

HISTORY (COURSE 21H)

Introductory

21H.000 The History of Now

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

1-0-0 units

Exposes students to the study of history for a deeper understanding of the past, the present and the future by exploring current events in a historical perspective. Features guest lectures from experts inside and outside MIT. Subject can count toward the 6-unit discovery-focused credit limit for first-year students; preference to first-year students.

Staff

21H.001 How to Stage a Revolution

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Spring)

Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Explores fundamental questions about the causes and nature of revolutions by looking at how people overthrow their rulers and establish new governments. Considers a set of major political transformations throughout the world and across centuries to understand the meaning of revolution and evaluate its impact. Examines how revolutionaries have attempted to establish their ideals and realize their goals. Asks whether radical upheavals require bloodshed, violence, or even terror. Seeks to explain why some revolutions succeed and others fail. Materials include the writings of revolutionaries, declarations and constitutions, music, films, art, novels, memoirs, and newspapers.

M. Ghachem, C. Wilder, M. Kars

21H.007[J] Introduction to Ancient and Medieval Studies

Same subject as 21L.014[J]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Explores the fascinating history, culture, and society of the ancient and medieval worlds and the different methodologies scholars use to interpret them. Wrestles with big questions about the diversity of life and thought in pre-modern societies, the best ways to study the distant past, and the nature (and limitations) of knowledge about long-ago eras. Considers a wide range of scholarly subjects such as the rise and fall of the Roman empire, the triumph of Christianity and Islam, barbarian invasions and holy wars, courts and castles, philosophy and religion, and the diversity of art, literature, and politics. Ponders different types of evidence, reads across a variety of disciplines, and develops skills to identify continuities and changes in ancient and medieval societies.

S. Frampton, E. Goldberg

21H.009 World History and Its Fault Lines Since 1800

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Explores how the world, as we know it today, came to be. Examines what it means to be modern and the consequences of modernity on people's everyday lives. Introduces real and perceived changes that made the world recognizably "modern." Surveys the rise of empires, nation-states, industrialized economies, mass consumption, popular culture, and political ideas and movements, and studies how they resulted in new, often contested, dynamics of racial, class, religious, gendered, and political identity. Instruction provided in how the evolving relationships of people with political, social, and economic structures produced a world that is highly interconnected and, at the same time, divided along different fault lines.

S. Aiyar, H. Nagahara

21H.061 The History of American Presidential Elections

Prereq: None

U (Fall; first half of term)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-3 units

Introduces the main themes and topics in the history of presidential elections from 1788 to the present. Explores structures of the US executive branch, the primary, convention, and election systems, and the Electoral College. Students examine academic debates in history and other social sciences, and write short papers on historical and contemporary topics. Meets with 21H.203 when offered concurrently. 21H.061 is offered only in an election year (not for HASS credit) and covers the first half of the course, leading up to election day.

C. Capozzola

21H.079[J] The Making of Roman Pompeii (New)

Same subject as 1.059[J], 3.079[J]

Prereq: None

U (IAP)

3-3-3 units

See description under subject 1.059[J]. Enrollment limited; undergraduates only. Application required.

W. Broadhead, A. Masic, L. Rabieh, M. Tarkanian,

21H.090 Digital Humanities Laboratory

Prereq: 6.100A

U (Fall, Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

2-2-8 units. Institute LAB

Can be repeated for credit.

Combines research in HASS fields with computational methods of analysis, data collection, and presentation. Rotates to a different research project within SHASS each offering and meets with a research seminar taught by the PI of that project. Students work in teams to produce original computational research within the existing project, in collaboration with the research staff of the Programs in Digital Humanities. Leverage techniques from a wide range of practices including natural language processing, computer vision, machine learning, and web development. Repeatable for credit with permission of instructor. Limited to 25.

Staff

21H.101 American History to 1865

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

A basic history of American social, economic, and political development from the colonial period through the Civil War. Examines the colonial heritages of Spanish and British America; the American Revolution and its impact; the establishment and growth of the new nation; and the Civil War, its background, character, and impact. Readings include writings of the period by Winthrop, Paine, Jefferson, Madison, W. H. Garrison, G. Fitzhugh, H. B. Stowe, and Lincoln.

Staff

21H.102 American History since 1865

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Examines the social, cultural, political, and economic history of the United States, from the Civil War to the present. Uses secondary analysis and primary documents, such as court cases, personal accounts, photographs, and films, to examine some of the key issues in the shaping of modern America, including industrialization and urbanization, immigration, the rise of a mass consumer society, the emergence of the US as a global power, and the development of civil rights activism and other major social movements.

Staff

21H.106[J] Black Matters: Introduction to Black Studies

Same subject as 24.912[J], 21L.008[J], 21W.741[J], CMS.150[J], WGS.190[J]

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-A, HASS-H; CI-H

See description under subject 24.912[J].

D. Wood, D. Harrell, M. DeGraff

21H.107[J] From Yellow Peril to Model Minority: Asian American History to 1968

Same subject as 21G.043[J]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

See description under subject 21G.043[J].

Consult E. Teng

21H.108[J] Sexual and Gender Identities in the Modern United States

Same subject as WGS.110[J]

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

See description under subject WGS.110[J].

C. Horan

21H.109[J] Gender: Historical Perspectives

Same subject as WGS.303[J]

Subject meets with 21H.983[J], WGS.310[J]

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Examines the definition of gender in scientific, societal, and historical contexts. Explores how gender influences state formation and the work of the state, what role gender plays in imperialism and in the welfare state, the ever-present relationship between gender and war, and different states' regulation of the body in gendered ways at different times. Investigates new directions in the study of gender as historians, anthropologists and others have taken on this fascinating set of problems. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

L. Ekmekcioglu, E. Wood

21H.130 The Ancient World: Greece

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

History of Ancient Greece from the Bronze Age to the death of Alexander. Major social, economic, political, and religious trends. Homer, heroism, and the Greek identity; the hoplite revolution and the rise of the city-state; Herodotus, Persia, and the (re)birth of history; Empire, Thucydidean rationalism, and the Peloponnesian War; Aristotle, Macedonia, and Hellenism. Emphasis on use of primary sources in translation.

E. Driscoll

21H.132 The Ancient World: Rome

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

History of Rome from its humble beginnings to the 5th century A.D. First half: Kingship to Republican form; the conquest of Italy; Roman expansion: Pyrrhus, Punic Wars and provinces; classes, courts, and the Roman revolution; Augustus and the formation of empire. Second half: Virgil to the Vandals; major social, economic, political and religious trends at Rome and in the provinces. Emphasis on use of primary sources in translation. Enrollment limited.

W. Broadhead

21H.133 The Medieval World

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Investigates the dynamic history of Europe and the wider world between the late Roman empire and voyages of discovery. Examines the rise of Christianity, the cult of the saints, and monasticism; the decline of the Roman empire, the barbarian invasions, and the foundation of post-Roman kingdoms; the meteoric rise of Islam; the formation of the Carolingian, Byzantine, and Islamic empires; the Vikings and Mongols; castles, knights, and crusades; religious thinkers, reformers, and heretics; changes in art, architecture, and literature; the Black Death and the fall of Constantinople; the Italian Renaissance and the voyages of discovery.

E. Goldberg

21H.134[J] Medieval Economic History in Comparative Perspective

Same subject as 14.70[J]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Spring)

Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered

3-0-9 units. HASS-S; CI-H

Surveys the foundations of material life and changing social and economic conditions in medieval Europe in their broader Eurasian context. Covers the gradual disintegration of the Roman imperial order, the emergence and decline of feudal institutions, the transformation of peasant agriculture, living standards and the impact of climate and disease environments, and the ebb and flow of long-distance trade across the Eurasian system. Particular emphasis on the study of those factors, both institutional and technological, which contributed to the emergence of capitalist organization and economic growth in western Europe in comparison to the trajectories followed by the other major medieval economies.

A. McCants

21H.135 J.R.R. Tolkien: Scholar, Author, and Thinker

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Fall)

Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered

3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Explores how an Oxford professor of medieval philology and literature wrote the most influential work of fantasy, *The Lord of the Rings*. Investigates how Tolkien's scholarship on Anglo-Saxon and Middle English, fascination with inventing languages, experiences during the First World War, and Catholic faith shaped the creation of his fantasy world often (mistakenly) called Middle Earth. Examines Tolkien's books within the context of his life, scholarship, ideas, and beliefs to uncover how an author of fantasy literature helped shape the image of the Middle Ages in the modern popular imagination. Considers the extent to which film adaptations do justice to the complexity of Tolkien's stories, themes, and characters.

E. Goldberg

21H.141 Renaissance to Revolution: Europe, 1300-1800

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Provides an introduction to major political, social, cultural and intellectual changes in Europe from the beginnings of the Renaissance in Italy around 1300 to the outbreak of the French Revolution at the end of the 1700s. Focuses on the porous boundaries between categories of theology, magic and science. Examines how developments in these areas altered European political institutions, social structures, and cultural practices. Studies men and women, nobles and commoners, as well as Europeans and some non-Europeans with whom they came into contact.

V. Pugliano

21H.143[[]] The Making of Modern Europe: 1789-Present

Same subject as 21G.056[[]]

Subject meets with 21G.356

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Provides an introduction to European history from 1789 to the present. Surveys the Enlightenment and the French Revolution, industrialization and the rise of labor politics, imperialism and nationalism, the First and Second World Wars, the Holocaust, Cold War divisions and the dissolution of the Eastern bloc, decolonization, and the ongoing search for a new Europe after 1989. Taught in English.

E. Kempf

21H.144[[]] Introduction to Russian Studies

Same subject as 21G.087[[]]

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

See description under subject 21G.087[[]]. Limited to 25.

E. Wood, M. Khotimsky

21H.145[[]] French Photography

Same subject as 4.674[[]], 21G.049[[]]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-A; CI-H

Introduces students to the world of French photography from its invention in the 1820s to the present. Provides exposure to major photographers and images of the French tradition and encourages students to explore the social and cultural roles and meanings of photographs. Designed to help students navigate their own photo-saturated worlds; provides opportunity to gain practical experience in photography. Taught in English. Enrollment limited.

C. Clark

21H.151 Dynastic China

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Examines the first dynasty to 1800. Traces the rise of the world's first centralized bureaucratic state, the development of the world's oldest living written culture, and the formation of the pre-modern world's largest single commercial market. Studies women and men as they founded dynasties, engaged in philosophy, challenged orthodoxies, and invented technologies used around the globe. Explores China's past to understand the country's present, and reflects on what its stories mean for the global world.

T. Brown

21H.152 Modern China

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Discusses China's emergence as a global power, which has arisen out of two centuries of significant change. Explores those transformations from 1800 to the present by examining the advent of foreign imperialism in the nineteenth century, the collapse of the last imperial dynasty in 1911, China's debilitating war against Japan, the communist revolution, and the tumultuous history of the People's Republic of China from 1949. Addresses the historical transformations that have shaped contemporary Chinese politics, ethnicity, gender, environment, economics, and international relations.

*T. Brown***21H.154 Inventing the Samurai**

Subject meets with 21G.554

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Explores the historical origins of the Japanese warrior class as well as its reinvention throughout the archipelago's history. Special focus on the pre-modern era (200-1600 CE). Highlights key historical contexts including the rise of the imperial court, interactions with the broader world, and the establishment of a warrior-dominated state. Also considers the modern imaginations and uses of the warrior figure.

*H. Nagahara***21H.155 Modern Japan: 1600 to Present**

Subject meets with 21G.555

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Fall)

Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Surveys Japanese history from the establishment of the Tokugawa shogunate in 1603 to the present and explores the local and global nature of modernity in Japan. Highlights key themes, including the emergence of a modern nation-state, the rise and fall of the Japanese Empire, the development of mass consumer culture and the middle class, and the continued importance of historical memory in Japan today.

*H. Nagahara***21H.156[JJ] Global Chinese Food: A Historical Overview**

Same subject as 21G.045[JJ]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Spring)

Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

See description under subject 21G.045[JJ]. Limited to 30.

*E. Teng***21H.157[JJ] Modern South Asia**

Same subject as STS.037[JJ]

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Explores the political, social, and economic history of South Asia from the 18th century to the present day. Presents South Asia as a region defined by its diversity — of peoples, languages, histories, and states. Topics covered include: colonialism, nationalism, and the creation of modern India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh; decolonization and economic, scientific, and technological development; social and cultural change; and South Asia's interactions with the wider world.

*S. Aiyar, D. Banerjee***21H.160 Islam, the Middle East, and the West**

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Provides students with an overview of basic themes and issues in Middle Eastern history from the rise of Islam to the present, with an emphasis on exchanges and encounters between the Middle East and Europe/North America. Examines the history of the notion of "East" and "West;" the emergence of Islam and the Christianization of Europe; Ottoman expansion; the flourishing of European powers; European competition with and colonization of Middle Eastern societies, and Middle Eastern responses, including Arab and Iranian nationalisms as well as the rise of Political Islam, the "Clash of Civilizations", and Islamophobia.

P. Alimaghani

21H.161 The Modern Middle East

Prereq: None
 U (Spring)
 3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Surveys the history of the Middle East, from the end of the 19th century to the present. Examines major political, social, intellectual and cultural issues and practices. Focuses on important events, movements, and ideas that prevailed during the last century and affect its current realities. Enrollment limited.

P. Alimaghani

21H.165 A Survey of Modern African History

Prereq: None
 U (Fall)
 3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Surveys the history of 19th- and 20th-century Africa. Focuses on the European conquest of Africa and the dynamics of colonial rule, especially its socioeconomic and cultural consequences. Looks at how the rising tide of African nationalism, in the form of labor strikes and guerrilla wars, ushered out colonialism. Examines the postcolonial states, focusing on the politics of development, recent civil wars in countries like Rwanda and Liberia, the AIDS epidemic, and the history of Apartheid in South Africa up to 1994.

K. Mutongi

21H.170[J] Introduction to Latin American Studies

Same subject as 17.55[J], 21A.130[J], 21G.084[J]
 Subject meets with 21G.784

Prereq: None
 Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered
 Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Fall)
 3-0-9 units. HASS-S; CI-H

See description under subject 17.55[J].
T. Padilla, P. Duong

21H.172[J] Latin America Through Film

Same subject as 21G.078[J]
 Prereq: None
 U (Fall)
 Not offered regularly; consult department
 3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Traces Latin American history through film and analyzes how this medium represents events in the recent and distant past. Weekly movies provide a window through which to analyze themes such as colonialism, national formation, revolution, gender, race relations, popular mobilizations and counterinsurgency. Examines films for how they represent a particular group or country, the reality they capture or obscure, and the message they convey.

T. Padilla

21H.173 Socialism in Latin America, from Che Guevara to Hugo Chavez

Prereq: None
 Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Spring)
 Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered
 3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Explores various socialist projects in the Americas. Studies how Latin America's poor have supported socialism as an alternative to capitalist exploitation, as a strategy to break colonial vestiges, and an anti-imperialist ideology. Focuses on various case studies to address the meaning of socialism, how governments have implemented socialism and who has fought against it. Explores how socialism has attempted to address women's rights and combat racism, and how socialist projects have extended beyond national borders.

T. Padilla

21H.181[J] Libertarianism

Same subject as 17.035[J]
 Prereq: None
 U (Fall)
 3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Explores the history of the ideal of individual liberty in light of contemporary arguments over the proper scope of the regulatory state. Surveys the political theory of freedom and its relationship to other dominant norms (e.g., property, equality, community, republicanism, innovation, and the pursuit of wealth). Revisits the diversity of modern libertarian movements with attention to issues such as abolitionism and the Civil Rights revolution, religious liberty, the right to bear arms, and LGBTQ rights. Concludes with a set of policy and legal/constitutional debates about the role of government in regulating the financial markets, artificial intelligence, and/or the internet.

M. Ghachem

21H.185[J] Environment and History

Same subject as 12.386[J], STS.031[J]
 Prereq: None
 U (Spring)
 Not offered regularly; consult department
 3-0-9 units. HASS-S; CI-H

Focusing on the period from 1500 to the present, explores the influence of climate, topography, plants, animals, and microorganisms on human history and the reciprocal influence of people on the environment. Topics include the European encounter with the Americas, the impact of modern technology, and the current environmental crisis. Enrollment limited.

K. Brown, S. Solomon

21H.186 Nature and Environment in China

Subject meets with 21H.976

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Focuses on the late imperial period with forays into the modern area. Explores how Chinese states and people related to and shaped their environments, which, in turn, shaped China. Considers the degree to which China's long environmental history has integrated with global trends and ponders the historical experiences and precedents we bring to today's environmental challenges. Explores the diverse ways in which scholars study China's environmental history and conceptions of nature, including the use of digital humanities tools for visualizing data and analyzing geography. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

T. Brown

21H.187 The History of US Environmental Governance

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Explores the interwoven threads of politics, economics, and the environment in the 20th century. Examines topics such as preservation, conservation, national park creation, federal projects, infrastructure, economic growth, hydrocarbon society, international development, nuclear power, consumer rights, public health crises, environmentalism, Earth Day, globalization, sustainability, and climate change. Studies how politics, economics, and environment converged in modern U.S. history, the "Green New Deal" and how its role promoting economic growth conflicts with its commitments to environmental management, and the emergence of the environmental movement.

M. Black

Intermediate**21H.201 The American Revolution**

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Covers the American Revolution in the broadest sense; not only the independence movement and the military conflict, but also the liberation struggles launched by Indigenous people, enslaved Americans, free women, and others. Modes of learning could include reenactments, close reading of primary sources, or field trips. Field trips may be optional or mandatory depending on scheduling. Limited to 18.

M. Kars

21H.203 The History of American Presidential Elections

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Introduces the main themes and topics in the history of presidential elections from 1788 to the present. Explores structures of the US executive branch, the primary, convention, and election systems, and the Electoral College. Students examine academic debates in history and other social sciences, and undertake a research project based on a past election of their choosing. Meets with 21H.061 when offered concurrently. 21H.061 is offered only in an election year (not for HASS credit) and covers the first half of the course, leading up to election day.

C. Capozzola

21H.211 The United States in the Cold War Era

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Examines the history of the Cold War era (1947-1991), with a focus on the impacts of that conflict on American social and political life. Topics under consideration include: the United States as a global actor and the repercussions of decolonization in a Cold War context; the formation of the military-industrial-academic complex and its role in the development of computing and other technologies; disaster planning, civil defense, and apocalyptic imaginaries that arose in response to the threat of nuclear warfare; McCarthyism, propaganda, and political repression; the emergence of student, environmental, civil rights, and anti-nuclear protest movements; and the legacies of the Cold War at home and abroad.

C. Horan

21H.213[J] The War at Home: American Politics and Society in Wartime

Same subject as 17.28[J]

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

See description under subject 17.28[J].

A. Berinsky, C. Capozzola

21H.214 War and American Society

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Examines how issues of war and national security have affected politics, economics, and society from the First World War to the war in Iraq. Draws on historical evidence as well as representations in film, music and popular culture.

C. Capozzola

21H.217[J] American Urban History

Same subject as 11.013[J]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

See description under subject 11.013[J].

E. Glenn

21H.218[J] History of the Built Environment in the US

Same subject as 11.014[J]

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

2-0-7 units. HASS-H; CI-H

See description under subject 11.014[J].

R. M. Fogelson

21H.220[J] Metropolis: A Comparative History of New York City

Same subject as 11.150[J]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Examines the evolution of New York City from 1607 to the present. Readings focus on the city's social and physical histories.

Discussions compare New York's development to patterns in other cities.

C. Wilder

21H.223 History of Work in the Modern US (New)

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Examines the history of work in the United States from the late-nineteenth century to the present, with an emphasis on the changing meaning and nature of work itself. Topics will include historical transformations in the management of work; the impact of technological change on workers and workplaces; the role of government in shaping the economy and regulating employment; The relation of both paid and unpaid labor to the family and other social institutions; changes to the composition of the workforce and the role of nationality, ethnicity, race, gender, and sexual identity in shaping the experience of work, and labor movements and other collective efforts to transform working conditions and employment relations in the United States.

C. Horan

21H.225 History of American Capitalism

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)

2-0-10 units. HASS-H

Discussion-based seminar offering an introduction to the history of capitalism and a broad overview of debates concerning its impacts on social life, with a particular focus on the modern American experience. Examines the central position that the United States occupies in today's capitalist global system and the key role it has played in shaping both the development of capitalism and critical responses to its advance. Drawing on primary historical documents and secondary literature from multiple disciplines, students examine capitalism's historical relationship to race, class, gender, government, finance, technology, and the natural environment. Limited to 15.

C. Horan, J. Jackson

21H.226[JJ] Riots, Strikes, and Conspiracies in American History

Same subject as 11.015[JJ]

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Focuses on a series of short, complicated, traumatic events that shed light on American politics, culture, and society. Events studied may include the rendition of Anthony Burns in 1854, the most famous fugitive slave controversy in US history; the Homestead strike/lockout of 1892; the quiz show scandal of the 1950s; and the student uprisings at Columbia University in 1968. Emphasis on finding ways to make sense of these events and on using them to understand larger processes of change in American history.

A. Pope

21H.227 History of the US Supreme Court

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Fall)

Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Exploration of the historical development of constitutional law and the relationship between the Supreme Court and broader social, political, and cultural trends. Introduces major themes and patterns of change in American constitutional law since 1787, including federal-state relations, racial and gender equality, economic regulation, and civil liberties. Readings consist of original court cases, especially from the US Supreme Court, including cases of the current term.

C. Capozzola

21H.228 American Classics

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Students read, discuss, and write about critical works in American history from the 17th through the 20th centuries. Includes writings by early Puritan writers, Franklin, Paine, Jefferson, and Madison; Lewis and Clark; Frederick Douglass; Harriet Beecher Stowe; the Lincoln-Douglas debates; U. S. Grant, W. E. B. Dubois, Andrew Carnegie, Horatio Alger, F. D. Roosevelt, Betty Friedan, and Martin Luther King, Jr. May also include music, recorded speeches, television programs, visual images, or films. Enrollment limited.

C. Wilder

21H.229 The Black Radical Tradition in America

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Focuses on American history from the African-American perspective. Includes alternative visions of the nation's future, and definitions of its progress, that have called for a fundamental restructuring of political, economic and social relations. Introduces events, figures and institutions that have shaped African-American history, from the struggles to dominate the African coast and the emergence of a modern slave trade, through the fall of the Western slave societies. Also examines the experiences of Africans in other parts of North America, as well as South America and the Caribbean.

C. Wilder

21H.230 Barbarians, Saints, and Emperors

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Explores the late Roman Empire and its transformations during Late Antiquity (c.300-c.700). Questions the traditional decline and fall narrative of the period, which argues that Christianity and barbarians destroyed classical civilization and ushered in the Dark Ages. Explores such topics as Romans and barbarians, paganism and Christianity, politics and war, Rome and Constantinople, and bishops and saints. Discusses the influence of such characters as Constantine the Great, St. Augustine, Attila the Hun, and the prophet Mohammed.

E. Goldberg

21H.234[] Gender and Sexuality in the Ancient Mediterranean World (New)

Same subject as WGS.262[]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Spring)

Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Introduces students to gender, sex, and sexuality in the ancient world. Focuses on ancient Greece, with comparative consideration of Roman and ancient Jewish cultures. Emphasizes the historical construction of gender and sexual identities and how they intersect with other cultural and political structures. Topics include the mythological origins of gender difference, medical and scientific theories of sex, philosophical perspectives on sexuality, homoeroticism and queer attachments, and legal and social control of gendered bodily functions. Readings include ancient literary, legal, philosophical, and scientific texts as well as modern scholarship. One field trip to the Museum of Fine Arts is required.

E. Driscoll

21H.237 The City of Athens in the Age of Pericles

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Historical topography of ancient Athens. Investigates the relationship between urban architecture and political, social, and cultural history of Athens in the 5th and 4th centuries BC. Surveys and analyzes archeological and literary evidence, including the sanctuary of Athena on the Acropolis, the Agora, Greek houses, the histories of Herodotus and Thucydides, plays of Sophocles and Aristophanes, and the panhellenic sanctuaries of Delphi and Olympia.

W. Broadhead

21H.238 The Vikings

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Explores the complex relationship of the Vikings with the medieval world. Investigates the dynamics of Viking expansion, not only in terms of raiding and conflict, but also as a process of diplomacy, settlement, assimilation, and colonization. Examines developments within Scandinavian society such as state formation, social structures, trade, shipbuilding, slavery, urban growth, and Christianization. Considers the methodological difficulties presented by the diverse and often contradictory historical sources for information about the Vikings, such as chronicles, archaeology, coin hoards, stone inscriptions, and sagas.

E. Goldberg

21H.239 The City of Rome in the Age of the Caesars

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Fall)

Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Historical topography of Ancient Rome. Investigates the relationship between urban architecture and the political, social, and cultural history of Rome from the 1st century BC to the 2nd century AD. Surveys and analyzes archaeological and literary evidence, including the Roman Forum, the Imperial fora, the palace of the emperors, the atrium houses of Roman Pompeii, the Colosseum, the Pantheon, Polybius' history, Martial's Epigrams, and Vitruvius' treatise on architecture.

W. Broadhead

21H.240 The World of Charlemagne

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Investigates the world of the first medieval emperor, Charles the Great, or Charlemagne (768-814). Focuses on how Charlemagne and his dynasty, the Carolingians (ruled 751-888), forged a vast empire out of the diverse peoples and territories of Europe - not only through conquests and military might, but through Christianity and the Church, education and literacy, government and law, art and architecture, and a fundamental reorganization of the economy and society. Considers the enduring contributions of Charlemagne and his family to the formation of Europe as well as the shortcomings and failures of their empire.

E. Goldberg

21H.241[J] France and Haiti: Enlightenment, Slavery, and Revolution

Same subject as 21G.054[J]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Explores the relationship between the Enlightenment, slavery, and the French and Haitian revolutions. Studies France and Haiti prior to 1789, analyzes some of the central texts of the Enlightenment with an emphasis on ideas about monarchy, slavery, and democracy. Considers the place of these ideas and the role of popular mobilization in the French and Haitian revolutionary era from 1789 to 1804. Concludes with an examination of some of the legacies of the eighteenth-century experience for modern French and Haitian politics.

M. Ghachem

21H.242[J] Frenchness in an Era of Globalization

Same subject as 21G.322[J]

Prereq: One intermediate subject in French or permission of instructor

U (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

See description under subject 21G.322[J]. Limited to 18.

C. Clark

21H.243 Modern Germany (New)

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Surveys the history of modern Germany from the mid-eighteenth century to the present. Traces the rise of nationalism, German empire-building in Europe and globally, the cataclysms of the First and Second World Wars, Weimar, the Holocaust, occupation and division during the Cold War, and reunification. Places emphasis on memory politics and understanding German history in its European and global contexts.

E. Kempf

21H.244[J] Imperial and Revolutionary Russia: Culture and Politics, 1700-1917

Same subject as 21G.085[J]

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Analyzes Russia's social, cultural, and political heritage in the 18th and 19th centuries, up to and including the Russian Revolution of 1917. Compares reforming and revolutionary impulses in the context of serfdom, the rise of the intelligentsia, and debates over capitalism. Focuses on historical and literary texts, especially the intersections between the two.

E. Wood

21H.245[J] 20th Century Ukraine and Russia: Entangled Histories and Identity Politics

Same subject as 17.57[J], 21G.086[J]

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-S; CI-H

Explores the political and historical evolution of relations between Ukraine and Russia from 1900 to the present, with particular focus on the Soviet period from 1917 onward. Examines Ukrainian debates about autonomy and independence in the pre-revolutionary period; the revolutions of 1905 and 1917; the creation of the new Soviet state; the wars of 1917-1922; industrialization and collectivization, including the famines of 1932-1933; Stalinism; World War II; reform and stagnation; attempts at reform under Gorbachev; and, finally, the dramatic divergence of the two regions after 1991. Enrollment limited.

E. Wood

21H.247[J] Looking East/Looking West

Same subject as 21G.050[J]

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Examines how objects and images mediate encounters between people and helped define the "Orient" and the "Occident." Explores the visual and material culture as well as textual accounts produced by and consumed during encounters between European and Asian travelers, diplomats, artists, writers, and tourists since the seventeenth century. Considers the frameworks scholars have used to understand these encounters and how we might deploy those frameworks ourselves. Employs historical thinking to work on our skills of visual and cultural analysis. Questions how these legacies of material and visual exchange have shaped the community within Boston area.

C. Clark, H. Nagahara

21H.253[J] Global Chinese Migration, 1567-Present

Same subject as 21G.075[J]

Subject meets with 21G.196

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

See description under subject 21G.075[J].

E. Teng

21H.260 Cities in the Middle East: History, Politics and Society

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Examines the role and centrality of cities in the history of the modern Middle East, through political, social, cultural and urban interactions. Begins with a theoretical introduction of the different approaches for investigating urban spaces, and follows with discussions of case studies that demonstrate the diversity of urban centers in the Middle East, including Beirut, Istanbul, Jerusalem, Mecca, Algiers, and Cairo.

Staff

21H.261 Modern Iran: A Century of Revolution

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Provides an overview of Iran's modern history from a social, cultural, and political perspective while also considering factors as they relate to gender and race. Covers the country's long and complicated interaction with the "West." Situates Iran in the wider region, thereby delineating how political trends in the Middle East influenced the country and how its history of revolution has in turn impacted the region. Unpacks the Sunni-Shi'ite divide as a modern phenomenon rooted more in inter-state rivalry than in a theological dispute, Western perceptions of the Iranian and the Middle Eastern "Other," the Iranian Diaspora, political Islam, and post-Islamism.

P. Alimaghan

21H.262 Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Surveys the history and various realities and challenges of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Introduces the fundamental historical trajectories of the conflict. Analyzes the conflicting narratives and perceptions of both Palestinians and Israelis over key moments and issues in the conflict's history. Considers current challenges and possible solutions to the conflict. Limited to 40.

P. Alimaghan

21H.263[J] Women and Gender in the Middle East and North Africa

Same subject as 21A.138[J], WGS.220[J]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

See description under subject WGS.220[J].

L. Eckmekcioglu

21H.265 Humanitarianism and Africa: A Critical History

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Examines two centuries of foreign interventions in Africa in the name of humanitarian principles, from the abolition of the slave trade to the most recent Ebola crisis in West Africa. Explores humanitarianism and how it informs the understanding of poverty, race, and violence; and who gives and receives aid. Scrutinizes the prejudices about Africans embedded within salvation projects and how these campaigns have been part of the larger dynamics of power that have defined Africa's position in the world before, during, and after the European colonization of the continent. Reflects upon the practical and morally ethical alternatives in a world still shaped by suffering and injustice.

K. Mutongi

21H.266 South Africa and Apartheid

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Explores the spatial, legal, economic, social and political structures that created Apartheid in South Africa, and the factors that led to the collapse of the racist order. Examines the many forces of black oppression and the various forms of resistance to Apartheid. Themes include industrialization and the formation of the black working classes, constructions of race, ethnicities and sexualities, land alienation and rural struggles, township poverty and violence, black education, and the Black Consciousness Movement.

*K. Mutongi***21H.267 Resistance and Revolt in Atlantic Slavery**

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Examines the many ways enslaved people in the Americas resisted slavery, individually and collectively. Studies shipboard revolts, maronage, conspiracies, and armed uprisings. Investigates the causes and organization of rebellion. Uses the topic of rebellion to study how historians analyze and use primary sources, historical context, and write convincing prose.

*M. Kars***21H.268 Urban History in Africa**

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Explores the emergence of cities in sub-Saharan Africa, and traces major themes in the history of urban Africa. Examines urban Africans at work and leisure, including their popular culture and politics and the conflicts that arise from the cities' growth. Questions how the city emerged in Africa, what distinguishes African cities, and how urban Africans have responded to the dramatic historical changes and intense cultural interactions of African history (e.g. colonialism, industrialization, urbanization, globalization). Incorporates scholarly monographs and articles, African life histories, primary sources, fiction, and film to explore the variety of perspectives on urban history in Africa.

*K. Mutongi***21H.270[] Latinx in the Age of Empire**

Same subject as 21A.131[]

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Analyzes the histories and presence of the Latinx population in the context of US territorial expansion, foreign intervention and economic policy toward Latin America. Combines both historical and anthropological approaches to analyze local conditions that lead people to migrate within the broader forces of international political economy. Pays attention to the historical context in the home countries, especially as impacted by US policy. Explores Latinx community dynamics, politics of migrant labor, relational formations of race and transnational forms of belonging. Historically and ethnographically seeks to understand structures of criminalization, activist practices of resistance and the development of deportation regimes.

*H. Beltran, T. Padilla***21H.273 From Coca to Cocaine: Drug Economies in Latin America**

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Spring)

Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Explores how drug production and consumption has affected Latin America's political, cultural and economic life and shaped US foreign policy toward the region. Discusses the history of different psychoactive substances and analyzes why certain drugs became illegal. Pays particular attention to the relationship between strategies of interdiction, poverty, and drug violence. Limited to 35.

*T. Padilla***21H.274[] Creation of a Continent: Media Representations of Hispanic America, 1492 to present**

Same subject as 21G.731[], CMS.357[]

Prereq: One intermediate Spanish subject or permission of instructor

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Traces the creation of a new literature in Spanish to record and interpret New World experiences. Begins with excerpts from Columbus's diary and ends with writings on the late 19th-century Cuban and Puerto Rican independence movements. Pairs some of these pre-20th-century texts with more recent literary and film interpretations of the first 400 years of Hispanic American history. Conducted in Spanish.

P. Duong

21H.276 Medicine, Health, and Healing in the Global South (New)

Prereq: None
 Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Fall)
 Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered
 3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Through the lens of Latin America, explores the history of social medicine, a field that understands health and illness through structural determinants such as poverty, underdevelopment, and socio-demographic inequality. Topics include: Latin America's national initiatives — past and present — for social medicine; historical figures who trained as doctors but became presidents or revolutionaries; South-South cooperation in the field of medicine; and Indigenous practices to care and wellbeing. Explores the history of medical practices that defy Western paradigms and challenges students to think about the perils and possibilities of their own medical system and the diverse population it serves.

T. Padilla

21H.281 MIT and Slavery: Research

Prereq: None
 U (Fall)
 Not offered regularly; consult department
 3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Explores the influence of slavery and race on MIT's founding and early development, and the connections between slavery and the rise of sciences and engineering. #Students will have their research projects published through the *MIT and Slavery* website. #While 21H.281 and 21H.282 are sequential, students have the option of taking either or both.#

N. Murphy, C. Wilder

21H.282 MIT and Slavery: Publication

Prereq: None
 U (Spring)
 Not offered regularly; consult department
 3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Students work on turning research from 21H.281 into publishable quality essays, researching images and other supporting documentary materials, and developing the main narrative of the *MIT and Slavery* website, for which they receive editorial credit. #While 21H.281 and 21H.282 are sequential, students have the option of taking either or both.#

N. Murphy, C. Wilder

21H.283 The Indigenous History of MIT

Prereq: None
 U (Fall)
 Not offered regularly; consult department
 3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Students work with MIT faculty, staff, and alumni, as well as faculty and researchers at other universities and centers, to focus on how Indigenous people and communities have influenced the rise and development of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Students build a research portfolio that will include an original research essay, archival and bibliographic records, maps and images, and other relevant documentary and supporting materials. Limited to 15.

C. Wilder

21H.284 South Asia, the United States, and MIT: Transformative Connections

Prereq: None
 Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered
 Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)
 2-0-10 units. HASS-H

Explores the longstanding connections between MIT and South Asia (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal) since 1882. Investigates the history of MIT's alumni, faculty, and staff to examine the history of colonization and nation-building in South Asia, race and immigration in the United States, and globalization and technical revolutions across the world. Examines key historical moments of significance to both South Asia and America such as decolonization, the Cold War, and globalization as they intersected with the lives of MIT's South Asian affiliates. Instruction provided in historical methodologies through archival research and oral histories that are showcased in a final project. Limited to 18.

S. Aiyar

21H.289 History Near and Dear: Writing Yourself into History

Prereq: None
 U (Spring)
 3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Studies a broad range of writers who have investigated their family history or an instance of local history near and dear to their hearts. Examines questions about historical and emotional truths, memory and identity and place, and the ability of individual experience to illuminate a broader social and political history. Selected texts are simultaneously narrative nonfiction, investigative memoir, and cultural criticism. Students produce a paper investigating an aspect of their own family or local history. Exercises include workshops, peer-review, reflections, and revisions.

M. Kars

21H.290 Economic Classics: The History of Economic Ideas from Ancient Times to the Present

Subject meets with 21H.920

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Surveys the history of economics by introducing students to some of the most powerful and influential economic thinkers, from Xenophon and Huan K'uan through Adam Smith, Karl Marx, and Paul Samuelson, to Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo. Explores the evolution of key economic concepts — the state and the market, natural resources, and crises — by situating them in historical context and perspective. Through the close reading, analysis and discussion of some of the most important texts in the history of economic thought, traces the development of ideas, norms and ways of thinking that continue to shape decision-making in both daily life and global policy. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

A. McCants, I. Kumekawa

Seminars**21H.315 History of Consumerism**

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Fall)

Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered

2-0-10 units. HASS-H

Examines the role of commerce and consumption in shaping American life. Introduces theoretical approaches to commodities and consumerism. Explores social and cultural transformations linked to the emergence of a market economy in the 19th century, the rise of a mass consumer society in the 20th century, and the development of a global digital marketplace in the 21st century.

C. Horan

21H.317 Free Expression, Pluralism, and the University

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Explores how American higher education has grappled with the hard questions that live at the intersection of free expression, academic freedom, and the commitment to a diverse and inclusive learning environment. Discusses the history and law of free speech and academic freedom and considers the contemporary disputes that have arisen over these values. Studies the responses of American university communities (public and private) to these conflicts since the 1950s: the bitter contests over McCarthy-era loyalty oaths, the student-led civil rights and anti-Vietnam War protests of the 1960s, the hate speech codes of the 1990s, and today's ongoing turf wars over so-called "cancel culture" and control of teaching and the curriculum.

M. Ghachem

21H.319 Crime, Punishment, and Policing in America

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Provides an overview of the law of crime and punishment in the United States, focusing on the interaction between policing practices and the development of the criminal justice system since the late eighteenth century. Examines competing accounts of the history of "mass incarceration" and the debate over whether American criminal justice amounts to an instrument of racial control. Case studies include the death penalty, criminal procedure, counter-terrorism law before and after 9/11, and the long history of American police reform.

M. Ghachem

21H.320[J] Gender and the Law in US History

Same subject as WGS.161[J]

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Explores the legal history of the US as a gendered system. Examines how women have shaped the meanings of American citizenship through pursuit of political rights such as suffrage, jury duty, and military service, as well as how the legal system has shaped gender relations through regulation of such issues as marriage, divorce, work, reproduction, and the family. Readings draw from primary and secondary materials, focusing on the broad historical relationship between law and society. No legal knowledge is required or assumed.

C. Capozzola

21H.321[J] Downtown

Same subject as 11.026[J]

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

2-0-7 units. HASS-H

Seminar on downtown in US cities from the late 19th century to the late 20th. Emphasis on downtown as an idea, place, and cluster of interests, on the changing character of downtown, and on recent efforts to rebuild it. Considers subways, skyscrapers, highways, urban renewal, and retail centers. Focus on readings, discussions, and individual research projects. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

R. M. Fogelson

21H.322 Christianity in America

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Examines Christian encounters with Judaism, Islam, and the indigenous religions of Africa and America. Explores the intellectual and social consequences of Christian imperialism and the transformations of Christianity during its American encounters.

C. Wilder

21H.330 Ancient Empires: Persians and Greeks in Antiquity

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Explores interactions between Greeks and Persians in the Mediterranean and Near East from the Archaic Period to the Hellenistic Age, and works to illuminate the interface between these two distinct yet complementary cultures. Examines the general narrative of Greco-Persian history, from the foundation of the Achaemenid Empire in the middle of the sixth century BCE to the Macedonian conquest of Persia some 250 years later. Discusses how contact between Persia and the Greeks in antiquity has influenced discourse about the opposition between East and West in the modern world. Students examine archaeological, epigraphical, numismatic, and literary materials from a variety of sources including Greek historiography, tragedy, and oratory; Persian royal inscriptions and administrative documents; and the Hebrew Bible.

A. Forte

21H.331 Julius Caesar and the Fall of the Roman Republic

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Ancient Rome from 133 to 27 BC. Explores political, social, and economic factors commonly offered to explain the fall of the Roman Republic: growth of the territorial empire, increased intensity of aristocratic competition, transformation of the Italian economy, growth of the city of Rome and dependence of the urban plebs, changes in military recruitment and dependence of soldiers on their generals. Emphasis on the reading of ancient sources in translation, including Cicero, Sallust, Caesar, Augustus, Appian, Plutarch, and Suetonius. Instruction and practice in oral and written communication provided. Taught in seminar format with emphasis on class participation. Limited to 15.

W. Broadhead

21H.332 Medieval Warfare

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Investigates the organization and conduct of war in the medieval world, from barbarian invasions in Late Antiquity to the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople in 1453. Explores continuities and transformations in warfare from the late Roman empire to the successor kingdoms of medieval Europe, Byzantium, and the Muslim world. Examines the complex interplay between war, politics, and society, and problematizes popular images of medieval warfare as primitive, heroic, and chivalric. Topics include the barbarian invasions of the Roman empire, the expansion of Islam, Charlemagne's subjugation of the Saxons, the Viking raids, castle building and siege warfare, the Norman Conquest and Crusades, and ideologies of just war, holy war, and jihad.

E. Goldberg

21H.333 Early Christianity

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Introduction to the history of early Christianity, from Jesus to Muhammad. Investigates the origins and spread of the Jesus movement within the ancient Jewish and Roman worlds, the emergence of the Church, and the diversity of early Christian thought, spirituality, literature, and art. Examines such topics as the historical Jesus and Paul, relations among Jews, Romans, and Christians, debates over orthodoxy and heresy, the conversion of the Roman empire, the rise of bishops and monasticism, the Church Fathers, and the cult of the saints.

*E. Goldberg***21H.336 The Making of a Roman Emperor**

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Through close examination of the emperor Augustus and his Julio-Claudian successors, this subject investigates how Roman emperors used art, architecture, coinage, and other media to create and project an image of themselves, how the surviving literary sources from the Roman period reinforced or subverted that image, and how both phenomena have contributed to post-classical perceptions of Roman emperors. Also considers works of Suetonius and Tacitus, and modern representations of the emperors such as those found in the films *I, Claudius*, *Quo Vadis*, and HBO's *Rome* series. Enrollment limited to 15.

*W. Broadhead***21H.343[*J*] Making Books in the Renaissance and Today**Same subject as CC.120[*J*]

Prereq: None

U (Fall, Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-A

Explores the impact of new technology on the recording and distribution of words and images in Europe from 1400-1800. Assignments include essays and online projects. Students participate in the design and printing of an eight-page pamphlet on a hand-set printing press. Limited to 12.

*E. Zimmer***21H.352[*J*] Three Kingdoms: From History to Fiction, Comic, Film, and Game**Same subject as 21G.042[*J*], 21L.492[*J*], CMS.359[*J*]

Subject meets with 21G.133

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Fall)

Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

See description under subject 21G.042[*J*].*E. Teng***21H.354 World War II in Asia**

Subject meets with 21G.556

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Examines World War II in the Asia-Pacific region, starting with the rise of the Japanese Empire after World War I and ending with the Allied occupation of Japan from 1945 to 1952. Highlights the diverse and, at times, contradictory forces in politics, society, and culture that shaped the wartime experiences of the empire's inhabitants.

*H. Nagahara***21H.357 South Asian Migrations**

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Studies how and why South Asians, who have migrated to America, Europe, Africa, the Caribbean and the Middle East, are considered a model minority in some countries and unwanted strangers in others. Through literature, memoirs, films, music, and historical writing, follows migrants as they discovered the world beyond their countries of origin: India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. Students complete final projects on different aspects of MIT's relationship with the Indian subcontinent including research on South Asian students and alumni.

S. Aiyar

21H.358[] Colonialism in South Asia and Africa: Race, Gender, Resistance

Same subject as WGS.315[]
Subject meets with 21H.958
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
2-0-10 units. HASS-H

Provides a comparative perspective on the history of colonialism in India and Africa. Explores the political, social, and economic changes brought about by colonial rule. Discusses the international context for the emergence of European Imperialism in the 19th century; the nature of early colonial expansion and consolidation; the re-invention of tradition in colonial societies, especially with regard to racial and ethnic identity, gender, religion, and caste; and expressions of anti-colonial resistance. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments. Limited to 12.

S. Aiyar

21H.361 Echoes of Slavery: Recovering the Histories of Enslaved People

Prereq: None
Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered
Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
Can be repeated for credit.

Students conduct archival research about slavery and create a research project to be made available to the public online. Examines archival data from digitized collections online or physical collections in the Boston area. Projects may range from devising an innovative interface for public use of the data or carrying out a demographic study to creating a story map or making a podcast or video. Students write accompanying short essays that situate the data in historical context and document the research projects.

M. Kars

21H.363[] Abortion: Global and Historical Perspectives

Same subject as WGS.330[]
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Fall)
Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Addresses topics such as the development of abortion law in the US and around the world, ethics of abortion and forcible pregnancy, pro- and anti-abortion activism, economics of abortion, and terms related to abortion, including reproductive justice, reproductive rights, bodily autonomy, and fetal politics. Tackles questions including how different societies at different times have approached the question of the removal of a fetus from a human body, who are (or should be) stakeholders in making the decision to deliberately terminate a pregnancy or ban such a decision, and whether abortion was always a "question" that different groups and individuals discussed, evaluated, and regulated. Encourages students to think about this issue in historical context to help them form analytically sound arguments.

L. Ekmekcioglu

21H.365 Minorities and Majorities in the Middle East

Prereq: None
Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Fall)
Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Seminar considers "difference" and "sameness" as they have been conceived, experienced, and regulated by peoples of the Middle East, with a focus on the 19th and 20th centuries. First half discusses the Ottoman Empire. Explores how this multiethnic, polyglot empire survived for several relatively peaceful centuries and what happened when its formula for existence was challenged by politics based on mono-ethnic states. Second half focuses on post-Ottoman nation-states, such as Turkey and Egypt, and Western-mandated Arab states, such as Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, and Iraq. Concludes with a case analysis of Israel.

L. Ekmekcioglu

21H.370 The Laws of War in Global History (New)

Subject meets with 21H.970

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Explores the history of the modern laws of war from the mid-eighteenth century to the present. Traces the transformations of this body of law from eighteenth-century cabinet warfare to the first codifications of laws of war in the nineteenth century, the effect of these laws on subsequent wars, and the recasting of the laws of war into international humanitarian law in the twentieth century. Covers the right to go to war, laws regulating military conduct, and efforts to use law to litigate wartime transgressions. Focuses on colonial hierarchies and exclusions, the persistent problem of new weaponry, and the protection of civilians in wartime. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

E. Kempf

21H.371[J] Ukrainian Postcolonial Urban Frameworks (New)

Same subject as 11.071[J]

Subject meets with 11.571[J], 21H.971[J]

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Invites students to reimagine Ukraine's urban landscape through the lens of decolonialization, post-war recovery, and wartime response, where history, memory, and design converge. Exploring Soviet-era neighborhoods, post-industrial relics, and anthropogenic scars, the project delves into the subtle processes of transforming inherited spaces. Through site analyses, design proposals, and critical reflection, students unravel the complex layers of urban identity — juxtaposing past impositions with contemporary aspirations. Questions how to preserve, repurpose, and regenerate, navigating the blurred boundaries between history, future sustainability, and human-centered design. Delves into the dilemmas of rebuilding amidst ongoing war, exploring possible frameworks and tools for Ukraine's recovery and decolonization efforts. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

E. Wood, B. Ryan

21H.380[J] People and Other Animals

Same subject as 21A.411[J]

Subject meets with 21A.419[J], 21H.980[J]

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

2-0-10 units. HASS-S

Historical exploration of the ways that people have interacted with their closest animal relatives, for example: hunting, domestication of livestock, exploitation of animal labor, scientific study of animals, display of exotic and performing animals, and pet-keeping. Themes include changing ideas about animal agency and intelligence, our moral obligations to animals, and the limits imposed on the use of animals. Students taking the graduate version complete additional assignments.

H. Ritvo

21H.381[J] Women and War

Same subject as WGS.222[J]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Examines women's experiences during and after war and genocide, covering the first half of the 20th century in Europe and the Middle East. Addresses ways in which women's wartime suffering has been used to further a variety of political and social agendas. Discussions focus on a different topic each week, such as sexual violence, women survivors, female perpetrators of genocide, nurses, children of genocidal rape, and the memory of war.

L. Ekmekcioglu

21H.383 Technology and the Global Economy, 1000-2000

Subject meets with 21H.982
 Prereq: None
 Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered
 Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)
 3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Examines the global history of the last millennium, including technological change, commodity exchange, systems of production, and economic growth. Students engage with economic history, medieval and early modern origins of modern systems of production, consumption and global exchange. Topics include the long pre-history of modern economic development; medieval world systems; the age of discovery, the global crisis of the 17th century; demographic systems, global population movements; the industrial revolution, the rise of the modern consumer; colonialism and empire building; patterns of inequality, within and across states; resources and development; and the threat of climate change to modern economic systems. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

A. McCants

21H.385[.] The Ghetto: From Venice to Harlem

Same subject as 11.152[.]
 Prereq: None
 Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Fall)
 Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered
 3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Provides an in-depth look at a modern institution of oppression: the ghetto. Uses literature to examine ghettoization over time and across a wide geographical area, from Jews in Medieval Europe to African-Americans and Latinos in the 20th-century United States. Also explores segregation and poverty in the urban "Third World."

C. Wilder

21H.388 Global Commodities, American Dreams

Subject meets with 21H.988
 Prereq: None
 Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered
 Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Fall)
 3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Explores how American actors and institutions got the raw materials that built the nation. Approaches commodities as a lens through which to understand a more specific relationship between the United States and the wider world in political, economic, and environmental terms, and examines a global cartography of commodities, resources, and other "stuff" that became enmeshed in American life. Examines materials like sugar, cotton, wheat, bananas, rubber, aluminum, petroleum, uranium, drugs, and others, to trace a pattern of global resource exploitation back to sites of policymaking and consumption in the United States. Explores interconnections between human society and the non-human environment, troubling the boundary often understood to divide them. Includes themes of US empire, environment, labor, consumption, modernity, race, gender, class, and transnationalism. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

M. Black

21H.390 Theories and Methods in the Study of History

Subject meets with 21H.991
 Prereq: Two History subjects or permission of instructor
 U (Fall)
 3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Examines the distinctive ways in which historians in different parts of the world have approached the task of writing history. Explores methodologies used, such as political, social, economic, cultural, and popular histories through the reading and discussion of relevant and innovative texts. Introduces a variety of sources (archival documents, statistical data, film, fiction, memoirs, artifacts, and images) and the ways they can be used to research, interpret, and present the past. Assignments include an original research paper. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

C. Horan

21H.391 Undergraduate Independent Study

Prereq: None
 U (Fall, IAP)
 Units arranged
 Can be repeated for credit.

Individual supervised work for students who wish to explore an area of interest in history. Before registering, a student must plan a course of study with a member of the History Faculty and secure approval from the Head of the History Faculty. Normal maximum is 6 units; exceptional 9-unit projects occasionally approved.

M. Ghachem

21H.392 Undergraduate Independent Study

Prereq: Permission of instructor

U (Spring)

Units arranged

Can be repeated for credit.

Individual supervised work for students who wish to explore an area of interest in history. Before registering, a student must plan a course of study with a member of the History Faculty and secure approval from the Head of the History Faculty. Normal maximum is 6 units; exceptional 9-unit projects occasionally approved.

*M. Ghachem***21H.C30 Encoding Culture: Computation Methods in the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences**

Prereq: 6.100A, 6.100B, or 6.100L

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-E

Applies computational methods for manipulating and analyzing encoded media, and draws from a wide range of practices including computational linguistics, audio processing, computer vision, and machine learning. Explores what it means to digitally encode and analyze culture. Studies the history and current practice of digitally encoding text, images, audio, and tabular datasets, along with the cultural and social issues implicit in these systems. Confronts the underlying issues of what is lost and gained when we encode culture. Limited to 25.

*C. Clark***Special Subjects****21H.S01 Special Subject: History**

Prereq: Permission of instructor

U (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Can be repeated for credit.

Opportunity for group study of special subject not listed in the regular History curriculum.

*Staff***21H.S02 Special Subject: History**

Prereq: Permission of instructor

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units

Can be repeated for credit.

Opportunity for group study of special subject not listed in the regular History curriculum.

*Staff***21H.S03 Special Subject: History**

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

Units arranged

Can be repeated for credit.

Opportunity for group study of special subject not listed in the regular History curriculum.

*Staff***21H.S04 Special Subject: History**

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

2-0-10 units

Can be repeated for credit.

Opportunity for group study of special subject not listed in the regular History curriculum.

*Staff***21H.S05 Special Subject: History**

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units

Opportunity for group study of special subject not listed in the regular History curriculum.

*Staff***Undergraduate Research****21H.THT History Pre-Thesis Tutorial**

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

Units arranged

Can be repeated for credit.

Students writing a thesis in History develop their research topics, review relevant research and scholarship, frame their research questions and arguments, choose an appropriate methodology for analysis, and draft the introductory and methodology sections of their theses. Includes substantial practice in writing (with revision) and oral presentations.

M. Ghachem

21H.THU History Thesis

Prereq: 21H.THT

U (Spring)

Units arranged

Can be repeated for credit.

Completion of work on the senior major thesis under supervision of a faculty thesis advisor. Includes oral presentation of thesis progress early in the term, assembling and revising the final text, and a final meeting with a committee of faculty evaluators to discuss the successes and limitations of the project. Required for students pursuing a full major in History.

M. Ghachem

21H.UR Undergraduate Research

Prereq: None

U (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)

Units arranged [P/D/F]

Can be repeated for credit.

Individual participation in an ongoing research project. For students in the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program.

L. Ekmekcioglu

21H.URG Undergraduate Research

Prereq: None

U (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)

Units arranged

Can be repeated for credit.

Individual participation in an ongoing research project. For students in the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program.

L. Ekmekcioglu

Graduate Subjects

21H.902 Reading Seminar in American History: 1877 to Present

Prereq: 21H.991 and permission of instructor

G (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units

Develops teaching knowledge and research skills through extensive reading and discussion of major works in modern US history. Readings cover a range of topics and historical methods. Students make frequent oral presentations and submit a major work consisting of original research or historiographic interpretation.

C. Wilder

21H.920 Economic Classics: The History of Economic Ideas from Ancient Times to the Present

Subject meets with 21H.290

Prereq: None

G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

Surveys the history of economics by introducing students to some of the most powerful and influential economic thinkers, from Xenophon and Huan K'uan through Adam Smith, Karl Marx, and Paul Samuelson, to Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo. Explores the evolution of key economic concepts — the state and the market, natural resources, and crises — by situating them in historical context and perspective. Through the close reading, analysis and discussion of some of the most important texts in the history of economic thought, traces the development of ideas, norms and ways of thinking that continue to shape decision-making in both daily life and global policy. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

A. McCants, J. Kumekawa

21H.958 Colonialism in South Asia and Africa: Race, Gender, Resistance

Subject meets with 21H.358[J], WGS.315[J]

Prereq: None

G (Spring)

2-0-10 units

Provides a comparative perspective on the history of colonialism in India and Africa. Explores the political, social, and economic changes brought about by colonial rule. Discusses the international context for the emergence of European Imperialism in the 19th century; the nature of early colonial expansion and consolidation; the re-invention of tradition in colonial societies, especially with regard to racial and ethnic identity, gender, religion, and caste; and expressions of anti-colonial resistance. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments. Limited to 12.

S. Aiyar

21H.960[J] HASTS Dissertation Writing Workshop

Same subject as 21A.989[J], STS.860[J]

Prereq: None

G (Fall)

1-0-5 units

Can be repeated for credit.

See description under subject STS.860[J]. For PhD students only. PhD students outside the HASTS program require permission of instructor.

Staff

21H.970 The Laws of War in Global History (New)

Subject meets with 21H.370

Prereq: None

G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

Explores the history of the modern laws of war from the mid-eighteenth century to the present. Traces the transformations of this body of law from eighteenth-century cabinet warfare to the first codifications of laws of war in the nineteenth century, the effect of these laws on subsequent wars, and the recasting of the laws of war into international humanitarian law in the twentieth century. Covers the right to go to war, laws regulating military conduct, and efforts to use law to litigate wartime transgressions. Focuses on colonial hierarchies and exclusions, the persistent problem of new weaponry, and the protection of civilians in wartime. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

*E. Kempf***21H.971[J] Ukrainian Postcolonial Urban Frameworks (New)**

Same subject as 11.571[J]

Subject meets with 11.071[J], 21H.371[J]

Prereq: None

G (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units

Invites students to reimagine Ukraine's urban landscape through the lens of decolonialization, post-war recovery, and wartime response, where history, memory, and design converge. Exploring Soviet-era neighborhoods, post-industrial relics, and anthropogenic scars, the project delves into the subtle processes of transforming inherited spaces. Through site analyses, design proposals, and critical reflection, students unravel the complex layers of urban identity — juxtaposing past impositions with contemporary aspirations. Questions how to preserve, repurpose, and regenerate, navigating the blurred boundaries between history, future sustainability, and human-centered design. Delves into the dilemmas of rebuilding amidst ongoing war, exploring possible frameworks and tools for Ukraine's recovery and decolonization efforts. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

*E. Wood, B. Ryan***21H.976 Nature and Environment in China (New)**

Subject meets with 21H.186

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Focuses on the late imperial period with forays into the modern area. Explores how Chinese states and people related to and shaped their environments, which, in turn, shaped China. Considers the degree to which China's long environmental history has integrated with global trends and ponders the historical experiences and precedents we bring to today's environmental challenges. Explores the diverse ways in which scholars study China's environmental history and conceptions of nature, including the use of digital humanities tools for visualizing data and analyzing geography. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

*T. Brown***21H.980[J] People and Other Animals**

Same subject as 21A.419[J]

Subject meets with 21A.411[J], 21H.380[J]

Prereq: None

G (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

2-0-10 units

Historical exploration of the ways that people have interacted with their closest animal relatives, for example: hunting, domestication of livestock, exploitation of animal labor, scientific study of animals, display of exotic and performing animals, and pet-keeping. Themes include changing ideas about animal agency and intelligence, our moral obligations to animals, and the limits imposed on the use of animals. Students taking the graduate version complete additional assignments.

*H. Ritvo***21H.981 Seminar in Nature, Environment, and Empire**

Prereq: None

G (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units

Explores the relationship between the study of natural history, both domestic and exotic, by Europeans and Americans, and concrete exploitation of the natural world. Focuses on the 18th and 19th centuries.

H. Ritvo

21H.982 Technology and the Global Economy, 1000-2000

Subject meets with 21H.383

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Examines the global history of the last millennium, including technological change, commodity exchange, systems of production, and economic growth. Students engage with economic history, medieval and early modern origins of modern systems of production, consumption and global exchange. Topics include the long pre-history of modern economic development; medieval world systems; the age of discovery, the global crisis of the 17th century; demographic systems, global population movements; the industrial revolution, the rise of the modern consumer; colonialism and empire building; patterns of inequality, within and across states; resources and development; and the threat of climate change to modern economic systems. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

A. McCants

21H.983[J] Gender: Historical Perspectives

Same subject as WGS.310[J]

Subject meets with 21H.109[J], WGS.303[J]

Prereq: None

G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Examines the definition of gender in scientific, societal, and historical contexts. Explores how gender influences state formation and the work of the state, what role gender plays in imperialism and in the welfare state, the ever-present relationship between gender and war, and different states' regulation of the body in gendered ways at different times. Investigates new directions in the study of gender as historians, anthropologists and others have taken on this fascinating set of problems. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

L. Ekmekcioglu, E. Wood

21H.984[J] Risk, Fortune, and Futurity

Same subject as STS.414[J]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Exploration of interdisciplinary scholarship on risk, chance, and fortune. Begins with a survey of theoretical approaches to the field, then proceeds chronologically to explore the emergence of risk and its impacts on human life in multiple arenas including economics, politics, culture, environment, science, and technology from the 16th century to the present. Open to undergraduates with permission of instructor; consult department for details.

W. Deringer, C. Horan

21H.985 Money, Credit, and Financial Crisis, 1600-1850

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

Can be repeated for credit.

Examines the role of money and credit in the "boom and bust" dynamic that has characterized North Atlantic financial capitalism since its emergence in the late 17th century. Studies the late 17th to the early 19th centuries when the North Atlantic economies (France, Britain, the Netherlands, and their colonial dependencies) developed modern, capitalist institutions and practices of money, credit, and finance. Studies the creation of state banks, stock markets, the relationship between war and finance, and the transition from metallic to paper currency. Explores the explosive politics of speculation, banking, and paper money in the Atlantic revolutionary era and the interdependence of plantation slavery and credit markets in the antebellum period. While 21H.985 and 21H.986 are sequential, students have the option of taking either or both. Open to undergraduates with permission of instructor; consult department for details.

M. Ghachem

21H.986 Money, Credit, and Financial Crisis, 1850-2020

Prereq: None

G (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units

Examines some of the major turning points in the development of the modern (American) financial system: the Civil War Greenback movement, the rise and fall of the gold standard, Wall Street's role in the Caribbean during the interwar period, the crash of 1929, the development of the Federal Reserve, the subprime crisis of 2007-2008, and the international effort to maintain the public bond and corporate borrowing markets under the strains of Covid-19. Concludes with the dollarization of large parts of the global economy, contemporary crises of currency devaluation and hyperinflation in the developing world, and the emergence of cryptocurrencies and digital money. While 21H.985 and 21H.986 are sequential, students have the option of taking either or both. Open to undergraduates with permission of instructor; consult department for details.

*M. Ghachem***21H.988 Global Commodities, American Dreams**

Subject meets with 21H.388

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

Explores how American actors and institutions got the raw materials that built the nation. Approaches commodities as a lens through which to understand a more specific relationship between the United States and the wider world in political, economic, and environmental terms, and examines a global cartography of commodities, resources, and other "stuff" that became enmeshed in American life. Examines materials like sugar, cotton, wheat, bananas, rubber, aluminum, petroleum, uranium, drugs, and others, to trace a pattern of global resource exploitation back to sites of policymaking and consumption in the United States. Explores interconnections between human society and the non-human environment, troubling the boundary often understood to divide them. Includes themes of U.S. empire, environment, labor, consumption, modernity, race, gender, class, and transnationalism. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

*M. Black***21H.989 Histories of Extraction and Mining**

Prereq: None

G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

Explores the period after the Industrial Revolution, with a geographic emphasis on the United States, a major mineral producer and seeker in the wider world. Surveys mineral components of the lithosphere that became valued for an array of purposes above ground. Follows miners, geologists, engineers, investors, policymakers, and canaries into mines from the continental United States to Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Extends beyond political territories to zones of activity, from the oceans to the Arctic to outer space. Asks how mining, unfolding at the local level, interacted with global processes, including the Anthropocene, the latest planetary-scale transformation. Examines the relationship between economic activity and environmental wellbeing, and the consequences of this relationship. Open to advanced undergraduates with permission of instructor. Limited to 15.

*M. Black***21H.990[J] Narrating the Anthropocene: Understanding a Multi-Species Universe**

Same subject as STS.432[J]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

See description under subject STS.432[J]. Limited to 12.

*K. Brown, M. Black***21H.991 Theories and Methods in the Study of History**

Subject meets with 21H.390

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

Examines the distinctive ways in which historians in different parts of the world have approached the task of writing history. Explores methodologies used, such as political, social, economic, cultural, and popular histories through the reading and discussion of relevant and innovative texts. Introduces a variety of sources (archival documents, statistical data, film, fiction, memoirs, artifacts, and images) and the ways they can be used to research, interpret, and present the past. Assignments include an original research paper. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

C. Horan

21H.992 Graduate Independent Study

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Fall, Spring)

Units arranged

Can be repeated for credit.

Individual supervised work for students who wish to explore an area of interest in history. Before registering, a student must plan a course of study with a member of the History Faculty and secure approval from the Head of the History Faculty.

Staff

21H.993 Graduate Independent Study

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Fall, Spring)

Units arranged

Can be repeated for credit.

Individual supervised work for students who wish to explore an area of interest in history. Before registering, a student must plan a course of study with a member of the History Faculty and secure approval from the Head of the History Faculty.

Staff