

History (HIST)

Course information contained within the Bulletin is accurate at the time of publication in June 2025 but is subject to change. For the most up-to-date course information, please refer to the Course Catalog.

HIST 5010. Special Topics in History. 1 to 3 Credit Hour.

Variable content course. Consult department for details.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

HIST 5151. Nonprofit Management for Historians. 3 Credit Hours.

This course provides an introduction to the non-profit based management, leadership and administration issues and practices for historical and cultural heritage organizations. The goal of this course is to provide students who will be entering the public history field with the background knowledge and tools to be effective managers and leaders in their institutions. Students are introduced to the complexity of issues in historical management and administration as reflexive practitioners and engage a wide variety of case studies, issues analysis, and real-life examples from local historical institutions.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 5152. Digital History. 3 Credit Hours.

The definition of digital history is amorphous, broad, and often debated. Digital history projects may refer to everything from an online exhibition to a podcast to mapping and geographic information systems. This class will explore digital history in terms of the questions of narrative, shared authority, access, and historical analysis that arise when using digital tools for working with history. We will discuss the major issues involved in digital history initiatives and gain familiarity with various technologies often used in such projects.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 5187. Public History Practicum. 3 Credit Hours.

The public history practicum allows students to intern in historical organizations while learning from one another in periodic classroom meetings. Internships balance student interests with the needs of partnering institutions. Each student must complete 140 hours of work under the supervision of an experienced public history professional in addition to writing assignments devised and evaluated by a faculty internship supervisor. Students must contact the director of the Center for Public History about their intent to enroll by no later than the midpoint of the semester preceding the practicum.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 5280. Special Topics: American. 3 Credit Hours.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

HIST 5400. Special Topics. 3 Credit Hours.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

HIST 5480. Special Topics: European. 3 Credit Hours.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

HIST 5540. Special Topics in Latin American History. 3 Credit Hours.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

HIST 5670. Special Topics in African History. 3 Credit Hours.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

HIST 5680. Special Topics in Asian History. 3 Credit Hours.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

HIST 5800. Comparative Women's History. 3 Credit Hours.

Exploration of two to three selected topics in women's history in comparative, global perspective. Topics may include: 1) gender, race, and state; 2) women, religion, and social change; 3) women in industrializing societies; 4) domestic contestations; 5) histories and theories. See current semester description.

Course Attributes: SI

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

HIST 5880. Special Topics in World or Comparative History. 3 Credit Hours.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

HIST 8001. Environments, Cities, and Cultures. 3 Credit Hours.

This course introduces graduate students to one of the two specialties in the History Department, which comprises environmental, urban, and cultural history. It is highly recommended for first-year PhD students who will take the preliminary exam in this specialty in their third semester. In it, students will read several books that will be later tested in the preliminary exam, in addition to learning about some of the more consequential and innovative works in the historical profession. The readings will be global and comparative in nature, and thus relevant to students specializing in US and non-US history alike.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8002. War, Empire, and Society. 3 Credit Hours.

This course introduces graduate students to one of the two specialties in the History Department, which comprises military, imperial, and social history. It is highly recommended for first-year PhD students who will take the preliminary exam in this specialty in their third semester. In it, students will read several books that will be later tested in the preliminary exam, in addition to learning about some of the more consequential and innovative works in the historical profession. The readings will be global and comparative in nature, and thus relevant to students specializing in US and non-US history alike.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8101. Introduction to American History I (to 1865). 3 Credit Hours.

This is the first segment of the Introduction to American History readings seminar required of all M.A. and Ph.D. students in U.S. History. Doctoral students are required to take both courses in this sequence. M.A. students must take one of the two segments. This segment covers the colonial era through the Civil War.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

HIST 8102. Cultural History. 3 Credit Hours.

Investigates ways that historians and other scholars have interpreted modern popular culture, 1800 to the present. American media, sports, entertainment, fashion, art, as well as American myths, ideas, and popular thought are some of the topics that will be explored.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8103. Studies in American Diplomatic History. 3 Credit Hours.

Readings in and discussion of the principal schools of interpretation and conceptual frameworks in the history of U.S. foreign relations as a means to introduce students to the subfield. A complement to Studies in the Cold War (HIST 8209), the chronological parameters extend from the Revolutionary era through the conclusion of World War II. In addition to completing weekly reading and writing assignments, and as a final assignment a comparative review essay, students will participate actively in class conversations about history and historians.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8104. Studies in African American History. 3 Credit Hours.

The emphasis is on the period since the Civil War. Possible topics include Reconstruction and rise of segregation; urbanization of the black population; history of black women in U.S.; Civil Rights revolution.

Course Attributes: SI

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8105. History of Education. 3 Credit Hours.

This course focuses primarily on the way that educationally institutions, broadly construed, have shaped American culture and society. Special attention is paid to recent historiographic debates concerning education and its social effects.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8106. Modern American Social History. 3 Credit Hours.

The theme of the course in recent years is Race, Ethnicity, and Poverty in the U.S., 1870-1940. The main subject is the impact of industrialization and urbanization on the working class, the poor, and minority groups during the period when the U.S. emerged as an industrial power. Attention is also given to the response to poverty, both by private charities and the state.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8107. Religion in Modern United States. 3 Credit Hours.

This course explores the history of religion in the United States between 1877 and the present. In the past decade a cadre of creative scholars has focused their attention on American religious history. They have transformed the field: it is far more capacious, lively, and sophisticated than it was ten years ago. This course provides students with an introduction to the field. It also offers them a chance to focus their attention on a set of questions related to historians' determination to take religion seriously. What does it mean to do take religion seriously? What is the opposite of taking religion seriously supposed to be? In what ways, if any, has the determination to take religion seriously hampered the development of the field?

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8111. Introduction to American History II (since 1865). 3 Credit Hours.

This is the second segment of the Introduction to American History readings seminar required of all M.A. and Ph.D. students in U.S. History. Doctoral students are required to take both courses in this sequence. M.A. students must take one of the two segments. This segment covers the Civil War to the present.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8151. Studies in American Material Culture. 3 Credit Hours.

Introduction to literature from several fields that use artifacts to understand culture. Exploration of various theoretical approaches. Topics include architecture, folk art, photography, decorative arts, landscape design, historic preservation, and the use of interior space.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8152. Managing History. 3 Credit Hours.

This course explores the practical considerations and theoretical issues concerning the management/ownership of the interpretation, preservation, and presentation of history for public consumption. Emphasis is placed on public management policies and methods of private ownership of critical historical issues, including, but not limited to, museum exhibits, historical preservation policies and practices, governance of historical societies and museums, publication practices, historical documentaries (aural and visual), and other elements related to the dissemination of historical interpretations, common historical knowledge, and public memory. This course asks: Who manages American history and American memory? Who Owns History? Who is empowered to tell the story and how did they gain that power? What role does the historian play in the formulation and preservation of public memory?

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8153. Archives and Manuscripts. 3 Credit Hours.

An introduction to the theoretical and applied aspects of historical records management. Taught in cooperation with local archives and historical societies.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8201. History of Philadelphia. 3 Credit Hours.

Students who enroll in this class will be given an opportunity to analyze the cultural, economic, political, and social history of Philadelphia. Special attention will be paid to immigration, ethnicity, and race.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8202. American Colonial History. 3 Credit Hours.

A survey of how American society developed before the Revolution: the evolution of American politics and political institutions; the changing imperial system; internal and external conflicts; how the economies and lifestyles of the various colonial regions developed; the role of women; free and forced migration; the foundations of modern American life in the experience, thought, and values of colonists before 1775.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8203. Age of the American Revolution. 3 Credit Hours.

This is a readings course on the causes, nature, and consequences of the American Revolution. The Revolution has a long, venerable -- and contentious -- historiography; the course examines classic and recent debates, probes different research and narrative strategies, and seeks to understand the possibilities and limits of: 1) understanding the late eighteenth century in light of the Revolution; (2) old and new international and comparative approaches; (3) the tendency to understand colonial and subsequent US history in light of the Revolution; (4) recent trends to highlight and integrate previously neglected topics, including slavery, African Americans, Native Americans; and (5) resurgent interest in "founders" and the Constitution.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8204. Early United States Social History. 3 Credit Hours.

Introduction to American social history from 1800 until the Civil War. Recent research on the structure of American society, the American family, immigration, the worker, urban developments, and the reform movements of the Jacksonian era.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8205. Civil War and Reconstruction. 3 Credit Hours.

This course focuses on the ordinary citizen rather than the rich and powerful. Much attention will be paid to issues of race, class, and gender.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8206. Studies in Recent American Urban History. 3 Credit Hours.

This course is broadly interdisciplinary, concerned with major developments in America's large cities from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. Basic issues include: the changing spatial structure of the city, social and geographical mobility, the nature of ethnicity and the Black experience, the development of crime and rioting, the structure of local politics, and the movements for urban reform.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8207. Recent United States History. 3 Credit Hours.

Presents a new approach to the history of the United States since World War II, focusing on social and economic change. Topics include: urbanization and suburbanization, rise of post-industrial economy, racial problems, shift of population and political power to the Sunbelt, and the impact of new technologies. Relates the political history of the era to these fundamental socio-economic changes.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8208. Studies in United States Urban Crime. 3 Credit Hours.

Examines the significant scholarship and issues involved in understanding the history of crime in American cities, with special emphasis upon the period since the Civil War. The course deals mostly with the organized underworld, including drugs, gambling, bootlegging, prostitution, professional theft, and other on-going criminal activities. By linking the underworld to the city structure, sports history, entertainment, and reform, the course will examine the interrelationship of American urban and social history with the changing underworld.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8209. United States Foreign Policy in the Cold War. 3 Credit Hours.

Few if any "moments" within America's historical experience have generated the intensely competitive and emotionally-charged debates as has the "moment" called the "Cold War." The purpose of this course is to identify the questions that have bedeviled historians of the Cold War, and by reading competing interpretations, evaluate the strategies by which they have been addressed. Sample topics: U.S.-Russian (Soviet) relations, the nuclear arms competition and arms control, regional rivalries, summitry, alliance politics, cultural instruments of influence, crisis management, intelligence agencies, and critical personalities. Students will read widely, write frequently, and speak extensively.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8211. Rise of the American Military Profession. 3 Credit Hours.

The overriding purpose of this course is to provide students with a theoretical framework for analyzing the evolution of modern military institutions and the people who lead them. Students will examine the development of the military profession in the United States from the War of Independence through the 1990s. Students will examine contemporary concepts of military professionalism by studying the careers of American officers in their historical context. This course will also address the major European influences that revolutionized standards of officer procurement, training, education, and advancement in the United States and around the world.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8212. North American Environmental History. 3 Credit Hours.

This seminar examines the interactions between human societies and the natural world in North America from the sixteenth century to the present. That relationship is complex: the environment both reflects people's influences and affects human history. Through reading and discussion, participants in this seminar will examine this reciprocal relationship. Topics to be discussed include Native American management of the environment; the effects of the European ecological invasion; resource exploitation in the industrial era; and the evolution of twentieth-century environmentalism.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8213. History of the North American West. 3 Credit Hours.

This seminar examines the history of the North American West from the mid-eighteenth to the mid-twentieth century. The course emphasizes the reciprocity of social and environmental history; cultural interactions in the multi-ethnic West; and the iconography and ideology of the "frontier."

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8214. Slavery and U.S. History. 3 Credit Hours.

This course provides an introduction to the scholarship on slavery as it has evolved within the U.S. field and at its borders in Atlantic and "New World" history. It pays particular attention to the development of key concepts and how different ways of understanding the place of slavery in colonial and American history reflected - and affected - changing interpretations of other aspects of the American past. This inquiry logically culminates in recent work that not only changes how we define the "institution" of slavery - or even whether it makes sense to call it an institution - but which also expands the range of subjects to which slavery can be said to be integrally related.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8301. Introduction to European History. 3 Credit Hours.

Overview of the field, its shape, main lines of research, and central concerns. Through selected readings, discussion, and guest speakers, participants gain understanding of current practice including political, social, and cultural history, the treatment of Europe in global studies and in contemporary metahistory.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8302. Atlantic World 15th-18th Centuries. 3 Credit Hours.

Examines main aspects of social and economic change in which the Old World and the New interacted in the 17th and 18th centuries: colonization; commercial agriculture and trade; servitude, free labor, and slavery; migration; changing lifestyles and expectations; the development of family and community; religion, reform, and revolts.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8303. Studies in Russian History. 3 Credit Hours.

This course explores milestones in Russian/Soviet history and society during the 20th century. Basic knowledge of European and Russian history is assumed. Students will do intensive reading on the Russian Revolution Stalinism and the Second World War, and on peaceful devolution of communism. The main purpose of this class is to familiarize students with the fundamental issues of this history, provide exposure to diverse interpretations, and promote discussion of research strategies and (to an extent possible) their source base. Special assignments will be encouraged, i.e., individual research that will help enrich class discussions. Writing assignments and oral presentations are the main requirements.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8304. Soviet Cold War- DeStalinization. 3 Credit Hours.

This course is a sequel to the graduate course on Stalinism (History 8121). It studies two groups of literature: one on Soviet Cold War behavior and the collapse of the Soviet empire, and another on the post-Stalin history of the Soviet Union. The course emphasizes internal social-economic, cultural and intellectual developments inside the USSR as a crucial essential (and previously underestimated) factor in Soviet transformation and the peaceful end of the Cold War. This course aims at students who are interested in foreign relations, but also contemporary international history, globalization and social change.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

Pre-requisites: HIST 8121.

HIST 8307. 20th Century Europe. 3 Credit Hours.

Discusses major events in 20th century Europe such as the origins of the First World War, the Bolshevik Revolution, the rise of fascism in Italy and Germany, World War II, and the subsequent collapse of European political dominance. Investigates the Cold War, the demise of communism in Eastern Europe, and the gradual economic and political establishment of the European Union. In addition to a standard historiographic study of these topics, the course includes developments in the "new cultural history" and the history of "representations" and "memory."

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8308. Imperialism. 3 Credit Hours.

To Lenin, imperialism was "the highest stage of capitalism," to Rudyard Kipling, "the white man's burden" and to Joseph Schumpeter, "the objectless disposition of a state to expansion by force without assigned limits." In this course, we both attempt to define imperialism and to understand the various ways in which historians and other scholars have approached the study of imperialism. Focusing primarily on the modern European empires, we examine imperialism from the perspective of economic, environmental, military, diplomatic and cultural history. We discuss Edward Said's extremely influential theory of orientalism and examine how contributions from historians of gender, scholars associated with the subaltern studies movement, and post-modern/post-colonial studies have influenced the field.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8400. Topics in 20th Century Germany. 3 Credit Hours.

Readings and discussions on selected topics in modern European history.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

HIST 8402. Jewish History. 3 Credit Hours.

Students who enroll in this class are given an opportunity to analyze the cultural, economic, political, religious, and social history of the Jewish people. Special attention is paid to gender and secular ways of being Jewish.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8403. History of European Military Policy. 3 Credit Hours.

Introduces the literature and problems of Europe's military history since 1789. Examines both the practical and theoretical contributions of the battlefield, the cabinet room, and the individual military leader as theorist. Social and economic factors are also considered.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8501. Introduction to the Third World. 3 Credit Hours.

An introduction to the historical issues and literature concerning broad thematic areas of Third World life such as imperialism, economic development, global economic organization, peasant life, urbanization, migration, nationalism, cultural and social change, the role of the state, and international relations.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8502. Vietnam War Studies. 3 Credit Hours.

This reading seminar explores the significant English- and French-language historical literature on the "Vietnam wars," considered in the large sense of the political and military struggles from 1945 to 1991 for control of the Indochina peninsula.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8505. Studies in Latin American History. 3 Credit Hours.

Examines Latin America in the age of the Cuban Revolution and beyond, covering the array of new historical literature that continues to emerge concerning the Revolution itself, the rise and fall of insurgencies and national security states in many parts of Latin America, and the more recent period of incomplete establishment of democracy and accountability.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8506. Studies in Spanish and Portuguese America. 3 Credit Hours.

From an empire-wide perspective, this course will analyze this encounter and its consequences and place both in historiographic context. The syllabus will proceed chronologically starting with the history of Spain and Portugal prior to the Conquest and continuing with the Conquest and reorganization of the American space. Rather than provide a detailed description of the historical episodes, however, the course will center around key processes affecting Iberian America, such as the rise of new societies and the transformation of indigenous cultures, the types of rule established by the Spanish and Portuguese, the economic relationship between the metropole and the new American kingdoms, slavery, race relations, the centralizing project of the eighteenth century, and the revolutions of the 1800s.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8610. Studies in Chinese History. 3 Credit Hours.

Surveys key issues and themes in modern Chinese history. Topics include: the ideology and politics of the China field; long-term patterns of change; peasant rebellions; imperialism; the nature of elite reform; the origins of the revolution; the Nationalists; militarism and state-building; rural revolution and communist success; the Maoist road to socialism.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

HIST 8701. Introduction to World History. 3 Credit Hours.

A review of the concept of World History and its historiography; an introduction to materials now available to the study of World History; and an introduction to key themes and conceptual frameworks in the study of World History.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8705. New Themes in the History of Slavery. 3 Credit Hours.

Comparative social history of Atlantic-world slavery and Red Sea-Indian Ocean-Persian Gulf world-slavery. Slavery in other domains, such as the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions, will also be discussed.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8707. History of Sexuality. 3 Credit Hours.

Studies recent work on sexuality and its relation to gender, race, class, and power. The course's emphasis is on modern U.S. and Europe because that is where the most theoretically interesting recent work has been done, but the course will also look at the ancient world and pre-modern Europe, and consider cross-cultural.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8713. The Historian and Society. 3 Credit Hours.

Open to students in Temple's Public History Program and to matriculated graduate students in good standing, this course provides graduate credit for Public History Internships in selected Philadelphia-area historical societies, museums, and cultural institutions.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8714. Historical Methods. 3 Credit Hours.

This seminar is an introduction to the practice of professional history and to historical methodologies. One of the main purposes of the seminar is to familiarize its participants with the methodological and historiographical evolution of professional history. How has the approach of historians to their craft changed in the last century? What assumptions informed the decisions they have been made about how to study the past? In short, we study methodology because it is a way of approaching the questions that are central to historical scholarship: How do we know what has happened? How do we decide what matters? How do we best study the past? Whose version of history is authoritative?

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8800. Topics in History I. 3 Credit Hours.

Introduction to a variety of historical and normally comparative topics and themes in, such as environmental or psychological history.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

HIST 8801. Cross-Cultural Encounters. 3 Credit Hours.

Readings and discussion of selected issues in the history of the interaction of various cultures and societies. Special attention is paid to issues of power.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8807. Comparative History - Modern War. 3 Credit Hours.

Beginning with the emergence of armies and navies that can be considered "modern" because of the professional educational qualification of their officers, this course examines the historical literature dealing with warfare and armed forces around the world from the 17th century to the present.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 8810. Topics in History II. 3 Credit Hours.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

HIST 8820. Topics in History III. 3 Credit Hours.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

HIST 9208. Research Seminar. 3 Credit Hours.

This research seminar explores a range of subjects not restricted to any geographic area or time period. Students prepare an oral presentation and research paper on a specific subject of his/her choosing but approved by the instructor. The research utilizes some secondary but principally primary sources.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

HIST 9211. Writing Colloquium. 3 Credit Hours.

This course provides a structured framework for PhD students preparing dissertation proposals and MA students working on master's theses. The course is intended to help students with writing beyond the research phase of a project.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

HIST 9683. Readings in History. 3 Credit Hours.

Students who enroll in this course are given an opportunity to pursue an independent study of a topic of particular interest to them. Their work will be supervised by a member of the graduate faculty of the history department.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

HIST 9994. Preliminary Examination Preparation. 1 to 6 Credit Hour.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

HIST 9996. Master's Thesis. 1 to 3 Credit Hour.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

HIST 9998. Pre-Dissertation Research. 1 to 6 Credit Hour.

Registration required each semester after Preliminary Examinations while researching the dissertation proposal.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

HIST 9999. Dissertation Research. 1 to 6 Credit Hour.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.