HISTORY (COURSE 21H)

Introductory

21H.000 The History of Now (New)
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
1-0-0 units

Explores current events in a historical perspective. Each week a different MIT historian will discuss their research in the context of what is happening in the world today. J. Ravel

21H.001 How to Stage a Revolution
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2019-2020: U (Fall)
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Explores fundamental questions about the causes and nature of revolutions by looking at how people overthrow their rulers and establish new governments. Considers a set of major political transformations throughout the world and across centuries to understand the meaning of revolution and evaluate its impact. Examines how revolutionaries have attempted to establish their ideals and realize their goals. Asks whether radical upheavals require bloodshed, violence, or even terror. Seeks to explain why some revolutions succeed and others fail. Materials include the writings of revolutionaries, declarations and constitutions, music, films, art, novels, memoirs, and newspapers. P. Alimagham, T. Padilla, J. Ravel

21H.007[J] Introduction to Ancient and Medieval Studies
Same subject as 21L.014[J]
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2019-2020: Not offered
Acad Year 2020-2021: U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Explores the fascinating history, culture, and society of the ancient and medieval worlds and the different methodologies scholars use to interpret them. Wrestles with big questions about the diversity of life and thought in pre-modern societies, the best ways to study the distant past, and the nature (and limitations) of knowledge about long-ago eras. Considers a wide range of scholarly subjects such as the rise and fall of the Roman empire, the triumph of Christianity and Islam, barbarian invasions and holy wars, courts and castles, philosophy and religion, and the diversity of art, literature, and politics. Ponders different types of evidence, reads across a variety of disciplines, and develops skills to identify continuities and changes in ancient and medieval societies. S. Frampton, E. Goldberg

21H.009 World History and Its Fault Lines Since 1800
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2019-2020: Not offered
Acad Year 2020-2021: U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Explores how the world, as we know it today, came to be. Examines what it means to be modern and the consequences of modernity on people’s everyday lives. Introduces real and perceived changes that made the world recognizably “modern.” Surveys the rise of empires, nation-states, industrialized economies, mass consumption, popular culture, and political ideas and movements, and studies how they resulted in new, often contested, dynamics of racial, class, religious, gendered, and political identity. Instruction provided in how the evolving relationships of people with political, social, and economic structures produced a world that is highly interconnected and, at the same time, divided along different fault lines. S. Aiyar, H. Nagahara
21H.101 American History to 1865
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

A basic history of American social, economic, and political development from the colonial period through the Civil War. Examines the colonial heritages of Spanish and British America; the American Revolution and its impact; the establishment and growth of the new nation; and the Civil War, its background, character, and impact. Readings include writings of the period by Winthrop, Paine, Jefferson, Madison, W. H. Garrison, G. Fitzhugh, H. B. Stowe, and Lincoln.

Staff

21H.102 American History since 1865
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Examines the social, cultural, political, and economic history of the United States, from the Civil War to the present. Uses secondary analysis and primary documents, such as court cases, personal accounts, photographs, and films, to examine some of the key issues in the shaping of modern America, including industrialization and urbanization, immigration, the rise of a mass consumer society, the emergence of the US as a global power, and the development of civil rights activism and other major social movements.

Staff

Same subject as 24.912[J], 21L.008[J], 21W.741[J], WGS.190[J]
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-A, HASS-H; CI-H

See description under subject 24.912[J].

M. Degraff

21H.107[J] Introduction to Asian American Studies: Historical and Contemporary Issues
Same subject as 21G.043[J]
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

See description under subject 21G.043[J].

Consult E. Teng

21H.108[J] Sexual and Gender Identities
Same subject as WGS.110[J]
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

See description under subject WGS.110[J].

K. Surkan

21H.130 The Ancient World: Greece
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

History of Ancient Greece from the Bronze Age to the death of Alexander. Major social, economic, political, and religious trends. Homer, heroism, and the Greek identity; the hoplite revolution and the rise of the city-state; Herodotus, Persia, and the (re)birth of history; Empire, Thucydidean rationalism, and the Peloponnesian War; Aristotle, Macedonia, and Hellenism. Emphasis on use of primary sources in translation.

N. Susmann

21H.132 The Ancient World: Rome
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

History of Rome from its humble beginnings to the 5th century A.D. First half: Kingship to Republican form; the conquest of Italy; Roman expansion: Pyrrhus, Punic Wars and provinces; classes, courts, and the Roman revolution; Augustus and the formation of empire. Second half: Virgil to the Vandals; major social, economic, political and religious trends at Rome and in the provinces. Emphasis on use of primary sources in translation. Enrollment limited.

W. Broadhead

21H.133 The Medieval World
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Investigates the dynamic history of Europe and the wider world between the late Roman empire and voyages of discovery. Examines the rise of Christianity, the cult of the saints, and monasticism; the decline of the Roman empire, the barbarian invasions, and the foundation of post-Roman kingdoms; the meteoric rise of Islam; the formation of the Carolingian, Byzantine, and Islamic empires; the Vikings and Mongols; castles, knights, and crusades; religious thinkers, reformers, and heretics; changes in art, architecture, and literature; the Black Death and the fall of Constantinople; the Italian Renaissance and the voyages of discovery.

E. Goldberg
21H.134[J] Medieval Economic History in Comparative Perspective
Same subject as 14.70[J]
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-S; CI-H
Surveys the conditions of material life and changing social and economic relations in medieval Europe using the comparative context of contemporary Islamic, Chinese, and Japanese experiences. Covers the emergence and decline of feudal institutions, the transformation of peasant agriculture, living standards and the course of epidemic disease, and the ebb and flow of long-distance trade across the Eurasian system. Particular emphasis placed on the study of those factors, both institutional and technological, which contributed to the emergence of capitalist organization and economic growth in western Europe in contrast to the trajectories followed by the other major medieval economies.
A. McCants

21H.141 Renaissance to Revolution: Europe, 1300-1800
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H
Provides an introduction to major political, social, cultural and intellectual changes in Europe from the beginnings of the Renaissance in Italy around 1300 to the outbreak of the French Revolution at the end of the 1700s. Focuses on the porous boundaries between categories of theology, magic and science. Examines how developments in these areas altered European political institutions, social structures, and cultural practices. Studies men and women, nobles and commoners, as well as Europeans and some non-Europeans with whom they came into contact.
V. Pugliano

21H.144[J] Introduction to Russian Studies (New)
Same subject as 21G.087[J]
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2019-2020: Not offered
Acad Year 2020-2021: U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
See description under subject 21G.087[J]. Limited to 25.
E. Wood, M. Khotimsky

21H.151 Traditional China: Earliest Times to 1644
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2019-2020: Not offered
Acad Year 2020-2021: U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
Examines how traditional China originated a civilization of universal meaning and persistent influence, including ideologies, technologies, and culture. Explains how this unique civilization and the Chinese state at its center developed, considers its patterns, and assesses its impact. Emphasizes analysis of structures as well as knowledge of events.
Staff

21H.152 Modern China: 1644 to the Present
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
Surveys China from its last empire through its reemergence as a power in modern times. Examines how China’s contemporary transformation has lifted hundreds of millions from poverty, refashioned social relations, and altered international politics. Students debate the causes and consequences of these major events and speculate on China’s future in the light of its past.
Staff

21H.154 Inventing the Samurai
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
Explores the historical origins of the Japanese warrior class as well as its reinvention throughout the archipelago’s history. Special focus on the pre-modern era (200-1600 CE). Highlights key historical contexts including the rise of the imperial court, interactions with the broader world, and the establishment of a warrior-dominated state. Also considers the modern imaginations and uses of the warrior figure.
H. Nagahara
21H.155 Modern Japan: 1600 to Present  
Prereq: None  
U (Spring)  
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Surveys Japanese history from the establishment of the Tokugawa shogunate in 1603 to the present and explores the local and global nature of modernity in Japan. Highlights key themes, including the emergence of a modern nation-state, the rise and fall of the Japanese Empire, the development of mass consumer culture and the middle class, and the continued importance of historical memory in Japan today.  

H. Nagahara

21H.157 Modern South Asia  
Prereq: None  
U (Fall)  
3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Explores the political, social, and economic history of South Asia from the 18th century to the present day. Topics include colonial rule; anti-colonial movements; nationalism and the creation of modern India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh; the post-colonial nation state; social movements; religious identity; involvement of the United States in the region; and economic development. Students develop an understanding of the current successes, failures, and challenges facing the people and states of contemporary South Asia from a historical perspective.  

S. Aiyar

21H.160 Islam, the Middle East, and the West  
Prereq: None  
U (Fall)  
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Provides students with an overview of basic themes and issues in Middle Eastern history from the rise of Islam to the present, with an emphasis on exchanges and encounters between the Middle East and Europe/North America. Examines the history of the notion of “East” and “West;” the emergence of Islam and the Christianization of Europe; Ottoman expansion; the flourishing of European powers; European competition with and colonization of Middle Eastern societies, and Middle Eastern responses, including Arab and Iranian nationalisms as well as the rise of Political Islam, the “Clash of Civilizations”, and Islamophobia.  

P. Alimagham

21H.161 The Modern Middle East  
Prereq: None  
U (Spring)  
3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Surveys the history of the Middle East, from the end of the 19th century to the present. Examines major political, social, intellectual and cultural issues and practices. Focuses on important events, movements, and ideas that prevailed during the last century and affect its current realities. Enrollment limited.  

P. Alimagham

21H.165 A Survey of Modern African History  
Prereq: None  
U (Spring)  
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Surveys the history of 19th- and 20th-century Africa. Focuses on the European conquest of Africa and the dynamics of colonial rule, especially its socioeconomic and cultural consequences. Looks at how the rising tide of African nationalism, in the form of labor strikes and guerrilla wars, ushered out colonialism. Examines the postcolonial states, focusing on the politics of development, recent civil wars in countries like Rwanda and Liberia, the AIDS epidemic, and the history of Apartheid in South Africa up to 1994.  

K. Mutongi

21H.170(J] Introduction to Latin American Studies  
Same subject as 17.55[J], 21A.130[J], 21G.084[J]  
Prereq: None  
Acad Year 2019-2020: U (Fall)  
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered  
3-0-9 units. HASS-S; CI-H

See description under subject 17.55[J].  

T. Padilla, P. Duong

21H.171 Latin America: Revolution, Dictatorship, and Democracy, 1850 to Present  
Prereq: None  
U (Fall)  
Not offered regularly; consult department  
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Selective survey of Latin American history from the mid-19th century to the present. Issues studied include: dictators and democracies in the 20th century, revolution in Mexico, Cuba, and Central America, Latin America in the global economy, relations between Latin America and the U.S., indigenismo, feminism, and the varieties of religion in Latin America.  

T. Padilla
21H.172[J] Latin America Through Film
Same subject as 21G.078[J]
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
Traces Latin American history through film and analyzes how this medium represents events in the recent and distant past. Weekly movies provide a window through which to analyze themes such as colonialism, national formation, revolution, gender, race relations, popular mobilizations and counterinsurgency. Examines films for how they represent a particular group or country, the reality they capture or obscure, and the message they convey.
T. Padilla

21H.181[J] Libertarianism in History
Same subject as 17.035[J]
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
Explores the history of the ideal of individual liberty in light of contemporary arguments over the proper scope of the regulatory state. Surveys the political theory of freedom and its relationship to competing norms (property, equality, community, republicanism, and innovation). Considers examples of modern liberation movements, including abolitionism and the Civil Rights movement, religious liberty, and LGBT rights. Concludes with a set of policy debates about the role of government in regulating health care, the financial markets, and the internet.
M. Ghachem

21H.185[J] Environment and History
Same subject as 12.386[J]
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-S; CI-H
Focusing on the period from 1500 to the present, explores the influence of climate, topography, plants, animals, and microorganisms on human history and the reciprocal influence of people on the environment. Topics include the European encounter with the Americas, the impact of modern technology, and the current environmental crisis. Enrollment limited.
H. Ritvo, S. Solomon

Intermediate

21H.201 The American Revolution
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
English and American backgrounds of the Revolution; issues and arguments in the Anglo-American conflict; colonial resistance and the beginnings of republicanism; the Revolutionary War; constitution writing for the states and nation; and effects of the American Revolution. Concerned primarily with the revolutionary origins of American government and laws. Readings emphasize documents from the period--pamphlets, correspondence, the minutes or resolutions of resistance organizations, constitutional documents and debates.
Staff

Same subject as STS.027[J]
Subject meets with STS.427
Prereq: Permission of instructor
Acad Year 2019-2020: U (Fall)
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
See description under subject STS.027[J].
M. R. Smith

21H.211 The United States in the Nuclear Age
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
Examines the culture that developed in the US during the early years of the Cold War, at the dawn of the nuclear age. Topics include new family structures and civil defense strategies that emerged in response to the promise and perils of nuclear power; the role of anxiety and insecurity in transforming American politics and psychology; the development of computing technology and the changes it brought to American workspaces; the social impacts of space exploration, suburbanization, and the construction of highways and shopping malls; and new models used by social scientists and other experts to predict human behavior and the future.
C. Horan
Same subject as 17.28[J]
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units. HASS-S
See description under subject 17.28[J].
A. Berinsky, C. Capozzola

21H.214 War and American Society
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2019-2020: Not offered
Acad Year 2020-2021: U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
Examines how issues of war and national security have affected politics, economics, and society from the First World War to the war in Iraq. Draws on historical evidence as well as representations in film, music and popular culture.
C. Capozzola

21H.217[J] American Urban History
Same subject as 11.013[J]
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
2-0-7 units. HASS-H; CI-H
See description under subject 11.013[J].
R. M. Fogelson

21H.218[J] History of the Built Environment in the US
Same subject as 11.014[J]
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
2-0-7 units. HASS-H; CI-H
See description under subject 11.014[J].
R. M. Fogelson

21H.220[J] Metropolis: A Comparative History of New York City
Same subject as 11.150[J]
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
Examines the evolution of New York City from 1607 to the present. Readings focus on the city's social and physical histories. Discussions compare New York's development to patterns in other cities.
C. Wilder

21H.226[J] Riots, Strikes, and Conspiracies in American History
Same subject as 11.015[J]
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H
Focuses on a series of short, complicated, traumatic events that shed light on American politics, culture, and society. Events studied may include the rendition of Anthony Burns in 1854, the most famous fugitive slave controversy in US history; the Homestead strike/lockout of 1892; the quiz show scandal of the 1950s; and the student uprisings at Columbia University in 1968. Emphasis on finding ways to make sense of these events and on using them to understand larger processes of change in American history.
R. M. Fogelson

21H.227 Constitutional Law in US History
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-S
Introduces major themes and patterns of change in American constitutional law since 1787, including federal-state relations, racial and gender equality, economic regulation, and civil liberties. Readings consist of original court cases, especially from the US Supreme Court, including cases of the current term. Emphasis on the historical development of constitutional law and on the relationship between the Supreme Court and broader social, political, and cultural trends.
C. Capozzola

21H.228 American Classics
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H
Students read, discuss, and write about critical works in American history from the 17th through the 20th centuries. Includes writings by early Puritan writers, Franklin, Paine, Jefferson, and Madison; Lewis and Clark; Frederick Douglass; Harriet Beecher Stowe; the Lincoln-Douglas debates; U. S. Grant, W. E. B. Dubois, Andrew Carnegie, Horatio Alger, F. D. Roosevelt, Betty Friedan, and Martin Luther King, Jr. May also include music, recorded speeches, television programs, visual images, or films. Enrollment limited.
C. Wilder
HISTORY (COURSE 21H)

21H.229 The Black Radical Tradition in America
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
Focuses on American history from the African-American perspective. Includes alternative visions of the nation’s future, and definitions of its progress, that have called for a fundamental restructuring of political, economic and social relations. Introduces events, figures and institutions that have shaped African-American history, from the struggles to dominate the African coast and the emergence of a modern slave trade, through the fall of the Western slave societies. Also examines the experiences of Africans in other parts of North America, as well as South America and the Caribbean.
C. Wilder

21H.230 Barbarians, Saints, and Emperors
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
Explores the late Roman Empire and its transformations during Late Antiquity (c.300-c.700). Questions the traditional decline and fall narrative of the period, which argues that Christianity and barbarians destroyed classical civilization and ushered in the Dark Ages. Explores such topics as Romans and barbarians, paganism and Christianity, politics and war, Rome and Constantinople, and bishops and saints. Discusses the influence of such characters as Constantine the Great, St. Augustine, Attila the Hun, and the prophet Mohammed.
E. Goldberg

21H.237 The City of Athens in the Age of Pericles
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2019-2020: Not offered
Acad Year 2020-2021: U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
Historical topography of ancient Athens. Investigates the relationship between urban architecture and political, social, and cultural history of Athens in the 5th and 4th centuries BC. Surveys and analyzes archeological and literary evidence, including the sanctuary of Athena on the Acropolis, the Agora, Greek houses, the histories of Herodotus and Thucydides, plays of Sophocles and Aristophanes, and the panhellenic sanctuaries of Delphi and Olympia.
W. Broadhead

21H.238 The Vikings
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
Explores the complex relationship of the Vikings with the medieval world. Investigates the dynamics of Viking expansion, not only in terms of raiding and conflict, but also as a process of diplomacy, settlement, assimilation, and colonization. Examines developments within Scandinavian society such as state formation, social structures, trade, shipbuilding, slavery, urban growth, and Christianization. Considers the methodological difficulties presented by the diverse and often contradictory historical sources for information about the Vikings, such as chronicles, archaeology, coin hoards, stone inscriptions, and sagas.
E. Goldberg

21H.239 The City of Rome in the Age of the Caesars
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
Historical topography of Ancient Rome. Investigates the relationship between urban architecture and the political, social, and cultural history of Rome from the 1st century BC to the 2nd century AD. Surveys and analyzes archaeological and literary evidence, including the Roman Forum, the Imperial fora, the palace of the emperors, the atrium houses of Roman Pompeii, the Colosseum, the Pantheon, Polybius’ history, Martial’s Epigrams, and Vitruvius’ treatise on architecture.
W. Broadhead

21H.240 The World of Charlemagne
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2019-2020: Not offered
Acad Year 2020-2021: U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H
Investigates the world of the first medieval emperor, Charles the Great, or Charlemagne (768-814). Focuses on how Charlemagne and his dynasty, the Carolingians (ruled 751-888), forged a vast empire out of the diverse peoples and territories of Europe - not only through conquests and military might, but through Christianity and the Church, education and literacy, government and law, art and architecture, and a fundamental reorganization of the economy and society. Considers the enduring contributions of Charlemagne and his family to the formation of Europe as well as the shortcomings and failures of their empire.
E. Goldberg
Same subject as 21G.054[J]  
Prereq: None  
U (Spring)  
Not offered regularly; consult department  
3-0-9 units. HASS-H  

Explores the question of whether the French Enlightenment caused the French Revolution. Studies France prior to 1789, analyzes some of the most critically corrosive works of the French Enlightenment, and considers how ideas circulated through France and Europe in the eighteenth century. Examines the role of enlightened ideas in France during the revolutionary decade from 1789 to 1799.  

J. Ravel  

21H.242[J] Frenchness in an Era of Globalization  
Same subject as 21G.322[J]  
Prereq: One intermediate subject in French or permission of instructor  
U (Fall)  
Not offered regularly; consult department  
3-0-9 units. HASS-H  

See description under subject 21G.322[J]. Limited to 18.  

C. Clark  

21H.244[J] Imperial and Revolutionary Russia: Culture and Politics, 1700-1917  
Same subject as 21G.085[J]  
Prereq: None  
U (Fall)  
3-0-9 units. HASS-H  

Analyzes Russia’s social, cultural, and political heritage in the 18th and 19th centuries, up to and including the Russian Revolution of 1917. Compares reforming and revolutionary impulses in the context of serfdom, the rise of the intelligentsia, and debates over capitalism. Focuses on historical and literary texts, especially the intersections between the two.  

E. Wood  

21H.245[J] Soviet and Post-Soviet Politics and Society: 1917 to the Present  
Same subject as 17.57[J], 21G.086[J]  
Prereq: None  
U (Spring)  
3-0-9 units. HASS-S; CI-H  

Explores the political and historical evolution of the Soviet state and society from the 1917 Revolution to the present. Covers the creation of a revolutionary regime, causes and nature of the Stalin revolution, post-Stalinist efforts to achieve political and social reform, and causes of the Soviet collapse. Also examines current developments in Russia in light of Soviet history. Enrollment limited.  

E. Wood  

Same subject as 21G.075[J]  
Subject meets with 21G.196  
Prereq: None  
U (Fall)  
Not offered regularly; consult department  
3-0-9 units. HASS-H  

See description under subject 21G.075[J].  

E. Teng  

21H.260 Cities in the Middle East: History, Politics and Society  
Prereq: None  
U (Fall)  
Not offered regularly; consult department  
3-0-9 units. HASS-S  

Examines the role and centrality of cities in the history of the modern Middle East, through political, social, cultural and urban interactions. Begins with a theoretical introduction of the different approaches for investigating urban spaces, and follows with discussions of case studies that demonstrate the diversity of urban centers in the Middle East, including Beirut, Istanbul, Jerusalem, Mecca, Algiers, and Cairo.  

Staff
21H.261 Modern Iran: A Century of Revolution
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Provides an overview of Iran's modern history from a social, cultural, and political perspective while also considering factors as they relate to gender and race. Covers the country's long and complicated interaction with the "West." Situates Iran in the wider region, thereby delineating how political trends in the Middle East influenced the country and how its history of revolution has in turn impacted the region. Unpacks the Sunni-Shi'ite divide as a modern phenomenon rooted more in inter-state rivalry than in a theological dispute, Western perceptions of the Iranian and the Middle Eastern "Other," the Iranian Diaspora, political Islam, and post-Islamism.

P. Alimagham

21H.262 Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Surveys the history and various realities and challenges of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Introduces the fundamental historical trajectories of the conflict. Analyzes the conflicting narratives and perceptions of both Palestinians and Israelis over key moments and issues in the conflict’s history. Considers current challenges and possible solutions to the conflict. Limited to 15.

P. Alimagham

21H.263 Women and Gender in the Middle East and North Africa
Same subject as WGS.220
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2019-2020: U (Spring)
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

See description under subject WGS.220.

L. Eckmekcioğlu

21H.265 Humanitarianism and Africa: A Critical History (New)
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Examines two centuries of foreign interventions in Africa in the name of humanitarian principles, from the abolition of the slave trade to the most recent Ebola crisis in West Africa. Explores humanitarianism and how it informs the understanding of poverty, race, and violence; and who gives and receives aid. Scrutinizes the prejudices about Africans embedded within salvation projects and how these campaigns have been part of the larger dynamics of power that have defined Africa’s position in the world before, during, and after the European colonization of the continent. Reflects upon the practical and morally ethical alternatives in a world still shaped by suffering and injustice.

K. Mutongi

21H.266 South Africa and Apartheid (New)
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Explores the spatial, legal, economic, social and political structures that created Apartheid in South Africa, and the factors that led to the collapse of the racist order. Examines the many forces of black oppression and the various forms of resistance to Apartheid. Themes include industrialization and the formation of the black working classes, constructions of race, ethnicities and sexualities, land alienation and rural struggles, township poverty and violence, black education, and the Black Consciousness Movement.

K. Mutongi

21H.273 From Coca to Cocaine: Drug Economies in Latin America
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Explores how drug production and consumption has affected Latin America’s political, cultural and economic life and shaped US foreign policy toward the region. Discusses the history of different psychoactive substances and analyzes why certain drugs became illegal. Pays particular attention to the relationship between strategies of interdiction, poverty, and drug violence. Limited to 35.

T. Padilla
21H.274[J] Creation of a Continent: Representations of Hispanic America, 1492-1898, in Literature and Film
Same subject as 21G.731[J]
Prereq: One intermediate Spanish subject or permission of instructor
Acad Year 2019-2020: U (Fall)
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
See description under subject 21G.731[J].

P. Duong

21H.281 MIT and Slavery: Research
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H
Explores the influence of slavery and race on MIT’s founding and early development, and the connections between slavery and the rise of sciences and engineering. Students will have their research projects published through the MIT and Slavery website. While 21H.281 and 21H.282 are sequential, students have the option of taking either or both.
N. Murphy, C. Wilder

21H.282 MIT and Slavery: Publication
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
Students work on turning research from 21H.281 into publishable quality essays, researching images and other supporting documentary materials, and developing the main narrative of the MIT and Slavery website, for which they receive editorial credit. While 21H.281 and 21H.282 are sequential, students have the option of taking either or both.
N. Murphy, C. Wilder

Same subject as STS.025[J]
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2019-2020: Not offered
Acad Year 2020-2021: U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
See description under subject STS.025[J].
M. R. Smith

Seminars

21H.315 American Consumer Culture
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
2-0-10 units. HASS-H
Examines how and why 20th-century Americans came to define the “good life” through consumption, leisure, and material abundance. Explores how such things as department stores, advertising, mass-produced cars, and suburbs transformed the American economy, society, and politics.
C. Horan

21H.319 Race, Crime, and Citizenship in American Law
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-S
Provides an introduction to the law of race in the United States, focusing on the development of America’s criminal justice system since Reconstruction. Examines ongoing debates over whether “mass incarceration” amounts to an instrument of racial control. Considers the relationship between American race legislation and changing definitions of citizenship at key moments in the late 19th and 20th centuries. Case studies include immigration restriction, the death penalty, criminal procedure, and national security policing before and after 9/11.
M. Ghachem

21H.320[J] Gender and the Law in US History
Same subject as WGS.161[J]
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
Explores the legal history of the US as a gendered system. Examines how women have shaped the meanings of American citizenship through pursuit of political rights such as suffrage, jury duty, and military service, as well as how the legal system has shaped gender relations through regulation of such issues as marriage, divorce, work, reproduction, and the family. Readings draw from primary and secondary materials, focusing on the broad historical relationship between law and society. No legal knowledge is required or assumed.
C. Capozzola
21H.321[J] Downtown
Same subject as 11.026[J]
Subject meets with 11.339
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
2-0-7 units. HASS-H

Seminar on downtown in US cities from the late 19th century to the late 20th. Emphasis on downtown as an idea, place, and cluster of interests, on the changing character of downtown, and on recent efforts to rebuild it. Considers subways, skyscrapers, highways, urban renewal, and retail centers. Focus on readings, discussions, and individual research projects. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.
R. M. Fogelson

21H.322 Christianity in America
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

C. Wilder

21H.331 Julius Caesar and the Fall of the Roman Republic
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Ancient Rome from 133 to 27 BC. Explores political, social, and economic factors commonly offered to explain the fall of the Roman Republic: growth of the territorial empire, increased intensity of aristocratic competition, transformation of the Italian economy, growth of the city of Rome and dependence of the urban plebs, changes in military recruitment and dependence of soldiers on their generals. Emphasis on the reading of ancient sources in translation, including Cicero, Sallust, Caesar, Augustus, Appian, Plutarch, and Suetonius. Instruction and practice in oral and written communication provided. Taught in seminar format with emphasis on class participation. Limited to 15.
W. Broadhead

21H.333 Early Christianity
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Introduction to the history of early Christianity, from Jesus to Muhammad. Investigates the origins and spread of the Jesus movement within the ancient Jewish and Roman worlds, the emergence of the Church, and the diversity of early Christian thought, spirituality, literature, and art. Examines such topics as the historical Jesus and Paul, relations among Jews, Romans, and Christians, debates over orthodoxy and heresy, the conversion of the Roman empire, the rise of bishops and monasticism, the Church Fathers, and the cult of the saints.
E. Goldberg

21H.336 The Making of a Roman Emperor
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Through close examination of the emperor Augustus and his Julio-Claudian successors, this subject investigates how Roman emperors used art, architecture, coinage, and other media to create and project an image of themselves, how the surviving literary sources from the Roman period reinforced or subverted that image, and how both phenomena have contributed to post-classical perceptions of Roman emperors. Also considers works of Suetonius and Tacitus, and modern representations of the emperors such as those found in the films I, Claudius, Quo Vadis, and HBO’s Rome series. Enrollment limited to 15.
W. Broadhead

Same subject as CC.120[J]
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-A

Explores the impact of new technology on the recording and distribution of words and images in Europe from 1400-1800. Assignments include essays and online projects. Students participate in the design and printing of an eight-page pamphlet on a hand-set printing press. Limited to 12.
E. Zimmer
21H.350 Business in China Since 1800
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Analyzes the characteristics of business in China since 1800 to provide a historical context for its contemporary economic development. Topics include China’s place in the world economy; early efforts at state-led industrialization; legal and social frameworks for business; foreign investments, companies, and competition; the emergence of a Chinese business class; the influence of socialism and reform-era politics on business. Includes case studies of contemporary companies and a research project.  
Staff

21H.351北京 and China's Modernization
Same subject as 11.153北京
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
Not offered regularly; consult department
2-0-10 units. HASS-H

Considers the history and function of Shanghai, from 1840 to the present, and its rise from provincial backwater to international metropolis. Examines its role as a primary point of economic, political, and social contact between China and the world, and the strong grip Shanghai holds on both the Chinese and foreign imagination. Students discuss the major events and figures of Shanghai, critique the classic historiography, and complete an independent project on Shanghai history.  
Staff

21H.354 World War II in Asia
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Examines World War II in the Asia-Pacific region, starting with the rise of the Japanese Empire after World War I and ending with the Allied occupation of Japan from 1945 to 1952. Highlights the diverse and, at times, contradictory forces in politics, society, and culture that shaped the wartime experiences of the empire’s inhabitants.  
H. Nagahara

21H.357 South Asian Migrations
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2019-2020: U (Spring)
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Provides a global history of South Asians and introduces students to the cultural, social, economic, and political experiences of immigrants who traveled across the world. Studies how and why South Asians, who have migrated to America, Europe, Africa, the Caribbean and the Middle East, are considered a model minority in some countries and unwanted strangers in others. Through literature, memoirs, films, music, and historical writing, follows South Asian migrants as they discovered the world beyond India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.  
S. Aiyar

21H.358 Colonialism in South Asia and Africa
Subject meets with 21H.958
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
2-0-10 units. HASS-H

Provides a comparative perspective on the history of colonialism in India and Africa. Explores the political, social, and economic changes brought about by colonial rule. Discusses the international context for the emergence of European Imperialism in the 19th century; the nature of early colonial expansion and consolidation; the re-invention of tradition in colonial societies, especially with regard to racial and ethnic identity, gender, religion, and caste; and expressions of anti-colonial resistance. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.  
S. Aiyar

21H.365 Minorities and Majorities in the Middle East
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Seminar considers “difference” and “sameness” as they have been conceived, experienced, and regulated by peoples of the Middle East, with a focus on the 19th and 20th centuries. First half discusses the Ottoman Empire. Explores how this multiethnic, polyglot empire survived for several relatively peaceful centuries and what happened when its formula for existence was challenged by politics based on mono-ethnic states. Second half focuses on post-Ottoman nation-states, such as Turkey and Egypt, and Western-mandated Arab states, such as Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, and Iraq. Concludes with a case analysis of Israel.  
L. Ekmekcioglu
21H.380[J] People and Other Animals
Same subject as 21A.411[J]
Subject meets with 21A.419[J], 21H.980[J]
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
Not offered regularly; consult department
2-0-10 units. HASS-S

Historical exploration of the ways that people have interacted with their closest animal relatives, for example: hunting, domestication of livestock, exploitation of animal labor, scientific study of animals, display of exotic and performing animals, and pet-keeping. Themes include changing ideas about animal agency and intelligence, our moral obligations to animals, and the limits imposed on the use of animals. Students taking the graduate version complete additional assignments.

H. Ritvo

21H.381[J] Women and War
Same subject as WGS.222[J]
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Examines women’s experiences during and after war and genocide, covering the first half of the 20th century in Europe and the Middle East. Addresses ways in which women’s wartime suffering has been used to further a variety of political and social agendas. Discussions focus on a different topic each week, such as sexual violence, women survivors, female perpetrators of genocide, nurses, children of genocidal rape, and the memory of war.

L. Ekmekcioglu

21H.382 Capitalism in the Age of Revolution
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Examines the critical period from the late 17th to the early 19th centuries during which the North Atlantic economies (France, Britain, the Netherlands, and their colonial dependencies) developed recognizable modern, capitalist institutions and practices. Focuses on the rise of publicly traded companies, the relationship between war and state debt, stock markets, and the transition from metallic to paper currency. Considers the role of plantation slavery in the growth of financial capitalism, and the explosive politics of speculation in the American and French revolutions.

M. Ghachem

21H.383 Technology and the Global Economy, 1000-2000
Subject meets with 21H.982
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Examines the global history of the last millennium, including technological change, commodity exchange, systems of production, and economic growth. Students engage with economic history, medieval and early modern origins of modern systems of production, consumption and global exchange. Topics include the long pre-history of modern economic development; medieval world systems; the age of discovery, the global crisis of the 17th century; demographic systems, global population movements; the industrial revolution, the rise of the modern consumer; colonialism and empire building; patterns of inequality, within and across states; the curse of natural resources fate of Africa; and the threat of climate change to modern economic systems. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

A. McCants

21H.385[J] The Ghetto: From Venice to Harlem
Same subject as 11.152[J]
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Provides an in-depth look at a modern institution of oppression: the ghetto. Uses literature to examine ghettoization over time and across a wide geographical area, from Jews in Medieval Europe to African-Americans and Latinos in the 20th-century United States. Also explores segregation and poverty in the urban "Third World."

C. Wilder

21H.390 Theories and Methods in the Study of History
Subject meets with 21H.991
Prereq: Two History subjects or permission of instructor
U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Examines the distinctive ways in which historians in different parts of the world have approached the task of writing history. Explores methodologies used, such as political, social, economic, cultural, and popular histories through the reading and discussion of relevant and innovative texts. Introduces a variety of sources (archival documents, statistical data, film, fiction, memoirs, artifacts, and images) and the ways they can be used to research, interpret, and present the past. Assignments include an original research paper. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

H. Ritvo
21H.391 Undergraduate Independent Study
Prereq: None
U (Fall, IAP)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.
Individual supervised work for students who wish to explore an area of interest in history. Before registering, a student must plan a course of study with a member of the History Faculty and secure approval from the Head of the History Faculty. Normal maximum is 6 units; exceptional 9-unit projects occasionally approved.
M. Ghachem

21H.392 Undergraduate Independent Study
Prereq: Permission of instructor
U (Spring)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.
Individual supervised work for students who wish to explore an area of interest in history. Before registering, a student must plan a course of study with a member of the History Faculty and secure approval from the Head of the History Faculty. Normal maximum is 6 units; exceptional 9-unit projects occasionally approved.
M. Ghachem

Special Subjects

21H.S01 Special Subject: History
Prereq: Permission of instructor
U (Fall)
3-0-9 units
Can be repeated for credit.
Opportunity for group study of special subject not listed in the regular History curriculum.
Staff

21H.S02 Special Subject: History
Prereq: Permission of instructor
U (Fall, Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units
Can be repeated for credit.
Opportunity for group study of special subject not listed in the regular History curriculum.
Staff

21H.S03 Special Subject: History
Prereq: None
U (Fall, IAP, Spring; partial term)
Not offered regularly; consult department
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.
Opportunity for group study of special subject not listed in the regular History curriculum.
Staff

21H.S04 Special Subject: History
Prereq: Permission of instructor
U (Fall, Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.
Opportunity for group study of special subject not listed in the regular History curriculum.
Staff

Undergraduate Research

21H.THT History Pre-Thesis Tutorial
Prereq: None
U (Fall, IAP, Spring)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.
Students writing a thesis in History develop their research topics, review relevant research and scholarship, frame their research questions and arguments, choose an appropriate methodology for analysis, and draft the introductory and methodology sections of their theses. Includes substantial practice in writing (with revision) and oral presentations.
M. Ghachem

21H.THU History Thesis
Prereq: 21H.THT
U (Fall, IAP, Spring)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.
Completion of work on the senior major thesis under supervision of a faculty thesis advisor. Includes oral presentation of thesis progress early in the term, assembling and revising the final text, and a final meeting with a committee of faculty evaluators to discuss the successes and limitations of the project. Required for students pursuing a full major in History.
M. Ghachem
21H.UR Undergraduate Research
Prereq: None
U (Fall; IAP; Spring; Summer)
Units arranged [P/D/F]
Can be repeated for credit.

Individual participation in an ongoing research project. For students in the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program.
L. Ekmekcioglu

21H.URG Undergraduate Research
Prereq: None
U (Fall; IAP; Spring; Summer)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.

Individual participation in an ongoing research project. For students in the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program.
L. Ekmekcioglu

Graduate Subjects

21H.902 Reading Seminar in American History: 1877 to Present
Prereq: 21H.991 and permission of instructor
G (Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units

Develops teaching knowledge and research skills through extensive reading and discussion of major works in modern US history. Readings cover a range of topics and historical methods. Students make frequent oral presentations and submit a major work consisting of original research or historiographic interpretation.
C. Wilder

21H.958 Colonialism in South Asia and Africa
Subject meets with 21H.358
Prereq: None
G (Spring)
3-0-10 units

Provides a comparative perspective on the history of colonialism in India and Africa. Explores the political, social, and economic changes brought about by colonial rule. Discusses the international context for the emergence of European Imperialism in the 19th century; the nature of early colonial expansion and consolidation; the re-invention of tradition in colonial societies, especially with regard to racial and ethnic identity, gender, religion, and caste; and expressions of anti-colonial resistance. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.
S. Aiyar

21H.980 People and Other Animals
Same subject as 21A.419
Subject meets with 21A.411, 21H.380
Prereq: None
G (Fall)
Not offered regularly; consult department
2-0-10 units

Historical exploration of the ways that people have interacted with their closest animal relatives, for example: hunting, domestication of livestock, exploitation of animal labor, scientific study of animals, display of exotic and performing animals, and pet-keeping. Themes include changing ideas about animal agency and intelligence, our moral obligations to animals, and the limits imposed on the use of animals. Students taking the graduate version complete additional assignments.
H. Ritvo

21H.981 Seminar in Nature, Environment, and Empire
Prereq: None
G (Fall)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units

Explores the relationship between the study of natural history, both domestic and exotic, by Europeans and Americans, and concrete exploitation of the natural world. Focuses on the 18th and 19th centuries.
H. Ritvo

21H.982 Technology and the Global Economy, 1000-2000
Subject meets with 21H.383
Prereq: None
G (Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units

Examines the global history of the last millennium, including technological change, commodity exchange, systems of production, and economic growth. Students engage with economic history, medieval and early modern origins of modern systems of production, consumption and global exchange. Topics include the long pre-history of modern economic development; medieval world systems; the age of discovery, the global crisis of the 17th century; demographic systems, global population movements; the industrial revolution, the rise of the modern consumer; colonialism and empire building; patterns of inequality, within and across states; the curse of natural resources fate of Africa; and the threat of climate change to modern economic systems. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.
A. McCants
21H.983[J] Gender
Same subject as WGS.310[J]
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2019-2020: Not offered
Acad Year 2020-2021: G (Spring)
3-0-9 units

Examines the definition of gender in scientific, societal, and historical contexts. Explores how gender influences state formation and the work of the state, what role gender plays in imperialism and in the welfare state, the ever-present relationship between gender and war, and different states’ regulation of the body in gendered ways at different times. Investigates new directions in the study of gender as historians, anthropologists and others have taken on this fascinating set of problems. Open to advanced undergraduates with permission of instructor.

L. Ekmekcioglu, E. Wood

21H.984[J] Risk, Fortune, and Futurity
Same subject as STS.414[J]
Prereq: None
G (Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units

Exploration of interdisciplinary scholarship on risk, chance, and fortune. Begins with a survey of theoretical approaches to the field, then proceeds chronologically to explore the emergence of risk and its impacts on human life in multiple arenas including economics, politics, culture, environment, science, and technology from the 16th century to the present. Open to undergraduates with permission of instructor; consult department for details.

W. Deringer, C. Horan

21H.991 Theories and Methods in the Study of History
Subject meets with 21H.390
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall)
3-0-9 units

Examines the distinctive ways in which historians in different parts of the world have approached the task of writing history. Explores methodologies used, such as political, social, economic, cultural, and popular histories through the reading and discussion of relevant and innovative texts. Introduces a variety of sources (archival documents, statistical data, film, fiction, memoirs, artifacts, and images) and the ways they can be used to research, interpret, and present the past. Assignments include an original research paper. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

H. Ritvo

21H.999 Teaching History
Prereq: None
G (Fall, Spring)
Units arranged [P/D/F]
Can be repeated for credit.

For qualified graduate students serving as either a teaching assistant or instructor for subjects in History. Enrollment limited by availability of suitable teaching assignments.

Staff