HISTORY GRADUATE COURSES

HIS 710
Philosophy and Methods of History
T 6:30-9:45
Dr. Courtney Luckhardt

This seminar is designed to introduce graduate students to the philosophical and practical foundations of historical method. Our coverage is not comprehensive, but we will familiarize ourselves with some of the innovative and diverse approaches that have shaped historical work over the past several decades. As we read these works, we will consider how and why historians investigate, interpret, and write about the past as well as contest one another’s findings. Together we will expose some of the underlying, unspoken assumptions and preoccupations that we bring with us to and which persist in the discipline. Students are required to complete several written and oral assignments to hone their critical thinking, writing, and presentation skills.

HIS 711/712
Seminars in American and European History
M 3:00-6:15
Dr. Susannah Ural

This course focuses on the craft of historical research and writing at the graduate level. All 711 students have at least one year of MA studies behind them, so I assume you already understand the basics of good grammar, clear writing, proper citations, and the importance of making a clear argument that weaves throughout a written work. There is a difference, though, between knowing what it needed and creating that yourself. It’s a skill we all develop over time, and this course is designed to help you with that process.

Students will spend the majority of class time presenting and respectfully critiquing each other’s small assignments, which you will revise according to feedback received in class & then resubmit to me two days later. I’ll return these to you graded during our next class period. All assignments are designed as parts of your thesis or your dissertation prospectus. By focusing on manageable pieces of your work, we will have your thesis abstract, title page, bibliography, and one chapter done by the end of October and a second chapter done by the end of November. If you’re ABD, you’ll use this semester to write your dissertation prospectus. Students will also create a full and short version of their professional CV (the short one perfect for conference proposals) and deliver their work in a professional format. This schedule allows students to have half or more of their thesis completed when this class ends, or their entire dissertation prospectus.
Historiographic study, or the study of the study of history, is an incredibly important part of being a historian. Historians do not begin a single project without first learning what came before—what other historians have said on the topic, how they said it, and what the state of the field is at the moment. As beginning professional historians, students will be expected to talk about the historical debates surrounding their topics and how their work intersects with those debates. Students will be expected in their classes, and especially during their comprehensive exams, not only to know what happened in the past and why, but who argued what and the methods they used to come up with those arguments. This course will start you down the historiographical road. We will examine some of the main debates in early American history as a way to “jump start” each student’s historiographical knowledge. Once students have successfully completed this course, they will know some of the important highlights of the field—but also come to the realization that they have just started what will likely be a lifelong task.

Students in the class will read deeply and widely on each debate and will come to class prepared to debate the topic at hand. NOTE: Students should come to the first class before purchasing any books for the various weeks, as we will choose individual books for the course during the first class meeting. Students may purchase:

**Required Text:**

**Assignments:**
Students will write numerous book reviews, write a short historiographical paper, lead a few and participate in all class discussions, and write a comprehensive exam-type answer for their final exam.

**Some of the topics we will explore:**
- Indians, Contact, and Ethnohistory
- The Puritans of Colonial New England
- The Colonial South and Slavery
- Colonial Witchcraft
- Coming of the Revolution
- Women in the Early Republic
- The Market Revolution
- Antebellum Slavery
- The Civil War: Who Fought and Why?
HIS 736
Special Topics in War & Society
Empires § Imperialism in Asia
R 6:30 – 9:45
Dr. Kenneth Swope

This course will provide an introduction to the history and historiography of empires and imperialism in Asia from ca. 1400-1900, covering both indigenous Asian empires and the experience of European & Japanese colonialism. Students will read major works by prominent historians and consider how these works reflect the ongoing evolution of the field and changing interpretations of sources. Students will read monographs and scholarly articles on a weekly basis for group discussion. Course assignments include leading discussion, writing academic books reviews, completing two papers based on class readings and completing a longer essay on a topic of the student’s choice related to the source material. The course fulfills the program’s “War & Society” and “Empires and Imperialism” subfield requirements, and could also be of use for students preparing fields in Asian history or Modern European diplomatic or military history.

HIS 796
Practicum in the Teaching of History in Colleges and Universities
R 3:00 – 6:15
Dr. Kyle F. Zelner

Required for all first-time teaching and graduate assistants and optional for others, this class is designed to encourage graduate students to think about the major issues of teaching at the college level, both as teaching assistants and as independent instructors. Different faculty members will visit to lead discussions on a different topic each class period. The course covers basic issues of teaching and learning strategies, classroom philosophy and management, technology in the classroom, testing and other assignments, issues of diversity, effective classroom presentation, and how to construct one’s own course.

Required Text:

Assignments:
Students will engage in weekly discussions, write several short reaction papers, and design and execute a sample lecture for an introductory History class.