the early 21st century. Key episodes include missionary work in East Asia, scientific expeditions in South America, mobilization for war and Cold War, and the internationalization of the student body. Students investigate these episodes by reading scholarly work as well as archival sources, and through discussions with Yale faculty and staff.  HU

* HIST 445Ja / HSHM 454a, Natural History in History  Paola Bertucci

The changing meaning and practice of natural history, from antiquity to the present. Topics include: technologies and epistemologies of representation, the commodification of natural specimens and bioprospecting, politics of collecting and display, colonial science and indigenous knowledge, and the emergence of ethnography and anthropology. Students work on primary sources in Yale collections.  HU

* HIST 455Jb / HUMS 287b / WGSS 347b, The Theory and Practice of Resistance  Terence Renaud

Exploration of the histories and theories of resistance in the modern world. How liberation movements, guerrillas, and oppressed groups appeal to resistance as an organizational strategy and as moral justification. Readings include Kant, Thoreau, Nietzsche, Luxemburg, Lenin, Gandhi, Fanon, Arendt, Marcuse, Foucault, A. Lorde, Said, and J. Butler. Themes include antifascism to terrorism; violence to nonviolence, the New Left to Black Lives Matter.  HU

* HIST 467Ja / HSHM 422a, Cartography, Territory, and Identity  William Rankin

 Exploration of how maps shape assumptions about territory, land, sovereignty, and identity. The relationship between scientific cartography and conquest, the geography of statecraft, religious cartographies, encounters between Western and non-Western cultures, and reactions to cartographic objectivity. Students make their own maps. No previous experience in cartography or graphic design required.  WR, HU

* HIST 482Jb / GLBL 342b / PLSC 321b, Studies in Grand Strategy I  Beverly Gage

The study of grand strategy, of how individuals and groups can accomplish large ends with limited means. The spring term focuses on key moments in history that illustrate strategic thinking in action. During the summer, students undertake research projects or internships analyzing strategic problems or aspects of strategy. The following fall, students put their ideas into action by applying concepts of grand strategy to present day issues. Admission is by application only; the cycle for the current year is closed. This course does not fulfill the history seminar requirement, but may count toward geographical distributional credit within the History major for any region studied, upon application to the director of undergraduate studies. Previous study courses in political science, history, global affairs, or subjects with broad interdisciplinary relevance encouraged.  HU, SO

* HIST 483Ja / GLBL 344a / PLSC 161a, Studies in Grand Strategy II  Beverly Gage

The study of grand strategy, of how individuals and groups can accomplish large ends with limited means. During the fall term, students put into action the ideas studied in the spring term by applying concepts of grand strategy to present day issues. Admission is by application only; the cycle for the current year is closed. This course does not fulfill the history seminar requirement, but may count toward geographical distributional credit within the History major for any region studied, upon application to the director of undergraduate studies. Prerequisite: PLSC 321. Previous study courses in political science, history, global affairs, or subjects with broad interdisciplinary relevance encouraged.  SO

* HIST 491Jb / EVST 368b / HSHM 479b / RLST 368b, The History of the Earth from Noah to Darwin  Ivano Dal Prete

Young earth creationism and flood geology have long been among the most divisive features of American culture and politics. Yet a basic postulate is shared across the spectrum: for better or worse, the old age of the Earth is regarded as the recent product of a secular science, consistently rejected by traditional Christianity. This seminar challenges this long-established narrative, by uncovering the surprising boldness, complexity, and societal diffusion of pre-modern debates on the history of the Earth, and of humankind itself. Students have opportunity to explore the nature, assumptions, and methods of Earth sciences before the advent of modern geology, to question
ingrained assumptions about their relation to religion and society, and to place outstanding issues into historical perspective. How have the great monotheistic religions dealt with the possibility of an ancient Earth? Was a young creation always important in traditional Christianity? If not, what led to the emergence of young Earth creationism as a force to be reckoned with? What are the intellectual roots of American preadamism, which claims that the black and white races were created at different times and do not descend from the same ancestor? These and other questions are addressed not only through scholarly literature in the field, but also with the analysis of literary, visual, and material sources available on campus. WR, HY

Writing Tutorial and Senior Essay Courses

* HIST 494a or b, Individual Writing Tutorial  Staff

For students who wish, under the supervision of a member of the faculty, to investigate an area of history not covered by regular departmental offerings. The course may be used for research or for directed reading. It is normally taken only once. The emphasis of the tutorial is on writing a long essay or several short ones. To apply for admission, a student should present the following materials to the director of undergraduate studies on the Friday before schedules are due: a prospectus of the work proposed, a bibliography, and a letter of support from a member of the History department faculty who will direct the tutorial. A form to simplify this process is available from the office of the director of undergraduate studies.

* HIST 495a or b and HIST 496a or b, The Senior Essay  Staff

All senior History majors should attend the mandatory senior essay meeting in early September at a time and location to be announced in the online Senior Essay Handbook. The senior essay is a required one- or two-term independent research project conducted under the guidance of a faculty adviser. As a significant work of primary-source research, it serves as the capstone project of the History major. Students writing the one-term senior essay enroll in HIST 495 (see description), not HIST 495 and 496. The two-term essay takes the form of a substantial article, not longer than 12,500 words (approximately forty to fifty double-spaced typewritten pages). This is a maximum limit; there is no minimum requirement. Length will vary according to the topic and the historical techniques employed. Students writing the two-term senior essay who expect to graduate in May enroll in HIST 495 during the fall term and complete their essays in HIST 496 in the spring term. December graduates enroll in HIST 495 in the spring term and complete their essays in HIST 496 during the following fall term; students planning to begin their essay in the spring term should notify the senior essay director by early December. Each student majoring in History must present a completed Statement of Intention, signed by a department member who has agreed to serve as adviser, to the History Department Undergraduate Registrar by the dates indicated in the Senior Essay Handbook. Blank statement forms are available from the History Undergraduate Registrar and in the Senior Essay handbook. Students enrolled in HIST 495 submit to the administrator in 237 HGS a two-to-three-page analysis of a single primary source, a draft bibliographic essay, and at least ten pages of the essay by the deadlines listed in the Senior Essay Handbook. Those who meet these requirements receive a temporary grade of SAT for the fall term, which will be changed to the grade received by the essay upon its completion. Failure to meet any requirement may result in the student’s being asked to withdraw from HIST 495. Students enrolled in HIST 496 must submit a completed essay to 211 HGS no later than 5 p.m. on the dates indicated in the Senior Essay Handbook. Essays submitted after 5 p.m. will be considered as having been turned in on the following day. If the essay is submitted late without an excuse from the student’s residential college dean, the penalty is one letter grade for the first day and one-half letter grade for each of the next two days past the deadline. No essay that would otherwise pass will be failed because it is late, but late essays will not be considered for departmental or Yale College prizes. All senior departmental essays will be judged by members of the faculty other than the adviser. In order to graduate from Yale College, a student majoring in History must achieve a passing grade on the departmental essay.

* HIST 496a or b, The Senior Essay  Staff

All senior History majors should attend the mandatory senior essay meeting in early September at a time and location to be announced in the online Senior Essay Handbook. The senior essay is a required one- or two-term independent research project conducted under the guidance of a faculty adviser. As a significant work of primary-source research, it serves as the capstone project of the History major. Students writing the one-term senior essay enroll in HIST 497 (see description), not HIST 495 and 496. The two-term essay takes the form of a substantial article, not longer than 12,500 words (approximately forty to fifty double-spaced typewritten pages). This is a maximum limit; there is no minimum requirement. Length will vary according to the topic and the historical techniques employed. Students writing the two-term senior essay who expect to graduate in May enroll in HIST 495 during the fall term and complete their essays in HIST 496 in the spring term. December graduates enroll in HIST 495 in the spring term and complete their essays in HIST 496 during the following fall term; students planning to begin their essay in the spring term should notify the senior essay director by early December. Each student majoring in History must present a completed Statement of Intention, signed by a department member who has agreed to serve as adviser, to the History Department Undergraduate Registrar by the dates indicated in the Senior Essay Handbook. Blank statement forms are available from the History Undergraduate Registrar and in the Senior Essay handbook. Students enrolled in HIST 495 submit to the administrator in 237 HGS a two-to-three-page analysis of a single primary source, a draft bibliographic essay, and at least ten pages of the essay by the deadlines listed in the Senior Essay Handbook. Those who meet these requirements receive a temporary grade of SAT for the fall term, which will be changed to the grade received by the essay upon its completion. Failure to meet any requirement may result in the student’s being asked to withdraw from HIST 495. Students enrolled in HIST 496 must submit a completed essay to 211 HGS no later than 5 p.m. on the dates indicated in the Senior Essay Handbook. Essays submitted after 5 p.m. will be considered as having been turned in on the following day. If the essay is submitted late without an excuse from the student’s residential college dean, the penalty is one letter grade for the first day and one-half letter grade for each of the next two days past the deadline. No essay that would otherwise pass will be failed because it is late, but late essays will not be considered for departmental or Yale College prizes. All senior departmental essays will be judged by members of the faculty other than the adviser. In order to graduate from Yale College, a student majoring in History must achieve a passing grade on the departmental essay.
Yale College prizes. All senior departmental essays will be judged by members of the faculty other than the adviser. In order to graduate from Yale College, a student majoring in History must achieve a passing grade on the departmental essay.

* HIST 497a or b, One-Term Senior Essay  Staff

All senior History majors should attend the mandatory senior essay meeting in early September at a time and location to be announced in the online Senior Essay Handbook. The senior essay is a required one- or two-term independent research project conducted under the guidance of a faculty adviser. As a significant work of primary-source research, it serves as the capstone project of the History major. Seniors writing a two-term senior essay do not register for HIST 497; instead, they register for HIST 495 and HIST 496 (see description). History majors may choose to write a one-term independent senior essay in the first term of their senior year and register for HIST 497; however, students who choose the one-term senior essay option are not eligible for Distinction in the Major. The one-term essay must include a substantial research paper of no more than 6,250 words (approximately twenty-five pages) based on primary sources, along with a bibliographic essay and bibliography. Seniors enroll during the fall term of senior year; only History majors graduating in December may enroll during the spring term (or seventh term of enrollment). In rare circumstances, with the permission of the adviser and the Senior Essay Director, a student enrolled in HIST 497 during the fall term may withdraw from the course according to Yale College regulations on course withdrawal and enroll in the spring term. Each student enrolled in HIST 497 must present a completed Statement of Intention, signed by a department member who has agreed to serve as adviser, to the History Department Undergraduate Registrar by the dates indicated in the Senior Essay Handbook. Blank statement forms are available from the History Undergraduate Registrar and in the Senior Essay Handbook, available on the History department Web site. Additional details about the senior essay, including the submission deadlines are included in the Senior Essay Handbook. Essays submitted after 5 p.m. on the due date will be considered as having been turned in on the following day. If the essay is submitted late without an excuse from the student’s residential college dean, the penalty is one letter grade for the first day and one-half letter grade for each of the next two days past the deadline. No essay that would otherwise pass will be failed because it is late. All senior departmental essays will be judged by members of the faculty other than the adviser. In order to graduate from Yale College, a student majoring in History must achieve a passing grade on the departmental essay. Permission of the departmental Senior Essay Director and of the student's faculty adviser is required for enrollment.