

History Research Seminar

Course Descriptions

Fall 2017

Research Seminar for United States History

A Nation on the Move: Transportation, Travel, and Mobility in American History

HIST 4495/01 – Albert Churella – MW – 3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. - CRN # 80775

The United States has become – and has always been – the most mobile society in the history of the world. From the days of the turnpikes, through the development of canals and railroads, to the age of the interstate highway and widespread air travel, Americans have excelled at moving people and products over long distances. This seminar will explore the ways in which Americans have developed and used transportation technology, as well as the manner in which geographic mobility has shaped socioeconomic mobility and other aspects of American life.

Research Seminar for European History

Patriots and Passports: The Rise of European Nationalism

HIST 4496/01 – Jonathan Gentry – TR – 5:00 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. - CRN# 80776

Description: Given the resurgence of nationalism in contemporary Europe, students of history are being called upon to explain the origins of European borders and national identities. This research seminar explores the development of discrete nations and nationalisms in Europe from the French Revolution to the First World War. Students will examine the many different ways that nations were defined and built from military conquest and music festivals to religion and race. The final project will be an original research paper that uses the scholarly methods described in class.

Research Seminar for Non-Western History

Writing the History of Suppressed Voices

HIST 4497/01 – Ryan Ronnenberg – MW – 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. - CRN# 80779

The concerns of the present determine what rises to the level of historical significance. Until the middle of the 20th century, historical research, in adhering to convention or bowing to technical challenge, systematically overlooked or deemphasized the actions of the socially and politically marginalized. At the close of the Age of Empires, new ambitions and techniques have endeavored to address this imbalance. In this course students will discuss the subaltern studies movement, its revision of historical approaches to colonialism, and its impact on postcolonial theory in history and other disciplines. The course will examine the critique of paternalism (by data-driven analysis) as an explanatory model for slavery in North America. In exploring the development of the collection of oral evidence as legitimate historical source material in the 1960s, the course will identify not only the role this project played in the establishment of African history as a vital subfield in its own right, but its broader implications for discipline as well. Lastly the class will utilize Alain Corbin's efforts in microhistory to refine our conversation concerning the relationship between historical significance and metanarrative. Students will then use the theoretical and historiographical lessons learned in class to craft essays in fields of their choosing.