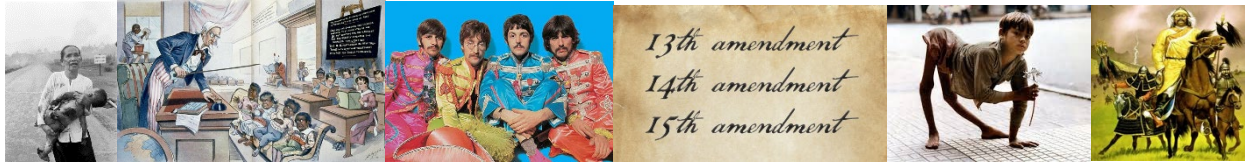


HISTORY SPECIAL TOPICS COURSES SPRING 2021



HIS-200-01: World War II: A Moral History of Warfare, Kunze

How, when, where, and to what end can killing be considered legitimate? Using the Second World War as our primary case study, this course will examine the moral choices that states and individuals make in wars. We will concentrate on the pre- and post-facto rhetoric and reality – intentions, decisions, execution, and legitimation – of violence against civilians among major combatants. We will consider historical efforts to protect civilians and examine why laws of war and international agreements have protected civilians in the first place. We will explore how and whether we can differentiate between licit and illicit forms of violence against civilians. We will ask whether we can distinguish Soviet, American, British, German, and Japanese use of force, and what difference genocide and the Holocaust make in completing our analysis.

HIS-200-02: Legal Borderlands: Spaces of Exception in 19th and 20th Century American Law, Kunze

The periphery of the United States is not only made up of physical borderlands but also of legal interstitial zones, places that test the reach of American sovereignty. This discussion-based course will look at places where American law bumps up against other defining markers, the contact-zones that challenge the prevalent legal paradigms. We will examine how these areas define what constitutes an American; how the government makes specific identities within its jurisdiction visible and invisible. Topics we will cover include: statelessness and denaturalization, American extraterritorial courts in China, gender and sexuality under the law, the American Guano Islands, outlawing "coolies," the insular cases and citizen-subjects, and Guantanamo Bay, not to mention the making and unmaking of physical borderlands around the United States.

HIS-230-01: The Beatles: A Cultural History, Royalty

The four lads from Liverpool were arguably the most significant cultural event of the mid-20th c, from popular music to fashion, politics, and religion. This course will study the Beatles in their social, political and cultural context, from post-war Britain of the 1940s, through the economic and social recovery of the 50s, and the swinging and turbulent sixties. We will use a range of methods including social and cultural history as well as musicology.

Prerequisite: A course in History or Music

HIS-340/PSC-310/PPE-358/BLS-300: Reconstruction: The Politics of History, Thomas/Himself

Americans sought to right the wrongs that caused our bloody Civil War through constitutional amendments abolishing slavery, guaranteeing equal protection of the law, and protecting the right to vote during Reconstruction. Why did these amendments completely fail to achieve their purposes for nearly a century until the Civil Rights Movement of the late 1950s and the 1960s? And to what extent do the failures of Reconstruction continue to plague us today? Can we trace them to today's Black Lives Matter movement or last summer's protests over the death of George Floyd? We will begin our search for answers by trying to recover what freedom, equality, and the right to vote meant both to those who advocated the Reconstruction Amendments and those who strenuously opposed them. We will also examine the "politics of history" – how in the decades after Reconstruction, some tailored the history of

that era and the Civil War to support their political agenda in favor of a segregated society. Finally, we will ask whether that distorted history of Reconstruction still affects us today. Is it still “baked” into our legal and political system? These are all critical questions because we still rely upon the Reconstruction Amendments to resolve most of our major civil rights questions, including voting rights, immigrant rights, affirmative action, and LGBTQ rights. We will examine a number of these recent civil rights decisions in light of the understanding we gain about Reconstruction.

Prerequisite: Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors ONLY

HIS-340-02/PSC-240-01/GEN-200: Children of War, *Thomas*

This course examines the role of children in international affairs through the many dynamics of war and conflict during the twentieth century. It will consider how the demographics of war-torn societies, and the gendered nature of war have disproportionately victimized women and children. Specifically, students will discuss how war produces children through rape, lust, and love, the effects of war on children and the participation of children in war. The course will also consider the responsibilities of the international community broadly, and the United States specifically, to protect and support children of war including those fathered by American soldiers. In addition, students will learn about various types of child exploitation and child saving that make both mothers and their children vulnerable during conflict including international adoption, child-sponsorship, and immigration and refugee policies. Students will examine a number of case studies regarding child soldiers, children born of war, transnational adoption, and child migrants.

Prerequisite: Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors ONLY

HIS-260-01 Mongols and More: Central Asia to 1700, *Morillo*

This course examines the history of an important but underappreciated region of the world, the Central Asian steppes (grasslands). We will look at the origins of the horse-riding pastoralists who lived there and periodically threatened the sedentary civilizations around the steppes, consider the role of the region as a highway connecting the major sedentary areas commercially (aka “The Silk Road”), and trace the dynamics and chronology of the major steppe political powers that emerged there, including the Scythians whom Herodotus wrote about, the Hsiung Nu of Chinese fame, and the Huns and Turks who took their turns being terrifying to various folk. We will look closely at the climax of all this, the sudden emergence of the Mongols as world conquerors. We will close around 1700, when the steppes ceased to maintain an independent political existence.

Cross-Listed Courses

CLA-113/HIS-210: Eureka, *Gorey*

CLA-213/HIS-210: Pompeii, *Harnett*

GER-312/HIS-230: German Cultural History from Tacitus to Nazism

PSC-212/HIS-240: The Poor and Justice, *Himself*