

Department of History

COURSE GUIDE

SPRING 2026

Department of History

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

**Please visit our website for more information about the department,
including:**

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

And much more!

Department of History

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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 (i.e. 6 classes) 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, II and III (510:101, 510:102, and 510:103) 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 9 credits will be accepted for the major from online courses, of which 6 credits may be at the 100-200 level, and 3 credits may be at the 300-400 level.
6. If the student has chosen to declare an option concentration, at least 15 credits must be taken in the concentration. If the student does not declare a concentration or opts for the "General" concentration, this is not required.

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 Undergraduate Program Coordinator, Dr. Kate Epstein, 856-225-2721, and the 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 pages 22 @ 23 of this Course Guide for a list of Fall 2021 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	

PERSPECTIVES ON HISTORY

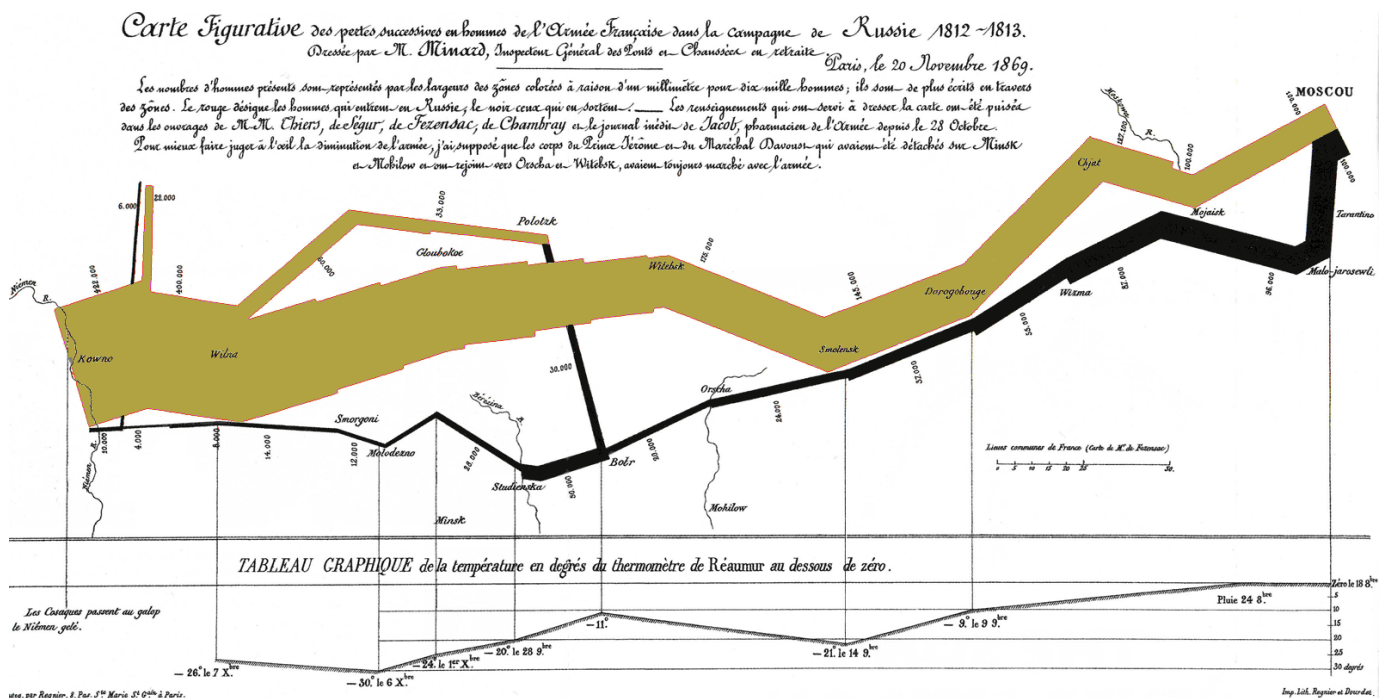
50:509:299:01

M/W 3:45 pm – 5:05 pm

Professor Kapur

Gen ED: GCM (Global Communities), USW (U.S. in the World)

What is the past, and how is it remembered (or forgotten)? How have conceptions of “history” evolved over time? In what ways (if any) does history differ from other disciplines or modes of analysis? How have various notions of the past been used (or abused) to support specific policies or course of action? Why should we study the past at all? In pondering these and other questions about the nature of history and the past, we will draw upon examples from American, European, and nonwestern history. Along the way, we will develop our skills in critically analyzing both primary and secondary materials, locating and properly citing historical sources, and developing a historical argument and supporting it with evidence. By producing a variety of short writing assignments, we will gradually work our way toward a 12-15 page historical research paper on a topic of each student's own interest.



WESTERN CIVILIZATION III

50:510:103:01

M/W 12:30 pm – 1:50 pm

Professor Marker

GEN ED: GCM (Global Communities)

This course explores the development of modern politics, society and culture in Europe and beyond from the mid-eighteenth century to the present. With such a vast time span under consideration, this course is *not* intended to be an exhaustive survey of modern European history. Rather, we will use a combination of lectures and primary texts as points of entry into the major historical events and trends of the era—the Enlightenment, the rise of capitalism, the French Revolution, industrialization, nationalism, imperialism, the World Wars, and decolonization. Coursework includes lecture, discussion, short presentations, a midterm, and a final exam.



FRENCH REVOLUTION AND NAPOLEON

50:510:322:01

T/Th 11:10 am – 12:30 pm

Professor Mokhberi

Gen ED: GCM (Global Communities)



In 1789, Frenchmen stormed the Bastille and shocked the world by killing their king in 1793. France entered a period of turbulent political change that put it at war with other European countries and culminated in the empire of Napoleon. Students will learn about the changes in ideas, culture, and politics that swept Europe into the modern age. The course will cover the new philosophies, the experiments in government, as well as the events of the French Revolution and the rise and fall of Napoleon.

ENGLAND IN THE AGE OF SHAKESPEARE

50:510:351:01

M/W 12:30 pm – 1:50 pm

Professor Shankman

Gen ED: GCM (Global Communities)

The period of English history that produced William Shakespeare has just about everything: The Wars of the Roses (the inspiration for Game of Thrones), Henry VIII and all six of his wives, Catholics killing Protestants and Protestants killing Catholics, Elizabeth the virgin queen, Shakespeare (of course), bishops chopping off the ears of ministers, the English people chopping off the head of their king, communists, and naked Quakers, the first truly modern revolution in world history, and, oh yes, the origins of almost all of the ideas that would later shape American law and government and the political and economic ideas that shaped the early United States.

More specifically: this course will examine the years from the late 1400s to the mid-1700s to discover how tiny, insignificant, and peripheral England became the dominant global power between the late fifteenth century and the mid eighteenth century. Broadly, this period was the age of Shakespeare, when the English people lived all of the major themes and issues he wrote about: chaos and violence, the origins of democracy, and the consequences of respecting and neglecting duty, honor, responsibility, and faith. England in the Age of Shakespeare is the story of the origins of much of the modern world as we now experience it.



ANCIENT ROME IN THE MOVIES

50:510:380:01

T/TH 2:00 pm – 3:20 pm

Professor Jewell

Gen ED: GCM (Global Communities)

Ancient Greece and Rome have captured the imagination of movie-goers and directors since the beginning of cinematic history. Some of the earliest silent films took stories and personalities from Roman history as their subject matter, while more recently the “sword and sandals” genre of movie brought Rome to mass audiences, from *Spartacus* to the *Gladiator* franchise. This course delves into this history of making movies about Roman history, contextualizing these movies (and some tv series) within the time when they were made, its culture and politics, and asking why *Rome* itself held enough relevance at different points in US (and World) history to be brought to large audiences. At the same time, this course understands movies and tv shows as historical sources in and of themselves, and as such, students will become equipped with the tools to talk and write about such media not only in terms of film-making, but their role in making history. Assessments in the course range from short film reviews, a podcast, a multi-media project and reading/viewing assignments.



AMERICA SINCE THE CIVIL WAR

50:512:202:01

M/W 9:35 am – 10:55 am

Professor Bayker

Gen Ed: USW (United States 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.

WORLD WAR II

50:512:285:01 AND 50:512:385:01

M/W 2:05 pm – 3:25 pm

Professor Epstein

Gen Ed: USW (United States in the World)



World War II never loses its fascination. The greatest catastrophe of the 20th century, it caused the deaths of some 60 million people, the large majority of whom were civilians. To understand the origins of the war, we will begin with World War I, and then trace the collapse of the fragile postwar peace in the 1920s and 1930s. By the time the United States entered World War II, it had been raging for years in Asia and Europe. We will study the famous battles, campaigns, weapons, and leaders familiar from popular accounts of the war. But we will also examine how the combatants mobilized their economies and societies, how they developed the logistical capacity to project combat power across oceans and continents, how everyday people and soldiers experienced the war, how the war and the Holocaust were related, and how the war generated new calls for decolonization and human rights. Last but not least, we will explore how the war changed the international order: vaulting the United States to superpower status, hastening the end of the European empires, leading to the establishment of the United Nations and the International Monetary Fund, and setting the stage for the Cold War.

The course is designed to be both accessible to non-History majors and rewarding for History majors. Students may opt to take it at either the 200-level or the 300-level. All students will listen to the same lectures and complete the same readings, but students at the 200-level will take two in-class exams and write one take-home paper, while students at the 300-level will take one in-class exam and write two take-home papers. This choice is being offered to enable students to take the course at a higher or a lower intensity, as they may prefer. Both the 200- and 300-level sections are approved for General Education credit in the “United States in the World” (USW) category.

AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY: HISTORY OF CELEBRATION AND MEMORY

50:512:304:01

T/TH 9:35 am – 10:55 am

Professor Goodman

This course explores how Americans have commemorated the nation's milestone birthdays, from the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia to the Semiquincentennial events of 2026. The past is not static, but rather something societies continually reinterpret in the context of shifting economic, political, social, and cultural conditions. Students will reckon with the shifting meanings and modes of memory and gain hands-on public history experience that will help them better understand the stakes of America's "birthday" celebrations.



GANGS OF NEW YORK: CRIME AND VICE, LAW AND ORDER IN THE 19TH-CENTURY CITY

50:512:380:01

T/TH 2:00 pm – 3:20 pm

Professor Woloson

This course explores the intersections of crime and vice, law and order in 19th-century urban America. We will cover topics including the changes in law enforcement and imprisonment over time; the intersections of crime, poverty, and emerging industrialization; the development of organized policing; social reform movements; and the origins of the modern carceral state.

We will read the stories of gamblers, prostitutes, pickpockets, thieves, conmen, and corrupt politicians, while considering the various social, political, economic, and cultural factors that encouraged their criminal activities. In addition, we will examine various responses by the state to control the urban underworld, including enacting legislation, establishing police forces, and launching reform efforts. Students will be asked to examine various primary and secondary sources, actively engage in class discussion, and write both short and long responses to the questions raised.



“The Thieve’s Exchange,” from the book *Secrets of the Great City*, by James McCabe (1868).

EAST ASIA I
50:516:231:01
M/W 2:05 pm – 3:25 pm
Professor Kapur
Gen Ed: HAC (Heritages & Civilizations)

Samurai warriors and elegant courtesans. Sages, emperors, and court ladies. Pirates, shamanesses, and fierce Mongol warlords. Looking at a broad range of evidence, this course examines the key events and figures in East Asian history from the earliest times to the year 1600, with an emphasis on the histories of China, Japan, and Korea. Along the way, we will examine the factors that determined the rise and fall of dynasties, kingdoms, and empires, the development of aristocratic, religious, and warrior-centered cultures, the evolution of gender roles over time, and the great literary and artistic achievements of each era.



HISTORY OF THE CARRIBEAN

50:516:350:01

T/TH 11:10 am – 12:30 pm

Professor Thomas

Gen Ed: HAC (Heritages and Civilizations)

In this course, we will explore the history of the Caribbean region from the time of Columbus's arrival in 1492 through the beginning of the twenty-first century. Focusing on political, economic, social, and cultural themes, we will examine the major developments in the Caribbean's past: discovery and conquest, colonialism, slavery and emancipation, imperialism and revolution, migration and transnationalism. We will analyze documents and other historical sources written by and about the people who made the region's history, including pirates, "maroons" (enslaved people who escaped and lived free), and a handful of revolutionaries who altered the course of regional and world events spanning the 18th to 20th centuries.

Graduate Courses

READINGS IN US HISTORY, 1820-1898

56:512:506:40

TH 6:00 pm – 8:50 pm

Professor Woloson

This course offers an extensive introduction to the developments in United States history from 1820 to 1898 with particular emphasis on business and commerce, entrepreneurship, technological innovation, and the economy.



RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM IN US

History, 1945 to present

56:512:512:40

T 6:00 pm – 8:50 pm

Professor Goodman



This graduate course is an intensive collaborative research seminar designed to help students produce an original research paper on the United States since 1945.

**READINGS IN AFRICAN
AMERICAN HISTORY TO 1877**

56:512:541:40

M 6:00 pm – 8:50 pm

Professor Boyd

This course provides an introduction to the history of black people in America, with a survey of African backgrounds, the history of enslavement and resistance to slavery, and the evolution of black leadership through the Civil War (ending in 1865). Focal points include the transatlantic slave trade, the transition from African to African American culture, the black family, the movement for abolition, and African American's participation in the Civil War. We will explore the major political developments of the era, as well as how slavery and the Civil War were memorialized through monuments and celebrations.

*EARLY MODERN EUROPE

56:512:552:40

T 2:00 pm – 4:50 pm

Professor Mokhberi

****PLEASE NOTE: This course will be followed with a writing research seminar in Fall 2026***

Early Modern Europe describes the period that ushered Europeans from the “Middle Ages” to the “Modern” period. This course will focus on Europe’s transformation from a weak backwater to a world power by investigating the birth of the state. Students will be introduced to the most influential historical arguments regarding the emergence of the state from a set of fragmented feudal kingdoms to the modern “information” state and capable of colonial power. The course will move chronologically from the Middle Ages through the eighteenth century and expose students to the historiography of early modern Europe from the Annales school to current methods of cultural and world history.



**WRITING SEMINAR: 20th CENTURY
GLOBAL HISTORY**
56:512:650:40
W 2:05 pm – 5:05 pm
Professor Marker

Research course on the principal themes of twentieth-century global history.

DIGITAL HISTORY
56:512:585:01
TH 2:00 pm – 4:55 pm
Professor Bayker

For more information about this course and this year's theme and our collaboration with the Paul Robeson Library, see go.rutgers.edu/dighist



This course introduces students to the theory and practice of digital history. Readings examine the emergence of digital history as a field and its relationship to public history and digital humanities. Students experiment with a variety of digital tools for preserving, analyzing, and presenting history to public audiences.

INTERNSHIP IN PUBLIC HISTORY
56:512:699:01
By Arrangement
Professor Woloson

Supervised work experience in a public history office or private institutional setting, involving project work for one semester or a summer.

Course Information	Thematic Concentrations	Geographic
PERSPECTIVES ON HISTORY 50:509:299:01 Professor Kapur	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 III 50:510:103:01 Professor Marker	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
FRENCH REVOLUTION AND NAPOLEAN 50:510:322:01 Professor Mokheri	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	Europe
ENGLAND IN THE AGE OF SHAKESPEARE 50:510:351:01 Professor Shankman	Business, Finance, & Economics Gender, Sexuality, & Society Law, Politics, & Government Religion, Philosophy, & Ideas World Cultures & Civilizations	Europe
ANCIENT ROME IN THE MOVIES 50:510:380:01 Professor Jewell	Business, Finance, & Economics Imperialism, & Colonialism Gender, Sexuality, & Society Law, Politics, & Government Religion, Philosophy & Ideas	Europe
AMERICA SINCE THE CIVIL WAR 50:512:202:01 Professor Bayker	Business, Finance, & Economics Culture, Literature, & Art Gender, Sexuality, & Society Law, Politics, & Government Religion, Philosophy, & Ideas Science, Technology, & Medicine	United States
WORLD WAR II 50:512:285:01 & 50:512:385:01 Professor Epstein	Business, Finance, & Economics Culture, Literature, & Art Gender, Sexuality, & Society Law, Politics, & Government Religion, Philosophy, & Ideas War, Peace, & Diplomacy World Cultures & Civilizations	United States

AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY: HISTORY OF CELEBRATION AND MEMORY 50:512:304:01 Professor Goodman	Business, Finance, & Economics Culture, Literature, & Art Gender, Sexuality, & Society Law, Politics, & Government Religion, Philosophy, & Ideas War, Peace, & Diplomacy	United States
GANGS OF NEW YORK 50:512:380:01 Professor Woloson	Business, Finance, & Economics Law, Politics, & Government Race, Ethnicity & immigration War, Peace, & Diplomacy Religion, Philosophy, & Ideas	United States
EAST ASIA I 50:516:231:01 Professor Kapur	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	Asia
THE CARRIBEAN 50:516:350:01 Professor Thomas	Business, Finance, & Economics Culture, Literature, & Art Gender, Sexuality, & Society Law, Politics, & Government Religion, Philosophy, & Ideas War, Peace, & Diplomacy World Cultures & Civilizations	Caribbean

Undergraduate Courses

Course Number	Course Index	Course Name	Time	Instructor
50:509:299:01	09443	Perspectives on History	M/W 3:45 pm – 5:05 pm	Professor Kapur
50:510:103:01	09444	Western Civilization III	M/W 12:30 pm – 1:50 pm	Professor Marker
50:510:322:01	09445	French Revolution and Napoleon	T/TH 11:10 am – 12:30 pm	Professor Mokhberi
50:510:351:01	09446	England in the Age of Shakespeare	M/W 12:30 pm – 1:50 pm	Professor Shankman
50:510:380:01	09447	Ancient Rome in the Movies	T/TH 2:00 pm – 3:20 pm	Professor Jewell
50:510:499:01	09448	Independent Study History	By Arrangement	
50:510:499:02	09484	Independent Study History	By Arrangement	
50:512:202:01	09494	America Since the Civil War	M/W 9:35 am – 10:55 am	Professor Bayker
*50:512:285:01	09450	World War II	M/W 2:05 pm – 3:25 pm	Professor Epstein
*50:512:385:01	23290	World War II	M/W 2:05 pm – 3:25 pm	Professor Epstein
50:512:304:01	09458	America's Birthdays: History of Celebration and Memory	T/TH 9:35 am – 10:55 am	Professor Goodman
50:512:380:01	09449	Gangs of New York	T/TH 2:00 pm – 3:20 pm	Professor Woloson
50:512:499:01	09459	Independent Study American History	By Arrangement	
50:512:499:02	09495	Independent Study American History	By Arrangement	
50:512:499:03	09496	Independent Study American History	By Arrangement	
50:512:499:04	09497	Independent Study American History	By Arrangement	
50:516:231:01	09460	East Asia I	M/W 2:05 pm – 3:25 pm	Professor Kapur
50:516:350:01	09461	History of the Caribbean	T/TH 11:10 am – 12:30 pm	Professor Thomas
<i>*Meets Together</i>				

Graduate Courses

56:512:506:40	09462	Colloquium in US, 1820 to 1898	TH 6:00 pm – 8:50 pm	Professor Woloson
56:512:512:40	09463	Research Colloquium in US, 1945 to present	T 6:00 pm – 8:50 pm	Professor Goodman
56:512:541:40	09464	Readings in African American History to 1877	M 6:00 pm – 8:50 pm	Professor Boyd
56:512:552:01	09465	Early Modern Europe	T 2:00 pm – 4:50 pm	Professor Mokhberi
56:512:585:01	24057	Digital History	TH 2:00 pm – 4:55 pm	Professor Bayker
56:512:650:01	09466	Writing Seminar	W 2:05 pm – 5:05 pm	Professor Marker
56:512:698:01	09468	Individual Study in History	By Arrangement	
56:512:698:02	09498	Individual Study in History	By Arrangement	
56:512:698:03	09499	Individual Study in History	By Arrangement	
56:512:699:01	00944	Internship in Public History	By Arrangement	Professor Woloson