HISTORY

Course Offerings
Fall 2015

First troops landing in Vietnam - 1965

Department of History
Bentley University
Waltham, MA  02452
http://www.bentley.edu/history/
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HISTORY MAJOR

The history major consists of 8 courses beyond those required for the General Education Core. These include:

- four 3-credit courses in your major field of concentration (American, European, Asian or Latin American history, or a thematic concentration)
- at least one 3-credit course outside your major field of concentration
- at least one 3-credit course in non-Western history
- the 400-level Seminar in History course

Contact: Marc Stern – History Dept.
Adamian Academic Center – Office AAC 127
mstern@bentley.edu
781-891-2814

HISTORY MINOR

A minor in history allows students who are not history majors to pursue a special interest. A minor in history can be a significant addition to any major program.

The minor consists of four courses beyond those you’ll take in the General Education Core. At least three of these courses must be organized around a regional or thematic concentration; for example, U. S., European, Latin American/Caribbean, or Asian history; war and society, or economic history.

Contact: Bridie Andrews – History Dept.
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Fall 2015 History Course Offerings and the LSM

American Studies

HI 342  Revolutionary Generation (US)
HI 348  History of American Technology
HI 353  The American Economy in the 20th Century
HI 370  History of American Sports
HI 382  World War I
HI 391  Economic-Finance Roots of American Century (1900-Present) (Section FN1)
HI 391  Immigration in American History (Section 001)

Ethics and Social Responsibility

HI 308  Drugs Trades in World History

Diversity and Society

HI 200  The Making of Our Contemporary World
HI 261  Latin America (1800 – Present)
HI 266  Middle East: Islamic & Contemporary

Global Perspectives

HI 200  The Making of Our Contemporary World
HI 261  Latin America (1800 – Present)
HI 266  Middle East: Islamic & Contemporary
HI 304  History of Espionage
HI 308  Drugs Trades in World History
HI 331  Modern British History
HI 382  World War I
HI 392  Renaissance & Reformation
HI 393  History of North Korea
HI 395  History of Genocide

Quantitative Perspectives

HI 353  The American Economy in the 20th Century

Media Arts and Society

HI 305  Arts and Society
THE MAKING OF OUR CONTEMPORARY WORLD
HI 200

Coca Cola – International

Apollo 17 – Walk on the Moon

Landing on the shores of Normandy

Construction of the Berlin Wall

The Fall of the Berlin Wall

This course is designed to provide a broad conceptual grasp of the modern world by examining the major developments and events of the past century. Two world wars, a cold war, decolonization and ethnic conflicts have made the 20th century one of the most tumultuous in world history. The growth of the global economy has produced fundamental changes in lifestyles and in the types of issues that confront us. Rapid urbanization, the changing roles of women, the communications revolution and the spread of consumer societies have created conditions unknown to earlier generations. But not all cultures have created conditions unknown to earlier generations. Not all have benefited equally, and this has created tensions between the “haves” and the “have nots.” The world’s different societies share the globe uneasily, but know they must coexist. The challenge is to make that happen.

Instructor: The History Faculty
To Be Offered: See the Full Fall 2015 Schedule for Specific Time
The region now called “Latin America” encompasses numerous nations and a great diversity of languages, ethnic groups, geographical terrains, and religious and political beliefs. This course examines the history of this dynamic region from the end of Spanish and Portuguese rule in the 19th century to the early 21st century. Topics of particular focus will include authoritarianism and democratization, race and racism, US-Latin American relations, the region’s enormous economic inequalities, and the famous 20th-century “revolutions” in Mexico, Cuba, and Venezuela. This course has particular relevance for students interested in international economic history, globalization, and/or US foreign policy, as well as the history of the Latin American region itself.

Instructor: Graham Nessler
To Be Offered: Section 001 Block 13 T/R 3:30 P.M. – 4:50 P.M.
MIDDLE EAST: ISLAMIC
AND CONTEMPORARY
HI 266

Studies geography and peoples of the Middle East today. Examines Muhammad’s teachings, Arab conquests, formation of Islamic civilization, dominations of the Turks and Mongols, Latin Crusades, Ottoman Empire and Safavid Iran. World War I and European mandates, emergence of modern Turkey and Egypt, Israel’s birth and struggle for existence, plight of the Palestinian refugees, Arab conservatism vs. socialism, and other issues are explored.

Instructor: Mark Rosenberg

To Be Offered: Section 001 Block 15 T/R 5:00 P.M. – 6:20 P.M.
Kim Philby, perhaps the most infamous spy of the 20th century, defined espionage as the collection of “secret information from foreign countries by illegal means.” In this course we shall study spying outside Philby’s nation-state model, but it goes a long way toward defining espionage; it is something done in secret, it involves important information, and that goes a long way toward defining espionage; it is something done in secret, it involves important information, and that information often is collected by illegal and unethical means. This course surveys the world of espionage from ancient times to the present day. We shall study the spies, spymasters and organizations that have attempted to gain secret information and obstruct the efforts of their opponents. In the final analysis, we shall be looking to understand the role espionage has played in shaping international relations, military operations and, more recently, the corporate world.

Instructor: David Curley

To be offered: Section E01  Block 18  T  6:30 P.M. – 9:10 P.M.
Arts and Society examines the interaction of art, politics, economics, and culture during the last six centuries, starting with the Renaissance. Particular attention will be paid to three different countries in three very different centuries. Holland in the 17th century, the Age of Rembrandt and the Dutch East India Company; France in the 19th century, the Age of Impressionism and the Industrial Revolution; America in the second half of the 20th century, the Age of Abstract Expressionism and American Empire. This course will provide an introduction to the history of art and the art of History for the beginner. 

(Course requires students to meet at Boston museums at least 3 times which count as a class).

Instructor: John Hermanson

To Be Offered: Section 001 Block 12 M/W 3:30 P.M. – 4:50 P.M.
DRUGS TRADES IN WORLD HISTORY
HI 308

Drugs trades – licit and illicit – are often controversial. By examining the histories of trade in drugs – both small, easily transported and large bulk commodities – this course aims to explore the long history of the global economy and its relevance to contemporary problems of ‘globalization’.

Instructor: Bridie Andrews

To Be Offered: Section 001 Block 3 R 8:00 A.M. – 10:50 A.M.
This survey of modern British History begins with the origins of British nationalism in the 18th century and concludes with an analysis of the problems of contemporary Britain. Themes will include the interplay between society and institutions, persistence and change, as well as an examination of internal and external factors which contributed to Britain’s 19th century ascendancy and 20th century decline.

Instructor: David Curley

To Be Offered: Section 001 Block 12 M/W 3:30 P.M. – 4:50 P.M.
Few events have exercised a more profound influence on the way Americans understand themselves than their war for independence. But what is the historical significance of the events that we call “The American Revolution”? What, if anything, was revolutionary about them? This course represents an intensive survey of the war for independence, the founding of the republic, and the social and political developments that followed over the next four decades.

Instructor: Christopher Beneke

To Be Offered: Section 001 Block 4 M/R 9:30 A.M. – 10:50 A.M.
Surveys the history of American technology from the colonial period to the present taking a thematic and chronological approach, which emphasizes social, economic, political and cultural impacts of technological change on American society. Themes this semester include Technology and the Workplace, Invention and Innovation, learning by looking – analysis of technology as material culture, and Communication.

Instructor:  Gail Mohanty

To Be Offered:  Section 001     Block 9     T/F  12:30 P.M. – 1:50 P.M.
This course examines the history of economic development in the United States since the 1890s. It considers the emergence of mass production and consumption, changes in the organization of business, changes in the role of government, the impact of depression and war on the economy, globalization and the impact of international economic activity, and gender and race as they relate to the economy. Other topics may include (but are not limited to) agriculture, labor, the environment, health, education, and technology in the economy.

Instructor: Marc Stern

To Be Offered: Section 001 Block 6 M/R 9:55–11:00 – 12:20 P.M.
Section 002 Block 8 M/R 12:30 P.M. – 1:50 P.M.
Sports occupy a central place in American life. But that was not always the case. Through the careful reading of old and new books, articles, and visual texts, this course will trace sports-related changes in the U.S. from the mid-nineteenth-century onward, addressing a series of socially and culturally revealing questions about how the U.S. developed its obsession with sports, and what it all means.

Instructor: Chris Beneke

To be offered: Section H01    Block 8    M/R 12:30 P.M. – 1:50 P.M.
Sometimes overshadowed by subsequent events, World War I remains one of the most important milestones of the 20th century. Some have argued that without it, neither the Nazi regime, nor the Soviet regime, nor World War II itself would have been possible. In our course, we will examine key battles and developments during the war, but equally important, we will seek to understand why the war occurred in the first place, as well as analyze its cataclysmic consequences for Europe and for the world.

Instructor: Leonid Trofimov

To Be Offered:
- Section 001 Block 10 W 11:00 A. M. – 1:50 P.M.
- Section E01 E3 W 6:30 P.M. – 9:10 P.M.
ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ROOTS OF THE AMERICAN CENTURY (1900-PRESENT)
HI 391

German schoolchildren release balloons to celebrate Marshall Program-1950

In the course of the 20th century the United States emerged as the most powerful country in the world, militarily, politically, financially, and economically, among other measures. This course will look at the economic and financial underpinnings of U.S. global power, starting before World War I and continuing through the 21st century. Topics will include the classic gold standard, war debts, trade policy, Great Depression, economic effects of World War II, the Bretton Woods agreement, revival of Japan, economic aspects of the Cold War, U.S. promotion of European Union, end of Bretton Woods and the Cold War, and economic and financial aspects of American power today.

Note: This course will be clustered with FI 402A Capital Markets: 1918-2012. Students must register for both.

Instructors: Cyrus Veeser (History) and Donna Fletcher (Finance)

To Be Offered: Section FN1 Block 5 T/F 9:30 A.M. – 10:50 A.M.
This course provides an overview of the history of immigration to the United States. Because America is a nation of immigrants, immigration and immigrants have constantly challenged and transformed the nation. We will be examining the shifting causes and patterns of immigration, similarities and differences among the experiences of immigrant groups in the United States, the growth of nativism, the development of legal restrictions, and the effects of immigration on the economic, social, cultural, and political life of the nation over time. Finally, because immigrants are also individuals, we will be reading several biographical accounts.

Instructor: Jennifer Alpert
To Be Offered: Section 001 Block 10 W 11:00 A.M. – 1:50 P.M.
The changes that occurred in Europe from the late fourteenth through the seventeenth century mark the end of the Middle Ages and the birth of the modern world. The Renaissance – the ‘rebirth’ – that began in Italy and then spread across the continent, was more than a period of prolific artistic production. It was a fundamental change in the mentality of Europeans that affected politics, religion, art, philosophy and science. The rebirth of classical humanism not only produced great art; it created the modern mindset that led to the scientific revolution, new political ideas like democracy, and the abrupt shattering of the unity of western Christendom. The Protestant Reformation, that sprang from the new ideas of the Renaissance, created a new mental landscape for Europeans. In this course we will explore this turbulent and dynamic period looking at all of its manifestations. We will read and discuss writings from all aspects of the Renaissance and Reformation, including that of contemporaries like Machiavelli, Da Vinci, Luther, Calvin, Galileo and Shakespeare, study the art that was produced then, and see how these movements formed the world that we now inhabit.

Instructor: Douglas Kierdorf

To Be Offered: Section 001 Block 11 M/R 2:00 P.M. – 3:20 P.M.
This course will examine the history of the Korean Peninsula beginning from the late 19th century to the present. We will consider Korea’s initial encounter with western imperial nations, its annexation by Japan in 1910, the 1919 March 1st Movement for Korean independence, and the rise of Korean nationalists and the birth of the Korean communist movement in the period before World War II. After Japan’s surrender in 1945, North Korea was initially occupied by the Soviet Union, who installed Kim Il-sung as its leader. We will study the accumulation of power in the hands of the Workers Party of Korea and the Kim dynasty: Kim Il-Sung (ruled 1948-1994), his son Kim Jung-il (ruled 1994-2011), and grandson Kim Jung-un (2011-?). Key topics will include the history of the Korean War, North Korea’s militarized social structure, its history of foreign relations with the Soviet Union, China, Japan, and the United Nations, its policy of juche (self-reliance), the history of North Korea’s nuclear weapons program, and the ongoing economic crisis which has led to years of famine. We will read primary accounts of life in North Korea from escaped refugees, and also examine the reasons why some refugees retain a fierce loyalty for this totalitarian regime.

Instructor: Bridie Andrews

To be offered: Section 001 Block 1 M/W 8:00 A.M. – 9:20 A.M.
Mass death has become integral to the modern world. Although the Jewish Holocaust has become the paradigm of genocide, ethnic cleansing and mass murder have continued on a global scale: Algeria, Armenia, Rwanda, Iraq, and Biafra are just some examples. Why has genocide become so common in a world so preoccupied with humanitarian causes? What is the historical connection between genocide and Liberalism? How is genocide different from state terror? We will study several cases of genocide around the world and the limitation of NGOs and humanitarian campaigns.

Instructor: Sung Choi

To be offered: Section 001 Block 6 M/R 11:00 A.M. – 12:20 A.M.