

History Courses

HIS 201 American History Survey I (3 credits)

Covering the period from the fifteenth century to the mid-nineteenth century, this course is an introduction to America's foundation and early growth. Students will also learn the fundamentals of historical research and interpretation.

HIS 202 American History Survey II (3 credits)

Chronologically following Survey I, students will examine American history between the Reconstruction period and the 1990s. Students will work with primary sources and practice interpretive skills. Students do not need Survey I to succeed in this course.

HIS 209/309 North Carolina History (3 credits)

A particular interpretation of the Old North State, with its 400-year-old history described and discussed thematically. Emphasis is on understanding the cultural context—that is, the values—in which women and men have lived and are living in North Carolina.

HIS 210 Modern Western Civilization (3 credits)

A study of western civilization with an emphasis on modern revolutions, including the English Revolution, the American Revolution, the French Revolution, the Russian Revolution of 1917, and the Nazi Revolution. Attention will be given to revolutionary backgrounds and to historical perspectives and interpretations.

HIS 371 The United States & the Vietnam War (3 credits each)

This course examines the United States' involvement in the Indo-Chinese conflicts that began with World War II. The focus of the course will be the years 1954-1973, a period when the United States was a key player in the events in Southeast Asia and in Vietnam in particular. The effects on the home front, where the war shaped much of the cultural, social and political history of the United States in the 1960s, will also be covered.

HIS 214/314 Topics in American History (3 credits each)

These courses examine problems in American history not fully addressed in the survey courses. Certain topics may be offered singularly at the 200 or 300 level rather than presented in a split course. While the focus will vary with each offering, the courses emphasize detailed work with primary sources. Topics range in time from colonial to modern America and include Race in Early America, US Women's History, Jacksonian America, the US South, Colonial America, Historically Bad Behavior, the New South, and Nineteenth Century America.

HISP 225 Introduction to Public History (3 credits)

This course demonstrates how history intersects with public life. Students will also consider the place of public history in the discipline. The class explores applying historical knowledge in the conservation and representation of the past. Issues include cultural preservation, historical anthropology and archaeology, historical preservation, and the business of public history.

HIS 277/377 Topics in Latin American History (3 credits each)

The most important issues of Latin American history will be introduced in this course. Course focus will vary with each offering. Topics range in time from colonization to modern Latin America.

HIS 282 Latin American History Survey I (3 credits)

This course explores Latin American history from its Hispanic origins to the nineteenth century. Students will gain an appreciation of Hispanic and native environs. Focus includes the role of church and state, economic foundations, colonialism, and independence.

HIS 283 Latin America History Survey II (3 credits)

Chronologically following Survey I, this course follows Latin American history as it develops in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Students will examine political changes in Mexico, Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Peru, Cuba, Venezuela, Columbia, and other countries. Focus includes economic systems, revolution, class, race, gender, and imperialism. Students do not need Survey I to succeed in this course.

HIS 335 United States Slavery (3 credits each)

This course offers students the opportunity to develop an understanding of American slavery from the early trans-Atlantic trade to the end of slavery during the Civil War. Primary and secondary source materials offer the chance to analyze slavery as it changed over time and region. Topics include: race and slavery, the slave community, plantation agriculture, slave resistance, and the politics of slavery.

HIS 248 African American History Survey (3 credits)

This course offers a study of African Americans from the colonial period to the Civil Rights era. Students will pay special attention to the development of African-American identity, culture, and the quest for freedom and equality. Topics include the slave trade, slavery, the Civil War, Reconstruction, the Jim Crow era and the Civil Rights Movement.

HIS 325 Junior Methodology and Research Seminar in History (3 credits)

Required of all majors and minors. An introduction to the basic ways of thinking employed by practicing historians, with attention to main currents of historical interpretation through historiography. In addition, seminar members will learn research strategies in secondary and primary sources, while bringing a critical, analytical reading to the discipline.

HIS 334 Civil War & Reconstruction (3 credits)

A study of the era of the American Civil War. The causes of the war, the military campaigns, and Reconstruction will be considered. Special emphasis will be given to interpretations of the era, the impact of military technology and doctrines of war on the campaigns, and the significance of Reconstruction for the South.

HIS 345 The American Civil Rights Movement (3 credits)

Starting in the Reconstruction period and culminating in the 1960s, America's confrontation with inequality remains a central story. This course examines the origins and maturity of black Americans' efforts demanding freedom from discrimination. The course will address at least three main questions: First, how is the movement understood in the context of the longer black freedom struggle and resistance to segregation in the South? Second, why did the movement take place when it did? Third, how does the movement fit into our understandings of social movements? Prerequisite: HIS 202 or permission from the instructor.

HIS 353 The French Revolution and Napoleon (3 credits)

A study of continental Europe between 1750 and 1850 with emphasis on the relationship between ideas and institutional change. The Enlightenment of the Eighteenth Century, its origins and its impact, will be considered, as will the decline of the Old Regime, the crisis of the French Revolution, and the reorganization of Europe in the first half of the Nineteenth Century.

HIS 355 The Turn of the Century & World War I (3 credits)

A study of the developments in Europe from the 1880s until 1920 with emphasis on the impact of science, technology, and industrialization on the turn of the century decades. Consideration will be given to the causes of World War I, the military campaigns of the war, and the Russian Revolution. The turn of the century decades will be interpreted as an important revolutionary era.

HIS 356 The Second World War & the Holocaust, Europe 1919-1945 (3 credits)

A study of the backgrounds of World War II in Europe, Fascism and Nazism, the military campaigns, naval and aerial warfare, home fronts, Nazi occupation regimes, the Holocaust, resistance movements, propaganda, wartime diplomacy, the role of science, and the impact of total war on the postwar world.

HIS 357 The Second World War; Asia & the Pacific, 1919-1945 (3 credits)

A study of World War II in Asia and the Pacific with emphasis on the period 1937-1945. Diplomatic backgrounds of the conflict will be considered. An important feature of the course is the emergence of Japan as the leading Asian power. Asian perspectives on the war are examined.

HISP 395 Academic Internship in Public History (3 credits)

Students will submit an internship plan for work in a public history setting. Appropriate sites include museums, archives, state and federal historic sites, contract archaeology firms, and historic preservation businesses. This course requires departmental approval.

HIS 410 Topics in Southern History (3 credits)

This course will address themes historians deem important for understanding the American South's history. Course focus will vary with each offering. Topics range in time from the early colonial period to modern America. Special emphasis will be placed on evaluating historiographical arguments. Prerequisite: HIS 201 or 202, and one 300 level history course, also available with the permission of the instructor.

HIS 412 American Religious History (3 credits)

What is religion's role and function for a society as religiously pluralistic as the United States? This course addresses the question of religion in a pluralistic society by studying the development of religion in America. Emphasis on change over time will illuminate how Americans have allowed religious diversity with a minimum of conflict. Topics include Native-American religion, European religion in colonial America, women and the church, evangelicalism, African American religious culture, and religious minorities. Prerequisites: HIS 201 and 202, or permission from the instructor.

HIS 425 Senior Research Seminar in History (2 credits)

Required of all history majors; taken in the senior year, strongly recommended for minors. An exploration of various historical topics selected by students with faculty approval. This research course provides a framework for students to complete a detailed historical examination using primary and secondary sources. Students will develop original interpretations of the past while placing them within the context of extant scholarship.

HIS 491 Honors Seminar (3 credits)

Admission to this course is by invitation of the history faculty. It stresses historiography, research design and techniques, and preparation of a student's own original research project.

HIS 497 Honors Research (3 credits)

Admission to this course is restricted to those who have successfully completed HIS 491. The student, working independently with faculty direction, will produce and defend an honors thesis of original historic scholarship.

HISP 498 Practicum in Library and Archival Science (3 credits)

This practicum is an introduction to the skills and ideas behind library and archival science. Students will learn the basic principles of library management, how to access materials and electronic information, and effective ways of storing and preserving information.