

Department of History  
Graduate Course Descriptions  
Summer 2008

Summer Session III  
May 28 - July 24 OR July 28, 2008

HIS 8002-030 Top: Jefferson's America M 6:00-8:50 pm  
CRN 11460 (American) Dr. Kauffman

Using Jefferson as the cornerstone, the class will examine life within the United States from the period of the Revolution to the heated debates surrounding the nature of government between the Federalists and Jeffersonian Republicans. In addition to discussion of political ideology, the course will explore issues of gender and family, race, and religious freedom. We also will examine how certain founders defined terms such as virtue and honor and how they measured those traits when forging both personal ties and professional alliances.

Requirements: Class participation; Weekly written commentaries on the readings; written analysis of a book and scholarly article; a comprehensive final exam.

Books available in the bookstore: Joseph Ellis, *American Sphinx* and Jan Lewis and Peter Onuf, eds., *Sally Hemings and Thomas Jefferson*. For the many scholarly articles, which will be available for your use in Falvey Library, please view the syllabus for the course on file in the History Dept.

HIS 8202-030  
CRN 11850

Nazi Germany  
(European)

T 6:00-8:50 pm  
Dr. Steege

The devastation wrought by Nazi Germany in the middle part of the 20th century remains one of the most brutal focal points of an incredibly violent era. Often, historians and popular memory have explained Hitler and the Nazis as something so alien and altogether evil that they bear little relationship to *our* modern world.

This course will explore the multi-causal sources of Nazi rule, focusing particularly on the role of violence in shaping and constituting the Hitler Regime. Beginning with an intense exploration of the Nazi rise to power during the Weimar Republic, the course will use a variety of primary and secondary sources, including films, photographs, and works of art to explore the motivation and function of Nazi Germany. Significant time will be spent addressing the Holocaust as the culmination of a Nazi project of racialized violence. In so doing, we will seek to complicate our understanding of Nazi perpetrators and assess the extent to which they should be considered less a *German* problem than part of a dark, violent underside to a broader project of modernity.

HIS 8245-030  
CRN 11461

Great Britain Since 1815  
(European)

T 6:00-8:50 pm  
Dr. Bailey

### **Defining the “British World”**

In recent years, the idea of a “British World” has become one of the most influential frameworks that historians employ to examine the social, cultural, political and economic linkages that have tied Britain, its colonies and former colonies together. Since the late 1990s scholars have shifted their focus away from the concerns of the older

school of imperial history, which emphasized the processes behind the acquisition, administration and exploitation of the non-white empire and its subsequent decolonization, and have instead sought to develop a more nuanced picture of the complex ties and flows of exchange between metropole and colony, and indeed, between the colonies themselves.

In 1998 an annual, international conference was established to act as the principal forum for bringing together scholars working on the British World. The most recent meeting of this conference, held in July 2007, was intended as a stock-taking exercise, to see what has been done to date, to provide avenues for new research agendas, and to “map and define what is meant by the British World”. The 2007 conference, which took ‘Defining the British World’ as its title, provides the organizational theme for this course, which considers cutting-edge scholarship in the field as well as the backdrop of earlier historiography from which it emerged.

This course then explores the development and impact of this new historical approach. Some of the key questions to be considered include the following. What was the 'British World', and what was its connection with that much more familiar structure of power and influence, the British Empire? What shape did networks of communication and exchange take, and what was the role of migration in fostering connections and creating tensions? What did “British” mean and what was the significance of this identity? Did it unite the constituent parts of the British World, or did it operate as a divisive mechanism that separated Britain’s imperial subjects along the fault lines of religion, race and ethnicity? Assignments will include one short writing assignment, in-class presentations and one major paper.

### Sample Reading List

C. Bridge and Kent Fedorowich, ‘Mapping the British World’, *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*, 31/2 (May 2003).

C. Hall, *Civilising Subjects: Metropole and Colony in the English Imagination 1830-1867* (Cambridge, 2002).

Z. Laidlaw, *Colonial Connections, 1815-45 : Patronage, the Information Revolution and Colonial Government* (Manchester, 2005).

P. Cain and A.G. Hopkins, *British Imperialism: Innovation and Expansion* (New York, 1993).

HIS 8410-030     The Atlantic World: 1400-1800     R 6:00-8:50 pm  
CRN 11462     (Comparative)     Dr. Keita

*It was from the city of Lisbon that the Adventurers  
(mugharrarun) embarked on the Sea of Darkness  
to see what was in it and where it ended...*

*Al-Idrisi, c. 1154*

The very *notion* of the Atlantic World is synonymous with modernity and the “modern world” itself. However, our approach to the construction of both this place *and* time are severely limited by convention. This course will attempt to defy convention. The Atlantic World will be explored for the possibilities of *all* of its participants.

This will, of course, include African as well as European, and American states. In the case of the latter, particular emphasis will be given to the activities of Native American polities in both the northern and southern hemispheres.

The intent of the course is not only to provide a more extensive examination of what we term the “Atlantic World,” but also to look at the possibilities of envisioning newer and more comprehensive

histories of it. To that extent, the course will rely heavily on the recognition and the pursuit of theories of histories (historiography) and knowledge (epistemology). There will also be tangential, yet critical examinations of language—the historian’s use and choice of words—and their impact on history as a critical and analytical discourse.

His. 8648-030  
CRN 11463

Environmental History  
(Comparative)

W 6:00-8:50 pm  
Dr. Rosier

Men and women have been thinking about ways to control and ways to "belong to" their environments for centuries. We will spend this semester discussing the most influential and interesting works of environmental history, which has gained widespread acceptance among historians as a critical field of inquiry into human interactions with the natural world, particularly at the intersection of ecological, economic, and social processes. This inquiry takes an interdisciplinary approach to answering several main questions: how have human communities adapted to and reshaped their environment; how have they conceived of "nature"; how have they commodified "nature"; and how have changes in the land engendered environmental citizenship. We will track these intellectual, social, political and economic developments from early Modern Europe to the United States and Europe in the 20th century. Although the focus is on the West, writing assignments give you the opportunity to explore the environmental histories of Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

Readings include:

Merchant, *The Death of Nature*

Thomas, *Man and the Natural World*



HIS 9022-030      Thesis Direction I      Arranged  
CRN 11466

Supervised research for students writing master's thesis. Permission of the departmental chairperson is required.

HIS 9032-030      Thesis Direction II      Arranged  
CRN 11467

Supervised research for students writing master's thesis. This course may be taken concurrently with HIS 9022. Permission of the departmental chairperson is required.

HIS 9080-030      Thesis Continuation      Arranged  
CRN 11468      Staff

Continuation of supervised research for students writing master's thesis. Permission of the departmental chairperson is required.