

History and Political Science

FACULTY: D. Fitz, K. Lankford.

The Department of History and Political Science offers a major and a minor in History.

Students majoring in History may elect to pursue either the Bachelor of Arts or the Bachelor of Science degree. A major requires a minimum of eleven History courses including History 477. A minor requires 24 hours of history courses.

The department offers an honors program designed to provide the superior student majoring in History an opportunity to work in depth in a chosen field. The program is open to History majors who have completed four courses in History with a minimum average grade of 3.00 by the end of their sophomore year and are recommended by one member of the History faculty.

Secondary school teaching certification is available with a major in History. See the Education Department listing for requirements.

Required courses for both majors and minors are History 103, History 104, History 201, History 202, and Political Science 203. The remaining hours can be fulfilled by any other History courses that are of interest to the student.

Courses

HISTORY

HIST 103. HISTORY OF THE ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL WORLD. (3) A survey course covering from the beginning of civilization through the Middle Ages, with special attention to the origin and development of political, social, economic, religious, intellectual and aesthetic activities in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas. No prerequisite.

HIST 104. HISTORY OF THE MODERN WORLD. (3) Emphasis upon the great movements of history, with special attention to the origin and development of political, social, economic, religious, intellectual and aesthetic activities in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas. No prerequisite.

HIST 201. AMERICAN HISTORY TO 1865. (3) A survey course beginning with the Indian-European encounter and ending with the conclusion of the Civil War. Special attention is paid to the political, economic, societal, and cultural development of the United States. No prerequisite.

HIST 202. AMERICAN HISTORY FROM 1865. (3) A survey course covering the history of the United States since Reconstruction. No prerequisite.

HIST 208. HISTORY OF AMERICAN SLAVERY. (3) Special attention is paid to the development of racism, the contours of race relations, the rise of African American culture, and the paradoxical legacy of slavery and freedom in the United States. No prerequisite.

HIST 222. TRADITIONAL EAST ASIA. (3) A survey course emphasizing Chinese and Japanese civilizations from antiquity to 1800. No prerequisite.

HIST 224. MODERN EAST ASIA. (3) A survey course emphasizing Chinese and Japanese civilizations since 1800. No prerequisite.

HIST 226. HISTORY OF ILLINOIS.(3) The history of Illinois from the earliest times to the present. No prerequisite.

HIST 250. TOPICS IN HISTORY. (3) Study of a specific historical event or time period. Courses taught under this heading include such topics as History of World War I or The Study of the Cold War. May be repeated for credit when topic changes. No prerequisite.

HIST 301. TWENTIETH-CENTURY AMERICA. (3) This course takes into consideration key forces that shaped the development of the United States during the twentieth century. No prerequisite.

HIST 304. WOMEN IN AMERICAN HISTORY. (3) An introduction to the history of women in America surveying key events, contributions and issues that affected women from the colonial period to the early twentieth century. Both primary and secondary readings will be used to introduce significant persons and events. No prerequisite.

HIST 305. HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN WEST. (3) A survey of the economic, political, social, and cultural development of the American West. Particular attention will be paid to the West as a frontier process and as a causative factor in historical change. Topics include subjects covered in traditional western history courses, such as the frontier experience, population movements, expansion of American ideals and institutions, and regionalism. In addition, this course will examine aspects of the “new western history,” including issues of gender, race and ethnic relations, and the environment and ecological change.

HIST 314. RENAISSANCE AND REFORMATION. (3) The political, social, economic, cultural and religious developments of western Europe from the fourteenth century through the Counter-Reformation and Catholic Revival. No prerequisite.

HIST 318. EUROPEAN HISTORY SINCE 1914. (3) Since the onset of World War I in 1914, Europe has witnessed the rise and fall of fascism and communism, as well as movements toward unification. This course surveys the transformation of Europe during this time.

HIST 336. COLONIAL AMERICA. (3) This course sets out to familiarize students with colonization in North America, especially British North America. Emphasis is placed on encounters between colonists and native peoples and the regional differences that existed between those colonies traditionally known as the American colonies. No prerequisite.

HIST 341. ERA OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. (3) Topics include the events leading up to the Revolutionary War, the Constitutional Convention and the ratification of the Bill of Rights, the Age of Federalism, and the election of Thomas Jefferson in 1800. No prerequisite.

HIST 342. EARLY AMERICAN REPUBLIC. (3) Special attention will be given to politics, economics, and war, as well as to a number of religious and social movements that characterized post-revolutionary America. No prerequisite.

HIST 350. HISTORY OF THE AMERICAS. (3) A comparative and historical approach to the Western Hemisphere, particularly North America: Canada, Mexico, and the United States. Special emphasis is given to the initial encounter between native peoples and Europeans, and the subsequent legacies of colonization throughout the Americas. A comparative perspective will be taken on topics such as culture, religion, race relations, slavery, economics, and politics. No prerequisite.

HIST 351. TOPICS IN LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY. (3) Possible topics include conquest, colonization, religion, revolutions, authoritarianism, and the disappeared. May be repeated for credit when topic changes. No prerequisite.

HIST 355. THE HISTORY OF POLITICAL CAMPAIGNING. (3) A study of twentieth-century presidential campaigns through events such as conventions, debates, speeches, and advertising. Particular emphasis will be placed on the current presidential race. No prerequisite.

HIST 362. THE U.S. PRESIDENCY. (3) A survey of the history of the presidency through an analysis of presidential communication. Particular attention will be paid to twentieth and twenty-first century presidential responses to war, scandal, and other crises. No prerequisite.

HIST 369. SECONDARY SCHOOL METHODS: HISTORY. (3) Methods and materials for teaching history and social studies in the secondary school. Same as Education 369. Offered on demand.

HIST 376. ERA OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR. (3) The object of this course is to familiarize students with the key ideas, events, and people of the Civil War era. In search of the causes and consequences of the war, particular attention will be given to the antebellum years as well as to the period dedicated to reuniting the United States. No prerequisite.

HIST 477. HISTORICAL RESEARCH. (3) An intensive study of the sources and interpretations of one particular period or topic in history with each student producing a research paper based largely on primary materials. Prerequisite: history major and senior standing.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

POLS 115. CURRENT AFFAIRS. (1) A newspaper reading and discussion course. Students will discuss the political, economic, scientific, literary, and social issues that are found in the newspaper. Students will help decide which articles the class will read.

POLS 203. AMERICAN POLITICS. (3) A survey of the main concepts, theories, institutions, and actors in the American political system, including an analysis of the Constitution.

POLS 215. INTERNATIONAL POLITICS. (3) A survey of the main concepts and theories used to explain the relations between nation-states and the issues that transcend nation-states.