

Department of History

COURSE GUIDE SPRING 2025

Department of History

<http://history.camden.rutgers.edu/>



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Department of History
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Please visit our website for more information about the department,
including:

- Faculty specialties and areas of interest
- Faculty news and student accomplishments
- History major and minor requirements
- Advising
- History Graduate program

And much more!

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On Sabbatical

To graduate with a major in History, students must complete 33 credits (or 11 x 3-credit courses) of History classes.

One of these courses must be the required core course for the major, Perspectives on History (50:509:299), which History majors should take as soon as they can. Perspectives will teach history majors the following skills: 1. how to analyze primary sources; 2. how to read secondary sources in a critical manner; 3. how to cite sources properly; 4. how to write to the expectations of the discipline of history; 5. how to construct a historical argument; 6. how to evaluate the integrity, reliability, and usefulness of disparate sources; and 7. how to conduct independent research.

For the remaining 30 credits besides Perspectives, History majors must meet several requirements:

1. 18 of these credits must be from courses taken at Rutgers
2. 18 of these credits must be from 300- or 400- level courses
3. A maximum of 12 credits may be from 100- and 200- level courses, but no more than 6 credits can be counted from Western Civilization I and II (510:101 and 510:102) and Development of the United States I and II (512:201 and 512:202).
4. At least 3 credits must be from each of the three geographical areas: 510 (European), 512 (the United States), and 516 (African, Asian, Latin American, and comparative history).
5. No more than nine credits will be accepted for the major from online courses, of which six credits may be at the 100-200 level, and 3 credits may be at the 300-400 level.
(This policy will not apply to students who declared the History major before fall 2016.)
6. 6 credits may be counted from Western Civilization I, II, and III(510:101, 510:102, and 510:103) and Development of the United States I and II (512:201 and 512:202)

Grades lower than C do not count toward fulfillment of the History major requirement.

History internships and courses offered in the university's Honors College may also count toward the major, with the department chair's permission.

If students wish, they may take more than 33 credits of History courses. Students who would like to immerse themselves in reading and research should consider finding a faculty member to supervise their Honor's Thesis in History (509:495), to be conducted as an independent study in addition to the 33 credits demanded of the major.

Those students seeking certification in teaching should be aware that a requirement is to take a course from a selection dealing with human and intercultural relations. Several history courses may be counted for this purpose and for the History major.

Students should feel free to drop in and visit us in our offices at 429 Cooper Street. The History Department Chair is Dr. Andrew Shankman, (856) 225-6477, the Interim Undergraduate Program Coordinator Dr. Wendy Woloson, 856-225-2711, and the Interim History Graduate Director Dr. Lorrin Thomas, 856-225-2656.

They will gladly answer questions about our classes, about majoring in History, and about transferring credit for History courses taken at other schools. Students are also welcome to consult with a faculty member of their choice for History advising.

History Concentrations

Optional History concentrations for both History majors and History minors

- Concentrations are available to all current and future majors/minors
- Choose any *one* of 16 thematic and geographic tracks (see lists below) as your concentration within the major
- Complete any 5 courses in any concentration by the time you graduate
- These 5 courses count toward your major or minor -- no extra courses required!
- Concentrations can be declared or changed at any time
- Concentrations can be put on resumes and job applications
- Concentrations more easily explain your main area of interest to parents, friends, or employers
- Concentrations are always *optional* -- you can still opt for no concentration and complete a general History major or minor

Available History Concentrations

(see page 19 of this Course Guide for a list of Spring 2025 courses and the concentrations they fulfill)

Thematic Concentrations	Geographic Concentrations
Business, Finance, & Economics	China, Japan, & Asia
Culture, Literature, & Art	Africa & the Middle East
Empires, Imperialism, & Colonialism	Europe & Its Empires
Gender, Sexuality, & Society	Latin America & the Caribbean
International Relations & Global Affairs	United States History
Law, Politics, & Government	Global History
Public & Professional History	
Race, Ethnicity, & Immigration	
Science, Technology, & Medicine	
Religion, Philosophy	
World Cultures & Civilizations	
War, Peace, & Diplomacy	

DIGITAL HISTORY

50:509:290:01

T/Th 3:35 pm – 4:55 pm

Professor Bayker

This experiential learning course introduces students to the practice of digital history. Students will practice gathering, preserving, analyzing, mapping, and presenting history using digital tools including TimelineJS, Omeka S, and ArcGIS, among others. This course emphasizes teamwork and aims to cultivate the communication and problem-solving skills necessary for success in a collaborative, creative, and fast-paced work environment.

The class will work together to develop a multifaceted digital history project around one common research topic: the history of Rutgers University–Camden. Our campus traces its roots to the creation of the South Jersey Law School in 1926. In anticipation of the school's upcoming centennial, we will research the history of the campus and its surrounding community using a treasure trove of archival materials at Special Collections at the Paul Robeson Library. We will review archival materials such as yearbooks, student publications, ephemera, photographs, and maps of the campus and the city of Camden. We will also engage with a series of audiovisual materials, including oral history recordings with alumni. Using these materials, students will create a publicly accessible digital archive, curate digital exhibits, and build interactive features such as maps and timelines to highlight various aspects of Rutgers–Camden history for a public audience.

This is an introductory course that assumes no prior knowledge of the technologies we will use. All readings and digital tools that we will use are either available for free on the web or are free for Rutgers students through the university library and IT services.



**PERSPECTIVES ON HISTORY:
CLEOPATRA: GENDER, POWER, RACE AND HISTORY
50:509:299:01**

M/W 12:30 pm – 1:50 pm

Professor Jewell

GEN ED: GCM (Global Communities), WRI (Writing Intensive)

This course will focus on the historical Cleopatra and her reception in later historical periods and in different types of media. A polarizing figure, Cleopatra has attracted the attention of ancient and modern historians alike since her death, as well as countless renditions by poets, playwrights, novelists, film directors, and even in more recent pop culture, such as music videos. Students will focus first on reading and analysis of the ancient sources detailing her life—themselves divided in their opinion—and death, and her place in the history of ancient Egypt. Students will then examine how Cleopatra's image and legacy shifted under the pressure of later debates and cultural contexts from the Renaissance to the present day, especially in relation to the question of her gendered power as a female ruler, and more recently, the question of her racial identity. The Perspectives course involves the writing of one major paper, which students work on throughout the semester through multiple stages of drafting and workshopping. As a result, students will become familiar with the foundational research, writing, and analysis skills of an historian. The Perspectives course is required for all History Majors.



WESTERN CIVILIZATION II

50:510:102:01

T/Th 11:10 am – 12:30 pm

Professor Medawar

Gen Ed: GCM (Global Communities)

This course traces Europe's exciting transformation from a feudal system to a dominant force in the world. It will examine major developments such as medieval learning and architecture, the Crusades, the Plague, the Renaissance, the Reformation, the Witch-hunt, rebellions against the state, and the Scientific Revolution.



THE HOLOCAUST

50:510:267:01

T/TH 11:10 AM – 12:30 PM

Professor Marker

This course introduces students to the history and memory of the Holocaust. We will explore the rise of antisemitism, scientific racism and ethnonationalism in nineteenth-century Europe, connections between imperialism and colonialism and the rise of Nazism, case studies of victims and perpetrators, debates among historians about how to interpret the Holocaust, processes of reparations and restitution after World War II, and cultural representations of the Holocaust in European and US culture today.



ANCIENT ROME

50:510:304:01

M/W 3:45 pm – 5:05 pm

Professor Jewell

At the Battle of Actium in 31 BCE, Gaius Octavius, better known as Augustus, the first emperor, finally conquered the last of the Greeks—and the Romans as well. This course explores the rise of Rome and its empire in the provinces on either side of this watershed moment. From the emergence of Rome as a Mediterranean power in the late 200s BCE with the defeat of the Carthaginian empire, down to the early principate of the Roman emperors, students will study the major political and military developments in Roman imperialism in this course. Depending on course enrolment numbers, the class may also feature a 3-week role-playing game focused on a political crisis during the Roman Republic. In addition to this, students will discuss the impact of Roman rule on social, religious, economic and legal developments throughout Europe, Northern Africa, and the Near East, as well as interactions with regions beyond Roman control (e.g. India). Special consideration will be paid to how life differed for people in the empire according to their region and place (e.g. urban vs rural), local pre-Roman culture, social and legal status (e.g. slave, free or freed), religion, gender and other factors.



DEVELOPMENT OF UNITED STATES II

50:512:202:01

M/W 3:45 pm – 5:05 pm

Professor Bayker

Gen Ed: USW (U.S. in the World)



This course provides an introduction to American history from the Civil War and Reconstruction to the new millennium. We will examine key political, social, economic, and cultural developments of the period. The themes we will explore include the changing role and expansion of the federal government; industrialization and the growth of a mass consumer culture; the relationship of the United States to the rest of the world; social movements and the changing ideas about individual rights, equality, and freedom.

WOMEN IN AMERICAN HISTORY

50:512:220:01

M/W 9:35 am - 10:55 pm

Professor Bayker

Gen Ed: USW (U.S. in the World)

This course explores the history of women and gender in America from the colonial era to the twenty-first century with a focus on three key themes: labor, political participation, and the regulation of sexuality and reproductive rights. We will examine the everyday lives of women and trace the shifting cultural ideas about womanhood and manhood while paying special attention to the people who defied the gendered expectations of their era.



AGE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

50:512:305:01

M/W 2:05 pm – 3:25 pm

Professor Finger

This course explores the tumultuous decades that transformed North America forever, from the periphery of a global empire into the seat of a new and distinct people who would create their own empire. But the story of the American Revolution is more than just the story of independence from England. The war of 1775-1783 was the intersection of several conflicts, of which the struggle between colonies and mother country was only one. In a sense, there were as many revolutions as there were participants in the revolution. It was also the story of Native Americans fighting to maintain their own independence, of backcountry settlers quarreling with the local colonial elites, and of African-Americans fighting for liberty in starker terms than most colonists could imagine.

The era wrought changes in commerce, politics, culture, religion, and even fashion. And those changes reached more than just the English residents of thirteen colonies on the Atlantic Seaboard. The effects of the revolution would touch the hundreds of thousands of free and enslaved African-Americans, Indian villages from Florida to Detroit, and even beyond the sea to the Caribbean and to Europe. Because the revolutionary era encompasses so many transformative events, and so many perspectives, we will be adopting a multifocal approach, examining the revolution as experienced by men and women all over the continent.

At the most basic level, we will be asking how colonists formed the bonds that enabled them to successfully claim their independence and break their ties to the British empire, how those independent Americans then built their own republic, and how they determined who would be included or excluded from its benefits. In order to understand the era on its own terms, this course emphasizes primary source readings, including personal letters, political pamphlets, diaries, and newspapers. Only by direct engagement with the words and personalities of the revolutionary age can we begin to appreciate why it was indeed a revolution, and what it meant to the countless lives it touched.



BLACK CAMDEN: URBAN HISTORY AND THE AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

50:512:307:01

T/TH 2:00 pm – 3:20 pm

Professor Boyd

This course examines the urban Black experience from a historical perspective, centering on Camden, New Jersey. The course begins by providing students with a brief overview of urban history in the United States and Camden, and then proceeds to examine several modules throughout the semester that relate to the urban Black experience. These modules include Migration and Movement; Activism; Decline and Revolt; Entrepreneurship; Displacement & Reclaiming Space; Creating Beauty; Health and Wellness. These topics will be explored from a historical perspective; however, we will also make connections to the present.



**INTRODUCTORY TOPICS IN
WORLD HISTORY:**

U.S. Latin American Foreign Relations in the 20th Century

50:516:280:01

T/TH 3:35 pm – 4:55 pm

Professor Riley

Gen Ed: HAC (Heritages and Civilizations)

This course examines how the United States' grassroots social movements have continually mobilized to support and identified with Latin American revolutions throughout the twentieth century. By studying the Mexican, Cuban, and Nicaraguan Revolutions in a transnational perspective, students will learn how U.S. leftist activists of various backgrounds were ideologically shaped by and actively helped to shape revolutionary left politics across the Americas. In studying these three Latin American revolutions from the perspective of the U.S. Left, students will also learn about the role that U.S. economic investments and foreign policies played in shaping international events. Throughout the semester, the class will engage with bottom-up U.S.-Latin American relations from a variety of primary and secondary sources, including academic books and articles, activist memoirs and interviews, popular music, and films.



GRADUATE COURSES

RESEARCH IN EARLY AMERICA TO 1763

56:512:509:01

M 6:00 pm – 8:50 pm

Professor Shankman

History 509 is an early American Research seminar open to graduate students who have taken one or more of the following readings classes: History 504, History 505, History 506. Graduate students will write an article-length (approximately 10,000 to 12,000 words-30 to 35 pages) essay based on original research from within the time period of the pre-20th century North American/US readings class or classes they have taken.

READINGS IN THE CULTURAL HISTORY OF CAPITALISM

56:512:522:01

M 2:05 pm – 4:55 pm

Professor Woloson

The solidification of American capitalism during the 19th century was far from seamless and uncontested. This class focuses on how the process of capitalism changed culture and society during its formative years in America. We will focus on how people acceded to and contested the logic of capitalism as it increasingly permeated even non-commercial parts of people's lives. In addition to being a source of financial gain for some and a force of oppression for others, how did capitalism change the way people acted, how they felt, and what they believed in? Further, how did economic, cultural, and social systems overlap and intertwine, becoming contingent upon one another? We will read key works of scholarship in the of the cultural history of capitalism, broadly considered.

RESEARCH IN AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

56:512:543:01

T 6:00 pm – 8:50 pm

Professor Boyd

Research course on the principal themes and issues in African American History.

GENOCIDE IN GLOBAL HISTORY

56:512:555:01

W 2:05 pm – 4:55 pm

Professor Marker

In this graduate global readings course, we will consider the phenomenon of genocide in modern history from an explicitly global perspective. The core case study at the center of the course is the Holocaust, but we will think deeply about its historical connections to its primary precedents – the colonial genocides in German Southwest Africa in the early 1900s and the Armenian genocide during World War I. We will also explore how Holocaust memory has shaped our understanding of subsequent genocides in Cambodia, the Balkans, Rwanda, and elsewhere. Finally, we will examine the history and politics of labeling mass killings and atrocities as genocide in the past and the present.

CENTENNIAL HISTORY

56:512:590:01

W 6:00 pm – 8:50 pm

Professor Goodman

This course explores how the public has commemorated centennial events in the nation's history. How did these key moments—and the array of events, programs, and material culture produced to commemorate them—reflect and seek to resolve the nation's shifting values, conflicts, and self-conception? With a particular focus on the nation's 1876 Centennial Exposition, the Sesquicentennial Exposition of 1926, the nation's Bicentennial celebrations of 1976, and the forthcoming semi quincentennial of 2026, we will use the lens of centennials to delve into the history of memory and public history in America.



COLLOQUIUM IN RACE AND ETHNICITY

56:512:524:01

TH 6:00 pm – 8:50 pm

Professor Thomas

This course takes a comparative approach to examining the complex history of racial and ethnic difference in the Americas, from the sixteenth through the twenty-first century. We will explore how difference defined by physical and cultural markers of descent (“race” and “ethnicity”) have operated as social categories – differently in different regions – throughout the history of the Americas. We will investigate how the experiences of racial and ethnic difference varied across time, place, and group in the history of the region, and how hierarchies of race and ethnicity across time have shaped social and political outcomes. Finally, we will look at responses to racist ideologies in a variety of societies, tracking how scholars and others have conceptualized the legacies and ongoing realities of racism throughout the Americas.

Course Information	Thematic	Geographic
PERSPECTIVES ON HISTORY 50:509:299:01 Professor Jewell	Business, Finance, & Economics Culture, Literature, & Art Empires, Imperialism, & Colonialism Gender, Sexuality, & Society International Relations and Global Affairs Law, Politics, & Government Religion, Philosophy, & Ideas War, Peace, & Diplomacy World Cultures & Civilizations Public & Professional History	Europe & Its Empires United States Global History
WESTERN CIVILIZATION II 50:510:102:01 Professor Medawar	Business, Finance, & Economics Culture, Literature, & Art Empires, Imperialism, & Colonialism Gender, Sexuality, & Society International Relations and Global Affairs Law, Politics, & Government Religion, Philosophy, & Ideas Science, Technology, & Medicine World Cultures & Civilizations	Africa & Middle East Europe & Its Empires Global History
THE HOLOCAUST 50:510:267:01 Professor Marker	Business, Finance, & Economics Culture Literature, & Art	Europe
ANCIENT ROME 50:510:304:01 Professor Jewell	Culture, Literature, & Art Empires, Imperialism, & Colonialism Gender, Sexuality, & Society International Relations and Global Affairs Law, Politics, & Government Religion, Philosophy, & Ideas World Cultures & Civilizations Gender, Sexuality & Society	Global History Europe and Its Empires Africa and Middle East
DEVELOPMENT OF US II 50:512:202:01 Professor Bayker	Business, Finance, & Economics Imperialism, & Colonialism Gender, Sexuality, & Society Law, Politics, & Government Public & Professional History War, Peace, & Diplomacy Religion, Philosophy & Ideas International Relations & Global Affairs	United States
WOMEN IN AMERICAN HISTORY 50:512:220:01 Professor Bayker	Business, Finance, & Economics Culture, Literature, & Art Gender, Sexuality, & Society Law, Politics, & Government Religion, Philosophy, & Ideas Science, Technology, & Medicine	United States
AGE OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION 50:512:305:01 Professor Finger	Business, Finance, & Economics Imperialism, & Colonialism Law, Politics, & Government Public & Professional History Race, Ethnicity & immigration War, Peace, & Diplomacy International Relations & Global Affairs Religion, Philosophy, & Ideas	United States Global
BLACK CAMDEN: URBAN HISTORY AND THE AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE 50:512:307:01 Professor Boyd	Business, Finance, & Economics; Culture, Literature, & Art; Gender, Sexuality, & Society; Law, Politics, & Government; Public & Professional History Race, Ethnicity & immigration	United States

Undergraduate Courses

Course Number	Course Index	Course Name	Time	Instructor
50:509:290:01	21842	Digital History	T/TH 3:35 pm – 4:55 pm	Professor Bayker
50:509:299:01	21808	Perspectives on History	M/W 12:30 pm – 1:50 pm	Professor Jewell
50:510:102:01	21809	Western Civilization II	T/TH 11:10 am – 12:30 pm	Professor Medawar
50:510:267:01	21847	The Holocaust	T/TH 11:10 am – 12:30 pm	Professor Marker
50:510:304:01	21810	Ancient Rome	M/W 3:45 pm – 5:05 pm	Professor Jewell
50:512:202:01	21813	Development of U.S. II	M/W 3:45 pm – 5:05 pm	Professor Bayker
50:512:220:01	21816	Women in the American History	M/W 9:35 am – 10:55 pm	Professor Bayker
50:512:305:01	21813	Age of the American Revolution	M/W 2:05 pm – 3:25 pm	Professor Finger
50:512:307:01	21815	Black Camden: Urban History and the African American Experience	T/TH 2:00 pm – 3:20 pm	Professor Boyd
50:516:280:01	21818	Introductory Topics in World History	T/TH 3:35 pm – 4:55 pm	Professor Riley

Graduate Courses

56:512:509:01	21852	Research in Early America to 1763	M 6:00 pm – 8:50 pm	Professor Shankman
56:512:522:01	21820	Readings in the Cultural History of Capitalism	M 2:05 pm – 4:55 pm	Professor Woloson
56:512:524:01	21861	Colloquium In Race and Ethnicity	TH 6:00 pm – 8:50 pm	Professor Thomas
56:512:543:01	21853	Research in African American History	T 6:00 pm – 8:50 pm	Professor Boyd
56:512:555:01	21823	Genocide in Global History	W 2:05 pm – 4:55 pm	Professor Marker
56:512:590:01	21854	Centennial History	W 6:00 pm – 8:50 pm	Professor Goodman