

YC: HIS-courses Fall 2025

Emergence of Europe

HIS 1101-231 (required course for History major)

M/W 3:00-4:15

Staff



This course examines the history of Europe from the rise of ancient Greece (around 600 BCE) to the aftermath of the Renaissance and Reformation (around 1650 CE). It aims to introduce the study of history alongside the pre-modern history of Europe. In addition to considering the central political, cultural, and religious developments of the era, we look in detail at some primary sources created at the time and analyze how historians can use them to learn about the past. These sources include images, letters, and satirical tracts, as well as more familiar historical and biographical accounts.

Grading: participation, short responses, papers, and exams

Survey of US History I

HIS 1201-361

T/Th 6:45-8:00

Douglas Burgess



This introductory course will explore the settlement and establishment of the American colonies, and their evolution into an independent nation. The purpose of the course is to provide students with a foundational knowledge of US history, from the earliest colonies to the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Grading: midterm, final, and class participation and attendance.

Media Revolutions: From Scroll to Screen
HIS 2909-261 (satisfies CUOT Core requirement)
M/W 6:45-8:00
Jeffrey Freedman

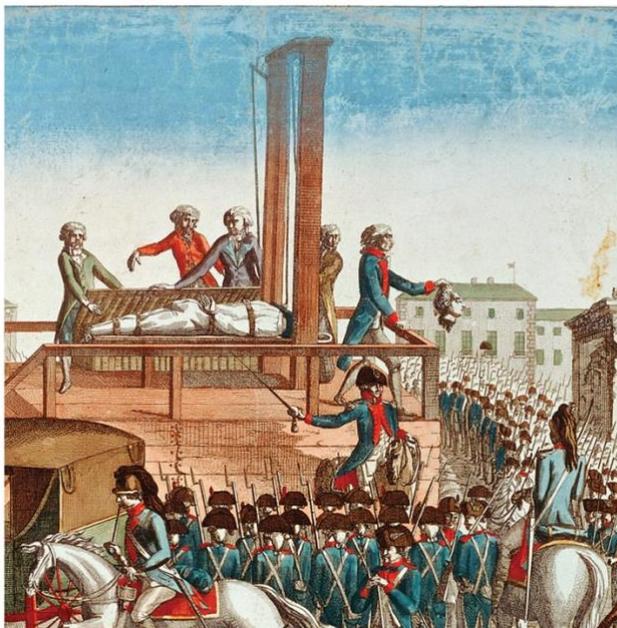


This course surveys the history of media from the ancient world to the present. Taking 'media' in the broadest sense to encompass the full range of communications technologies, we will begin with the papyri scrolls of ancient Greece and move from there through the manuscript codex of the Middle Ages, the printed book of the age of Gutenberg, newspapers in the 18th and 19th centuries, radio and film in the 20th century, and the internet and social media of our own digital age. Several recurrent questions will frame our survey of media landscapes: How, to what ends, and in what institutional settings are particular media

used? How do they affect modes of thinking? And what are the relations of different media to the various historical forms of religious, political, and economic power?

Grading: midterm; final; 3-4 page paper; and class participation.

Revolution, Emancipation, and Violence: France and Haiti 1789-1820
HIS 2149-241 (Writing Intensive; satisfies CUOT Core requirement)
M/W 4:30-5:45
Jeffrey Freedman



The late 18th century saw two momentous acts of collective emancipation: the revolution in France, which abolished nobility and overthrew the monarchy; and the revolution in what would become the independent country of Haiti, the first successful slave revolt in modern history. Both revolutions strove to create new societies based on an ideal of human equality. In the process, however, they committed terrible acts of violence. This course explores why that was so, analyzing the complicated relation between revolutionary emancipation and the violence that accompanied it.

Requirements include a midterm, final, paper, and class participation.

History of the Ancient Near East (3000 – 330 BCE)

HIS 1105-331 (satisfies CUOT Core requirement)

T/Th 3-4:15

Shalom Holtz



The goal of this course is to survey the political and cultural history of the ancient Near East from the earliest historical periods to the fall of the Persian Empire. Ancient Mesopotamia will be the primary focus, but there will be discussion of other Near Eastern civilizations, including Egypt, Hatti and Israel.

Students will produce written research that engages a current debate in the field of ancient Near Eastern history.

History of the Jewish Book

HIS 4930-331

T/Th 3-4:15

Yaakov Taubes



The association between Jews and books is an ancient one. But what kinds of books did Jews study? In the ancient period, the Bible was considered sacred text and rabbinic texts like the early midrash, Mishna and Talmud were part of the Jewish canon. But it was in the medieval period that Jewish book writing came into its own. This course will examine how the different genres of Jewish books developed including Talmud, law, Biblical exegesis and philosophy. Specific focus will be given to the form of the Jewish book and to *paratexts*,

book parts like the author attribution, introduction, tables of contents as well as organization styles.

Grading: Midterm, final and three short paper (2-3 pages)

International Crimes: Atrocity and State Response in the 20th Century
HIS 2607H-341 (Satisfies CUOT Core requirement)
T/Th 4:30-5:45
Douglas Burgess



This seminar explores the emergence and incidence of genocide and other crimes against humanity in the 20th century. First, we will examine the history of modern international atrocity, including the mass killings of Armenians under the Ottoman Empire, atrocities of colonization, the Holocaust, and more recent examples in Cambodia, Rwanda and Darfur. Then we will consider how the international community has responded, and the emergence of international law after the Second World War. Discussion will include the following issues: What does “genocide” mean, and why is it a modern phenomenon? What are its root causes? What

distinguishes it from ethnic cleansing and other crimes against humanity? Is this distinction a viable one? Can genocide be prosecuted, or prevented?

Grading: midterm, class participation, final research paper (15 pages)