VARIABLE TOPICS COURSES

HISTORY (HSTR) 2014-2015

These courses may be taken multiple times for credit if the courses have different topics. If you think you may have taken the same course before, just check with us and we'll let you know.

Generally, the Records office will catch and remove any mutually-exclusive designations that the computer programs assign when you take a course with the same number more than once. However, if you receive an “m/x” grade on any variable topics course, we will be able to assist you.

Contact the History office for any registration issues or questions you have concerning history courses. We'll be glad to assist.

Email: clio@uvic.ca
Phone: 250-721-7381
See us in person: Clearihue B245 (Mon-Fri 8:00am - 4:00 pm)
FALL 2014
HSTR 200 A01 (Formerly: HIST 265)

Stalinism

SCHEDULE: MR 11:30 - 13:00

INSTRUCTOR: Serhy Yekelchy
This course will introduce you to one of the greatest, and darkest, political transformations of the twentieth century. We will study Stalin’s biography and the changing nature of Soviet society in order to understand how lofty communist ideas led to a brutal dictatorship. We will also stage a "show trial" of the enemies of the people and learn how to evade arrest by the NKVD and survive in the Gulag.

FALL 2014
HSTR 320 A01

The Thief and Scoundrel in Early Modern England

SCHEDULE: TWF 09:30 - 10:30
INSTRUCTOR: Kurt Krueger

The central concern of this course will be robbery in seventeenth-century England. Themes studied will include the emergence (and decline) of robbery as the defining crime of the era, contemporary anxieties and attitudes toward the problem, and issues of prevention, policing, and punishment. Special attention will be given to highway robbers, comparing popular myth with grim reality. London, as the nexus of the course, will feature prominently, with examinations of the opportunities it created for property crime, its criminal support networks, and the reactions of its citizenry. Other thieves and scoundrels will also be covered, from non-violent pickpockets and housebreakers to violent footpads and those committing murder for gain.
Quebec from Province to Nation

SCHEDULE: MR 11:30 - 13:00
INSTRUCTOR: Penny Bryden

The moments when Quebec separatist sentiment has been most significant — the 1960s, the 1980s and now — have been the times when our country has come closest to breaking up. This course examines the roots of separatism from the 18th century onward with a special focus on how Quebeckers came to be so discontent, and engages in an ongoing conversation about what — if anything — we can do about it.

War and Society in Canada

SCHEDULE: MR 8:30-10:00
INSTRUCTOR: Brian McKercher

Following an overview of the military history of the colonial period, this course examines the defence policy of Canada since Confederation and the wars fought by Canadian forces. In doing so, it looks at the various issues that together have created, sustained, and seen the use of the Dominion’s armed forces over time: military policy and organisation, foreign policy, the consideration of finance and economics, domestic politics, and the civil-military relationship, all suffused by the changing nature of Canadian society.
Migration has come to shape European societal and political life in vital ways. While European societies have traditionally been primarily countries of emigration, the post-war period (and in particular the last twenty years) has witnessed a massive influx of newcomers. This has challenged traditional modes of national identities, citizenship regimes and incorporating immigrants. Similarly, the political discourse on immigrants has changed: recently the English Prime Mister and the German Chancellor have declared that ‘multiculturalism has utterly failed’. While Europe has received considerably less immigrants than Canada, immigration has become an issue of political contestation and social conflict. With its nationalist, xenophobic campaigns the extreme right across Europe has used and nourished anti-immigrant sentiments. How do European approaches to integrating immigrants and addressing them in politics differ from Canadian ones? Are there fundamental differences between Canada as a settler society and Europe that has only recently become the destination of mass migration?
The 30 Years War

SCHEDULE: TWF 09:30 - 10:30
INSTRUCTOR: M. KOCH

The Thirty Years War (usually dated 1618-48) is often considered the most destructive conflict in European history before the twentieth century. How was such a catastrophe possible? We will consider the causes of the conflict, trace the history of its principal campaigns, and compare the state structures of the most important combatants (Sweden, the Dutch Republic, the Spanish and Austrian Habsburgs, France, and Bavaria). What can we learn about the validity of the "military revolution" thesis from the study of this war? How destructive was the conflict? How was it related to the deadly proliferation of witchcraft accusations in early seventeenth-century Germany?

The Cultural Revolution in China

SCHEDULE: MR 13:00 - 14:30
INSTRUCTOR: G. WU

This is the summer 1966, as hundreds of thousands of Chinese students rebelled against their teachers, Party secretaries, and, ultimately, the State President who was found the heaviest "capitalist roader" in Communist China. The storm amounted in the next year to the degree that workers seized governmental power in Shanghai and, then, everywhere in China, and that young people in Paris, Tokyo, New York, and Berkeley, California were inspired to demonstrate and protest. This is known as the Cultural Revolution, Chinese leader Mao Zedong's last revolution to make a new world. Why did this happen? How did it go during the dramatic ten years until Mao's death in 1976? And, most importantly, what does it mean for China and the world? This course investigates the origins, movements, and aftermaths of the Cultural Revolution from historical, political and social perspectives, as it focuses on social backgrounds, political struggles, cultural and ideational implications, international influences, and, primarily, historical events unfolded in this crucial stage of 20th-century Chinese history.
Defending Empires and Collapsing Empires

SCHEDULE: MWR 14:30-15:30
INSTRUCTOR: Brian McKercher

This course uses case studies to examine how several Great Powers in the nineteenth and twentieth century defended their European and overseas Empires in war and peace; and how these empires ultimately collapsed. The case studies include the tsarist Russian Empire (1856-1917), the second German Empire (1871-1918), the Austro-Hungarian Empire (1866-1918), the French Empire (1871-1961), and the British Empire (1856-1956).

SPRING 2015  SCHEDULE: R 14:30 - 17:30  HSTR 440 A01
INSTRUCTOR: Jill Walshaw

Utopias: Imagined Communities through History

Throughout history, people have imagined what a perfect community would be like: a world in which there is no war or hunger, no taxes or constraint, and in which people lead fulfilling lives contributing to the greater good. And even though "utopia" comes from the Greek for "no place", some idealistic pioneers have tried to actually to set up such communities. Come and explore texts of political and social imaginings - from Plato's Republic to George Orwell's 1984, via Thomas More's classic, Utopia, Francis Bacon's New Atlantis, Thomas Spence's The Constitution of Spensonia, the Communist Manifesto of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels and many more - and investigate the real, live "utopian" experiments in the European and North American past, from the numerous phalansteries inspired by French utopian socialist Charles Fourier to 20th-century west-coast communities in Puget Sound and the present-day community of Sointula, near Alert Bay, BC. What can we learn about the communities of the past from understanding the way they wish things were different?
Oral History:
Memory as History

This course examines a broad range of issues and approaches related to the theory and practice of oral history. Topics will include: 1) a discussion of the some of the contested terminology associated with oral history; 2) an overview of how historians, anthropologists and folklorists have used oral history/tradition/testimony in their research; 3) an examination of the debates among scholars (Jan Vansina, Renato Rosaldo, Luise White, etc) who are writing about oral history; 4) an overview of oral narrative research in anthropology, linguistics and comparative literature and its potential for oral historical research; 5) a discussion of current feminist approaches to oral history; 6) an overview of the logistics and ethics of "doing" oral history; and 7) a look at contemporary applications of oral historical methodology in a variety of geographical and political contexts. In British Columbia today, oral history is a mainstay of land claims research and negotiation.

From Sodomy to Same-Sex Marriage:
LGBT History in North America

Primary and secondary source readings on the history of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history from the colonial era through the present. Subjects include religious constructions of sodomitical sin, non-binary gender expressions, formation of sexual identities, development of sexual minority communities, Gay Rights, the AIDS epidemic, and the struggle over same-sex marriage.
SPRING 2015
HSTR 300  A01

Hitler in History

SCHEDULE: MR 13:00 - 14:30
INSTRUCTOR: Tom Saunders

Hitler the misfit, artist, soldier, antisemite, political ideologue, party leader, national faith-healer, propagandist, media-star, military commander, megalomaniac: these are some of the key themes addressed by the course. Against the background of the profound upheaval caused by World War I, focus will be on the centrality of Hitler in the ideology and political style of National Socialism. Attention will be given to his ideas—life as struggle, national rebirth, racial purity/hatred—and his commitment to violence, war and genocide. The course will also look at myth and image creation as evidenced by the film and photographic record.

* May not be counted towards upper-level requirements in Honours, Major, or General and Minor programs in History.

SPRING 2015
HSTR 320  A01 (formerly HIST 339)

Ice, Exploration and the English

SCHEDULE: T 18:30 - 21:30
INSTRUCTOR: Andrea McKenzie

This history of polar exploration focuses both on cultural imperialism and shifting English - as well as larger European and western - attitudes towards new frontiers and the natural world. Particular emphasis will be placed on the themes of class, ethnicity and cultural constructions of courage and masculinity. Topics include the Viking “discovery” of Greenland and the Canadian Arctic, the search for the Northwest Passage, and the race for the North and South Poles, as well as the “third Pole”, Everest. In this course we will focus on primary documents - such as journals and travel narratives - as texts which shed light on contemporary attitudes and values.
Agents of the State?: Anthropologists and the “Indian Problem” in BC

SCHEDULE: MR 10:00 - 11:30
INSTRUCTOR: Wendy Wickwire

“British Columbia” in the late 19th and early 20th centuries was a site of controversy as state officials in Ottawa and Victoria tried to figure out how to deal with a land-base that, aside from a handful of treaties, had never been legally ceded. The problem was exacerbated by the rise of a large Indigenous protest movement that stood firm on its position of sovereignty. This course looks at how the employees of the newly-minted “Anthropology Division” - housed in the federal Ministry of Mines -- responded to this problem. It also looks at how this new group of government social scientists responded to the Department of Indian Affairs’ child-removal programmes, enforced enfranchisement, the potlatch ban, and mandatory conscription.

Conflict and Co-operation: Britain, America and the "Special Relationship" since 1941

SCHEDULE: MR 8:30-10:00
INSTRUCTOR: Brian McKercher

One of the defining elements of international politics since 1941 has been the so-called Anglo-American “Special Relationship”; this course examines this strategic partnership. It formed the basis of the western alliance system during the Second World War and Cold War and, after the early 1990s, played an essential part in bringing about the stability of the evolving post-Cold War international order. None of this suggests that social, cultural, and even philosophical links between the two English-speaking peoples are unimportant. But its not always easy strategic dimension remains the most important.
SPRING 2015
HSTR 414  A01  (Formerly HIST 338)

The World Turned Upside Down:
Seventeenth-Century
English Politics and Society

SCHEDULE:  M 14:30 - 17:30
INSTRUCTOR:  Andrea McKenzie

A survey of the social, cultural and political history of early modern England, with a particular emphasis on the seventeenth century. Topics include Jacobean sex scandals, murder pamphlets, the causes and legacy of the British Civil Wars, the execution of Charles I, radical religion and the Interregnum, the Restoration and Glorious Revolution, patriarchy and authority, class conflict and deference, parents and children, marriage and gender. This course is intended to give the advanced student a general introduction to some of the main primary sources, important secondary works and historiographical issues.

SPRING 2015
HSTR 430  A01  (Formerly: HIST 359)

A City Goes to War

SCHEDULE:  T 14:30 - 17:30
INSTRUCTOR:  Jim Kempling

This course focuses on the social, cultural and military history of Victoria, B.C., in the years before, during and immediately after World War I and examines how all aspects of the city changed in this time of national crisis. In this course students will be introduced to archival research and taught how to create a website. No previous archival or website experience necessary.
China in Local and Global History (GxUG)

SCHEDULE: W 14:30-17:30
INSTRUCTOR: Zhongping Chen

An in-depth analysis of local Chinese history and a broad examination of its relations with the world up to the mid-twentieth century. Emphasis is on local history in six regions of China and on their interactions with socioeconomic and political changes in the global arena. The local and global approaches to this course will help students reexamine historical changes and characteristics of the six regions in the following aspects: the geopolitical center in North China (around Beijing) and the "periphery" in Tibet; the maritime and "modern" culture of the Yangzi delta (around Shanghai) and Taiwan; as well as the coastal society of the Pearl River delta (around Canton) and colonial polity of Hong Kong. The course will be conducted through thematic lectures, intensive reading, interactive discussion and independent research.

The Hidden Dimension:
Topics in the History of Intelligence (G x UG)

This course uses case studies to examine crucial elements of modern intelligence history and, in doing so, places the role of intelligence in the development of national strategy. Along with a theoretical and philosophical examination of military and political intelligence, the case studies will include threat perception, counter-intelligence, cryptography, domestic surveillance, disinformation, and asymmetrical threat.
What drove Arab protesters to the streets in 2011? Amidst all the uncertainties and complexities, aspirations and disappointments, this course seeks a better understanding of the revolutionary events unfolding across the Middle East and North Africa by placing our questions in a broader historical and comparative context. How do outside interests fit in? What role does religion play? How can we understand the significance of modern technologies of communication? And how can we account for the radically different circumstances across the Arab world?