

Spring 2012

Graduate Course Descriptions

510	M. Black	Foundations of Graduate Study in History	T 3:40-6:20
MDST 510	W. Black	Medieval Medicine: Healing Between God and Nature	R 12:40-3:25
511	C. Black	Teaching World History	M 3:35-6:35
531	Bast	The Pursuit of Holiness in Late-Medieval and Early Modern Europe	M 12:20-3:20
532	Liulevicius	European Diplomatic History, 1815-2000	W 2:30-5:30
542	Feller	Readings in Jacksonian and Antebellum America	T 12:40-3:25
543	Hulsether	Religion, Culture & Society	R 3:40-6:20
562	Wu	Transnational Currents in 20 th Century Chinese History	F 12:20-3:20
630	Burman/Lafferty	Paleography and the History of the Book II	WF 8:00-9:55
631	Bast	The Pursuit of Holiness in Late-Medieval and Early Modern Europe	M 12:20-3:20
641	Magra	Early America and the Atlantic World	W 5:45-8:35

All classes meet in 2604 Dunford Hall except where noted.

History 510: Foundations of Graduate Study in History

Dr. M. Black

The purpose of this course is three-fold: 1) to introduce beginning graduate students to the diverse strategies, approaches, and theoretical and conceptual tools professional historians use to study the past; 2) to provide a brief history of the discipline (including the process by which it was institutionalized and the history of key methods, innovations, and practices; 3) to introduce students to crucial, current methodological debates, themes, and matters of intellectual concern within the discipline. In this pursuit, we will read works by scholars whose insights have made a significant impact on historical thought and practice, including not merely historians, but also philosophers, sociologists, literary scholars, and anthropologists. In order to ground the often more abstract works we read, we will also read some empirical studies that demonstrate the application of theory to historical practice.

Medieval Studies 510: Medieval Medicine: Healing Between God and Nature

Dr. W. Black

A seminar for seniors and graduate students about the social, intellectual, religious, and economic contexts of healing and medicine in Europe, Byzantium, and Islam from Late Antiquity to the Renaissance. Reading of primary and secondary courses, with discussions, presentations, and essays, will highlight issues like the relation of sin and disease, the construction of gender and sexuality, the rise of universities and a medical marketplace, hospitals, bedside manners, plague, leprosy, syphilis, anatomy, and pharmacology. *Taught with Medieval Studies 403 in Temple Court 203.*

History 511: Teaching World History

Dr. C. Black

The teaching of the World History Survey asks us to imagine history at a scale that is rare in current historical training. The demands of scale combine with the restraints of time to make conceiving, designing, and implementing the World History Survey a difficult task. In this course we will consider these demands and restraints, critically engage the notion of a World History, and consider the practical issues of constructing and implementing a college-level history survey. We will consider the Survey through a series of metaphors. Above all, this class will work through practical pedagogical issues applicable to any course design and implementation.

History 531/631: The Pursuit of Holiness in Late-Medieval and Early Modern Europe

Dr. Bast

This combined readings and research seminar will explore a variety of religious practices, movements and personalities, each representative of the attempt to embody exceptional and/or uniquely authentic spirituality in specific historical contexts. Topics will include the rise and proliferation of the cult of the saints; asceticism, the body and gender; humanism and holiness; civic piety and eschatology; end-times prophets and Christian communists; the continuities and discontinuities of Protestantism in multiple forms. Weekly sessions will consist of discussion of common readings of primary sources and secondary scholarship. Students registering for 531 will write a series of analytical book reviews, while those under 631 will produce a substantive research paper of c. 20 pages.

History 532: European Diplomatic History, 1815-2000

Dr. Liulevicius

This graduate readings seminar explores aspects of the rich historiography in European diplomatic history of the modern period. Our readings and reports examine first the period of Europe's so-called "classical balance of power" (1815-1914) in the wake of the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars. We study the pivotal importance of the order established by the Great Powers at the Congress of Vienna in 1815 and the strains visited on this "Concert of Europe" system by the Crimean War and Italian and German unification later in the century. We also devote special attention to the violent expansion of the European state system through the imperialist "Scramble for Colonies" in Asia and Africa of the late nineteenth century. Our study then turns to focus on the breakdown of that state system in the two world wars, and the collapse of attempts at collective security as a new international framework between the wars. Finally, we survey epochal shifts and the decline of Europe's status in the Cold War and global decolonization. Our study closes with an examination of today's evolving project of the European Union. Participants produce a series of reviews of monographs and a major historiographic review paper for the semester. The ultimate goal of this seminar is an understanding of this long-standing tradition in historiography.

History 542: Readings in Jacksonian and Antebellum America

Dr. Feller

This readings seminar provides an introduction to the best of modern scholarship on American history from 1815 to 1860. Its primary objective is to prepare MA and PhD students for their degree exams by acquainting them with the major historiographic themes of this era. Topics include Jacksonian politics, the rise of the two-party system, and the advent of popular democracy; economic development, class formation, and gender relations in the era of the so-called market revolution; religion and reform; and slavery, antislavery, and the coming of the Civil War. Readings will include both broad synthetic statements and topical monographs. Students will write several papers of modest length, based upon the required reading.

History 543: Religion, Culture & Society

Dr. Hulsether

Far from being sidelined by secularization (in one or another sense of this slippery word), religious ideas and practices continue to be a major factor in US culture and society, such that religion arguably deserves a place alongside the intersecting categories of race, class, sex/gender as a factor in our historical narratives. This seminar starts from the threefold premise of religion's salience, the extreme diversity of US religious practice, and the importance of thinking about religions not solely in relation to cultural differences but also the exercise of power. We will presuppose a broad definition of religion (paying attention not only to doctrines and institutions, but also various facets of religion in society, politics, and everyday life—as well as need to be reflexive in our working definitions) and read a linked set of representative case studies to explore these themes. Although discussion will be shaped in large part by student research interests and thus will often dramatize religious difference, one guiding question for our reflection will be the degree to which notwithstanding a pronounced religious diversity that defeats any monolithic meta-narrative—it is possible to venture any useful periodization of religious patterns or trends related to changes in the political economy over the past century.

History 562: Transnational Currents in Twentieth Century Chinese History

Dr. Wu

This course examines topics in modern Chinese history from a global perspective. We will try to identify common themes and movements around the world. We will examine the following major questions: 1) What are the institutional and social changes which made possible the mass warfare of both World War I and World II; 2) What social changes accompanied the entry to modernity? Do these social changes occur across borders and how are they affected by cultural / historical differences? 3) What is the appeal and the driving force of the mass ideologies of the interwar period? The course is open to students with diverse specializations. The goal is to encourage students to consider some common themes of 20th century history and how they carried across national boundaries. At the end of the course, students will be expected to turn in a 15-20 page paper covering the historiography for a particular topic of interest and are strongly encouraged to think transnationally.

History 630: Paleography and the History of the Book II

Dr. Burman and Dr. Lafferty

This combined history and classics course is a continuation of the course we taught last semester on this topic. Students will complete during this term their research papers based on manuscript research, will both continue improving their paleographical skills by transcribing more difficult and more highly abbreviated texts, and read widely in the secondary literature on the history of reading and the book. *Pre-requisite: Completion of the fall semester course. Taught with Classics 473/573 in Temple Court 205.*

History 641: Research Seminar: Early America and the Atlantic World

Dr. Magra

There are two goals for this course. It will enable you to take a cutting edge approach to colonial American history, which will benefit you on the job market. An Atlantic approach involves a transnational, ocean-centered examination of the ways in which the movement of peoples, goods, and ideas connected life in early America to a wider world. This course will further assist you in writing a research paper that incorporates primary sources and has the potential to be published in a history journal. We will identify available primary sources, discuss problems associated with different kinds of primary sources, develop a research strategy, and hone analytical skills. At the beginning of the semester, we will read different articles/book chapters that rely on various kinds of primary sources and that deal with a variety of research issues. You will read these works not so much for the substance of the articles or chapters, but to study the approach, research design, and analysis of sources. Then, you will do research.