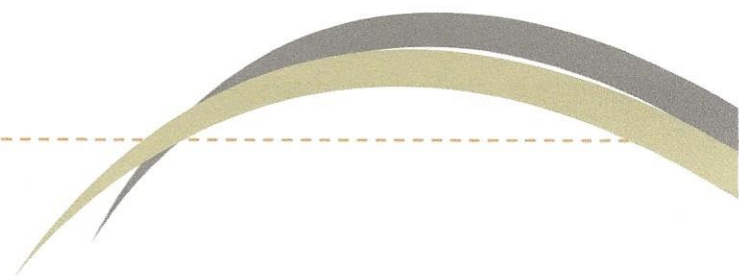


DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY



**GRADUATE
COURSE
DESCRIPTIONS**



SPRING 2022

GRADUATE CORE SEMINAR

HIS 525/527

Professor Nancy Tomes

M 4:25-7:15PM N-303

This is the second half of a year-long course that is your introduction to graduate study in history in general, and Stony Brook's Graduate Program in History in particular. Core is designed to introduce new graduate students to prominent concepts, theoretical underpinnings, and shifts in historical scholarship over the last few decades; to examine influential texts from the thematic areas of our graduate program; and to explore some techniques and resources that are key to historical research and writing. The culmination of your work in the fall semester was the drafting of a proposal for a paper **you** want to write. In the second half of Core, we concentrate on turning that proposal into reality: a substantial paper (at least 25-30 pages) that uses primary sources and makes an original contribution to the secondary literature on your chosen topic. The paper will be written in stages; at each stage, you will receive feedback and support from the course instructor and your fellow students. Required readings will be minimal and focus on basic skills of research and writing. Course meetings will be primarily devoted to workshopping papers as they are developed. Only those HIS MA (Academic Track) & HIS PhD students currently enrolled in HIS 524 may take this course.

FIELD SEMINAR
U.S. Since the Civil War
HIS 522/CEG 522
Professor Robert Chase
TU 5:45-8:40 N-318

This course offers a historical survey of the United States from 1865 to the present. It examines major forces of historical change and evolution over time from two perspectives: First, what were the major state-centered and structural historical forces that shaped American politics and society from Reconstruction to the end of the twentieth century? Second, how did countervailing forces of labor, race, class, migration, gender, and sexuality respond to major structural changes in American politics and society?

A course that covers so much of U.S. history in a single semester can only offer a survey of some of the most influential titles for each significant historical transformation. As such, the course considers major titles on foreign wars and U.S. imperialism, state-building, industrialization, corporatization and advertising, suburbanization, mass incarceration, and globalization. It also considers influential monographs on the labor movement, the civil rights revolution and Black Power, migration, ethnicity, the Chicana/o movement, and the feminist and gay liberation movements. Course assignments include weekly discussion and written critical reading responses, leading class discussion, a book review, and a final historiographical essay. HIS 522 for History MA/PhD students only. MAT/MALS students must register for CEG 522. Non-Matriculated students must get permission from instructor.

THEME SEMINAR
Race, Gender, Culture
HIS 532
Professor April Masten
TU 2:40-5:35 N-303

This course interrogates the ways scholars have used the lens of culture to get at issues of race and gender. The production and reception of cultural traditions, objects, and practices are influenced by the color and sex of their producers and consumers. Many historians focus on one or the other, on black people's culture or women's culture, for example. We will examine the ways the study of culture (well-grounded in its historical context) can bring gender into the story of race and vice versa. Missing from the triad "Race, Gender, Culture" (and something we will also pay attention to) are, of course, class and generation (age). The meaning and significance of culture shifts when any of these personal and/or political attributes intersect and are taken into account. Course requirements will include reading a set of texts (history and theory) and writing a response paper before each class as well as participating in discussion each week. You will also write a final paper that explores a theme from the course using the texts we have read during the semester. Pre-Req: Enrollment in HIS Graduate Program or permission of instructor.

**FIELD SEMINAR
Modern Latin America
HIS 542/CEG 517
Andrew Ehrinpreis
W 6:05-9:00 Room: N-318**

This Field Seminar introduces students to central thematic areas of research and the key historiographical debates within those areas across Latin American history, with a particular focus on the modern era (c. 1830-1980s). It is designed for graduate-level students whose research or teaching focus is Latin American history, although students from other geographic concentrations and disciplines are also welcome. While not inclusive of all historical approaches, the course aims to introduce students to many of the most relevant historiographical discussions across as broad a temporal and geographic range as possible. Students will write several short papers and a longer final historiographic paper on a topic of their choosing, as well as to present on a set of readings. HIS 542 for History MA/PhD students only. MAT students must register for CEG 517.

THEME SEMINAR
Commodities & Globalization
HIS 553
Professor Paul Gootenberg
W 2:40-5:35PM N-303

This Theme Seminar (open to PhD and MA students) uses the “new commodity history” as a means of exploring larger themes in the history of globalization, as well as capitalism, power, labor, consumption cultures, and environmental history. Commodity studies stands at the intersection of material culture and economic history and social history and cultural studies. The seminar will address some of the interdisciplinary trends (mainly from social anthropology and economic sociology) that converge in the new commodity history. We will then engage 10 or so major monographs and synthetic studies that suggest the latest developments in the field. The topics include such historical products as sugar, rice, silver, chocolate, tobacco, teas, rubber, mahogany, cotton, guano, bananas, tequila, Coca Cola, and cocaine. Prerequisite: Enrollment in a History graduate program or MAT in Social Studies.

THEME SEMINAR
History and Politics of Science in Africa
HIS 570
Professor Shobana Shankar
TH 5:45-8:40PM N-303

This course explores science as a contested and ambivalent terrain through the prism of African history. While Africa has represented “a living lab” for the West during the era of European colonialism and beyond, the continent’s history also shows that the triumphant narrative of scientific progress has long been flawed and viewed with skepticism outside the West. Topics to be covered will include imperial science, the rise of research organizations and their complex roles in colonial and postcolonial Africa, scientific racism and eugenics, nuclear politics and the Cold War, ethics and human rights in scientific experimentation, and the politics of expertise. Written work will include weekly posts on reading, an historiographical essay, and a short research exercise based on primary sources. NOTE Pre-Req: Enrollment in a History Graduate Program or permission of the instructor. MAT students must request permission, and will enroll under the HIS 570 course number.

RESEARCH SEMINAR
Argument to Archives
HIS 601
Professor Christopher Sellers
TU 5:45-8:40PM S-309

This research seminar is designed to facilitate research and writing of an original, full length, pithy and polished research paper related to students' dissertation work. The course is open to doctoral students working on any historical topic in any world area or time period. The seminar is organized around themes and considerations shared by historical researchers whatever time or place they study: the archive, the evolving architecture of the research process (with special attention to digital tools), and that triangulation between archival sources, existing literature, and writing out of which historians' arguments are born. For each, the coverage seeks not to be comprehensive so much as to open up a broad palette of concepts, tools, and approaches toward historical investigation and scholarship. We will spend the first few weeks of the semester reading and discussing analyses and examples of the elements of historical research (many of which students will have encountered in previous graduate seminars), then begin defining topics followed by a series of incremental writing and revision assignments. The mid-semester weeks will be dedicated to intensive research and writing alternating with individual student—instructor and seminar meetings to discuss writing and revising, and professionalization matters (navigating the dissertation process, fellowships and grants, journals and publication). The final weeks of the semester will be dedicated to presentations and feedback leading up to final revisions. Prerequisite: Enrollment in a History Graduate Program or permission of the instructor.

DISSERTATION PROSPECTUS WORKSHOP

HIS 695

Professor Lori Flores

M 4:35-7:20PM S-309

This requirement for Ph.D. students is an intensive yet paced course that culminates in writing a full-length dissertation prospectus (12-15 pages) accessible to audiences inside and outside of the historical discipline. Students will work together as a group with the supervising professor, and separately with their advisors, to prepare a series of documents relating to their project's conceptualization, historiographical interventions, theoretical grounding, research methods and plan, and primary and secondary source base. Along with writing and workshopping shorter project summaries and research grant proposals over the semester, students will be expected to deliver a final public presentation of their proposed dissertation to the History faculty.

NOTE: For History PhD students only.