History Newsletter

SPRING 2015

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Fall Registration Is Approaching!

New Course! History 290: The Craft of History
Professor Jon Shelton. MW 2:15-3:35
This course offers an overview of historical research methods, introducing students to the various ways in which historians think, debate, and write about the past. We will explore historiography, the difference between primary and secondary sources, types of primary sources, how to interpret and analyze various sources, digital resources, and potential careers for history majors. The major objective of this course is to enable students to comprehend and develop the skills of a historian, honing their research, writing, and critical thinking skills, all of which are applicable to numerous career paths and integral to engaged citizenship.

Please Note: This course will be required for History 480 starting spring 2016. If you plan to take HIS 480 in spring 2016 or after, you should consider taking HIS 290 in the fall. (His 290 will be offered every semester.) History majors who take HIS 290 in the fall may waive one of their other lower-level courses (HIS 101, 102, 103, or 104) to make room for the course. Please contact the History advisor, Professor Clifton Ganyard (ganyardc@uwgb.edu), for more information.

History 220: American Environmental History. Professor David Voelker. TR 9:30AM - 10:50AM. This course offers an introduction to environmental history -- the study of the historical relationship between humans and the natural world -- with a focus on Turtle Island (North America prior to European contact) and the United States, from ancient to contemporary times. Environmental history considers the human interaction with nature, including intellectual conceptions of nature, land use practices, agriculture, resource extraction, and policy debates over the management of natural resources. Additionally, environmental history considers human adaptations to various environmental conditions and changes as well as the human impact on the environment. This course will explore a chronological series of selected issues and episodes, with an emphasis on the massive environmental changes that came with the arrival of European colonizers to Turtle Island, changing ideas about the proper relationships between humans and nature, and major developments in resource use and management, including the rise of the modern environmental movement in the late 20th century, with consideration of the early days of this movement in Wisconsin's Fox River Valley.

Fulfills: Sustainability General Education.

DJS 361: Historical Perspectives on American Democracy. Professor Kaye. MW 12:45-2:05. Examination of historical thinking in scholarly work and public life and study of the making of modern American freedom, equality and democracy, past and present. Fulfills: Category I, American History

DJS 363: Topics in Democracy and Justice: South Africa. Professor Eric Morgan. TR 12:30-1:50. South Africa, a vibrant, modern, and populous nation at the Southern tip of Africa, contains the continent's largest and most robust economy. Yet South Africa's past was—as its present still remains—filled with years of turbulence, particularly surrounding the relationship between the black population and white settlers in the region. Our study of South Africa's past and present will provide a window through which to better understand issues of democracy and justice in Africa, including themes of race, colonization, natural resources, crime, and disease. This course will examine the history of South Africa from the 17th century through the modern era, focusing on political, social, and cultural developments in the Rainbow Nation. We will explore the influx of Europeans to South Africa, the rise of British imperialism, the complexities of the apartheid era, resistance to apartheid, and various challenges of modern South Africa, including economic inequality, crime, and HIV/AIDS.

Fulfills: Category III Non-Western History.

FNS 374: Wisconsin First Nations Ethnobiology-The Mohican. Professor J. P. Leary. TR 12:30-1:50. An in-depth examination of the Mohican Indian nation now located in Wisconsin. This course explores the culture and history of one of these nations.

Fulfills: Category I, American History
Public Engagement


They also organized a campus discussion of Islam and inclusivity: http://news.uwgb.edu/featured/leading-learning/10/31/campus-community-gather-for-dialogue-on-islam-and-inclusivity/.

Jon Shelton wrote on unions in In These Times: “A Modest Proposal for Public Sector Union Opponents”; http://inthesetimes.com/working/entry/17583/.

Shelton also wrote on right-to-work legislation in the Green Bay Press Gazette: “‘Right-to-work: Not right for Wisconsin’; http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/story/opinion/2015/02/24/rightwork-right-wisconsin/23967415/.

History 340: Topics in African American History—Civil Rights Movement. Professor Vince Lowrey. MWF 10:35-11:30. As we continue to observe landmark anniversaries of the civil rights movement while simultaneously experiencing a renewed wave of racial tensions, it is more important than ever that we reflect upon the civil rights struggle, its essential victories, and the battles left unresolved. We will examine particular rights activists fought for, their tactics, and the outcomes. Among the subjects under examination will be education, economic justice, voting rights, and the mass incarceration system. Fullfills: Category I, American History

History 360: Ancient Greece. Professor Greg Aldrete. TR 2:00-3:20. This course traces the development of Ancient Greek civilization from its origins in the Ancient Near East until its conquests by Rome. Includes social, political, intellectual, economic, and cultural history. Fullfills: Category II, European History

History 380: U.S. Women’s History. Professor Kimberley Reilly. TR 9:30-10:30. This course will examine the history of American women from the colonial period to the present. Drawing on historical documents from the period, memoirs, images, film, and scholarship, we will explore the private lives, work, and activism of women of diverse races, ethnicities, and classes. Throughout, we will pay particular attention to the themes of marriage and family life, work (paid and unpaid), political activism, and sexuality. Fullfills: Category I, American History

History 402: America in the Twentieth Century. Professor Eric Morgan. M 5:15-8:05. The twentieth century was one of great transformation in both the United States and the larger world. Rapid industrialization, scientific and technological advancements, warfare, demographic shifts, and the expansion of civil and human rights dramatically changed the landscape of the United States during its second century as a nation, creating what one journalist called the “American Century” of U.S. dominance in the global arena. Without question the United States played a critical role in historical developments throughout the twentieth century, expanding its economic, cultural, ideological, and economic influences across the globe. Yet the study of momentous events such as the Second World War or globalization can overshadow our understanding of the human experience, of what it meant to be an American at a certain time and place in history. With this idea in mind, this course will explore the history of the United States in the twentieth century through biography, both real and imagined. Rather than examining events or eras, we will focus on individuals who helped to shape—who were shaped by—the times they lived in. Some of these Americans we will recognize while others will be new discoveries, and many of the people we will study are the creations of writers and filmmakers. But by focusing on the lives of both real and imagined, the ambition is that by the end of this course we will have developed a more intimate understanding of life throughout the twentieth century for a diverse array of peoples who lived through these events during one of the most dynamic centuries in modern human history. Fullfills: Category I, American History

History 421: Topics in Medieval History—Genghis Khan and the Mongol Empire. Professor Arnold Leilih. Internet. The Mongols were anything but a mere savage horde, trampling Eurasian civilizations. How did Genghis unite the tribes of Mongolia? What made the Mongol army of the 1200s practically unbeatable? What was the true mythology that inspired the Mongols? Why did Genghis have his wives and daughters (not his sons) rule the empire? How did the Chinese, Islamic, Russian, and Latin Christian civilizations experience the Mongols? These and other questions will be explored in this course through primary sources and up-to-date studies by current US scholars. Fullfills: Category III Non-western History

History 430: In the Twentieth Century. Professor Clifton Ganyard. TR 11:00-12:20. This course will focus on Japan during World War II, or perhaps more appropriately, the “15-Year War” from 1931-1945, and beyond. In particular, we will be concerned with the political, social, and cultural history of Japan during the war and the impact of total war and total defeat on Japan and the Japanese people. Fullfills: Category III Non-western History.

History 433: Topics in Modern European History—Nazi Germany. Professor Clifton Ganyard. TR 11:00-12:20. This semester, Topics in Modern European History will examine the politics, society, and culture of Germany’s Third Reich. Topics include the Weimar Republic, Adolf Hitler, the rise of the Nazi party, Nazi ideology, the “seizure of power,” the Nazi state, women and the family, youth, culture and the arts, racism, terror and propaganda, the Second World War, the Holocaust, and the legacy of Nazism. Please note that although we will consider the Second World War and the Holocaust, this course is not primarily designed as a history of these subjects; rather, it is a social and cultural history of Nazi Germany. Fullfills: Category II, European History

History 480: Seminar in History: Professor Heidi Sherman. TR 3:30-4:50. Thinking of a job in public history, education, or at a museum? These professional fields often require the ability to communicate the past to the public through artifacts. In the fall semester, students in the seminar will explore the nature of artifacts and learn how to tell their story by seeing how historical interpreters, traditional craftspeople, and archaeologists reconstruct the past. Students will participate in field trips (including a Viking camp and a swordsman’s workshop), and receive tutorials on textiles, flint knapping, stone carving, leather working, etc. Students will also meet with a range of historical interpreters/reenactors, curators, and conservators to learn first-hand how to approach placing the artifact in an educational context. Finally, during the last half of the semester, students will design and mount a final project and write a paper. Fullfills: Seminar Requirement.

History 483: Japan and the Second World War. Professor Clifton Ganyard. TR 3:30-4:50. This course will focus on Japan during World War II, or perhaps more appropriately, the “15-Year War” from 1931-1945, and beyond. In particular, we will be concerned with the political, social, and cultural history of Japan during the war and the impact of total war and total defeat on Japan and the Japanese people. Fullfills: Category III Non-western History.

HISTORY NEWSLETTER
Travel Courses!

Over the Winterim, Professor Eric Morgan led students to South Africa and Professors Caroline Boswell and Heidi Sherman led students to London. Travel courses are amazing opportunities to travel the world and earn credit toward your History major or minor. Be on the lookout for future travel courses to interesting historical locales!

Students in the News!

Led by Professor Chuck Ryback, several students worked in collaboration with the Green Bay Packers to create the UWGB Packers Project, a fan-sourced digital collection: http://packersproject.org/.

Professors Greg Aldrete and Heidi Sherman along with students from the UWGB History Club demonstrated ancient and medieval life at Lambeau Field as part of UWGB’s Packers Partnership: http://www.uwgb.edu/packers/.

UWGB once again hosted National History Day, with many History faculty and students participating in the day’s events: http://www.uwgb.edu/nationalhistoryday/.

Students in Boswell’s and Sherman’s travel course assembled a fantastic online exhibit on London and the Public Humanities: http://blog.uwgb.edu/london-public-humanities/. Be sure to visit!

Students Joey Taylor and Ben Dudzik will be presenting their work at the Academic Excellence Symposium on Tuesday, April 7, 11:30-2:30, in the Phoenix Rooms. Be sure to stop by and ask them about their project!

Mariah Pursley and Braden Peterson interacting with local children in Langa township.

Nelson Mandela statue outside of South Africa’s Parliament building

Above: Churchill War Rooms, London
Left: Tower Bridge, London
Are you wondering what you will do with your degree in History, Humanistic Studies, Democracy and Justice Studies, English, Modern Languages, Philosophy, or other field? Would you like to learn about career options and gain experience using your humanities degree? Are you interested in interning this summer or fall?

All History students should consider gaining some practical career experience through UWGB humanities internships before they graduate. This can be an important part of your education and career preparation. AND YOU CAN RECEIVE COLLEGE CREDIT FOR THEM usually at no additional expense. And now, if you apply and qualify, you may in some cases also be able to receive pay for the experience as well!

See the attached for more information and contact Professor Jennifer Ham (TH385) soon at hamj@uwgb.edu for more details and to get registered for summer or fall! Course registration begins in a week or so, so don’t wait…

Prof. Jennifer Ham
465-2461
hamj@uwgb.edu

Internships!

Phi Alpha Theta: History Honor Society

The purpose of Phi Alpha Theta is to promote the study of history through the encouragement of research, good teaching, publication, and the exchange of learning and thought among historians. Phi Alpha Theta seeks to bring students, teachers, and writers of history together both intellectually and socially. It encourages and assists historical research and publication by its members. Students who have completed a minimum of 12 History credits and have at least a 3.1 GPA in their History courses and a 3.0 overall GPA are eligible for membership. Only 3 credit hours of online, transfer, or AP credits may be applied to the membership eligibility requirement. Eligible students will receive an invitation to become a member, from the Phi Alpha Theta adviser during the spring semester.

Contact: Dr. Eric Morgan, Assistant Professor, Democracy and Justice Studies (History), 920-465-2714 or morgane@uwgb.edu

Professor Eric Morgan and members of Phi Alpha Theta at the 2012 Organization of American Historians Meeting in Milwaukee, WI.
Alumni Spotlight:
Kelly Wenig!

When did you graduate? 2006

What were your major and minor?
History and Humanistic Studies

How was your experience in the UWGB History program? My experience at UW-Green Bay and the History Program, especially, were outstanding. My professors were talented teachers and went out of their way to make sure they knew each person in their classes. They also spent a significant amount of time providing critical feedback on all exams and papers, and were always willing to meet outside of class to help me improve. I am particularly aware of their efforts now that I am an instructor at Iowa State University and know how much time goes into grading and providing meaningful feedback rather than simple, one-line responses.

Did you have an internship? Thanks to one faculty member, Dr. Andrew Kersten, I was able to obtain a job doing public history research for a local law firm.

What are you doing now? I am working hard to finish my own PhD in nineteenth century American History focusing on transportation, agriculture and society in the Midwest so I can follow in my professors' footsteps. They have done a great service to me, personally, and I hope to pass along those kindnesses to those who I meet.

What are your plans for the future? While applying for positions to teach history at the college level, I also have founded a historical consulting firm, Longevity Solutions Historical Consulting, in Des Moines, Iowa. You can learn more about our services at our website: http://www.longevity-solutions.com/.

Do you have any advice for History students? For anyone considering a history degree, the best advice I can offer is to consider a double major. The boundaries of history are endless and are not limited by business history, the history of medicine, the history of science, railroad history, economic history, religious history or any other field you can imagine. By specializing in a second field (from finance to fine arts) you will be able to improve your potential graduate work in that second field by combining the skills of both, and lessen the steep learning curve that comes with high-level academic research.

If you do not wish to pursue graduate work, the second field will allow you to gain skills necessary to succeed in the professional world and buttress the exceptional written communication and critical analysis skills provided by a history degree. Historians have an incredible ability to succeed in any field because of our interdisciplinary nature. By double-majoring, you will set yourself apart from the crowd by applying the historical method to other fields to come up with new perspectives to old problems.