**University of Pittsburgh**

**Graduate seminars in History**

**Academic year 2017-18**

**\*\*\* Fall 2017 \*\*\***

HIST 2000:

**Professionalization Seminar**

Instructor: Michel Gobat

Tuesday, 5-5:50pm

This one hour one-credit course introduces graduate students to the discipline of history and to Pitt’s graduate program in history. In addition, the course will enable students to commence work on their MA essays. Our main goals are to gain a better understanding of:  a) the principal intellectual strengths of the history department; b) degree requirements such as the MA thesis and the comprehensive exams; c) various methodological approaches, such as social and gender history; d) fundamental analytical skills, such as how to write a historiographical essay, how to use databases, and how to edit your own work; and e) professional issues, such as participation in conferences and academic associations.

HIST 2012:

**Graduate Writing Seminar**

Instructor: Molly Warsh

Monday, 1-3:25pm

This course is designed for graduate students and Honors undergraduate students working on a major writing project, such as an M.A. paper, a dissertation chapter, a journal article, a grant proposal, or an Honors thesis. Class assignments are designed to guide students through the writing process so they can produce a draft of their respective project by the end of the semester, in consultation with their advisors. A key goal of the course is to enhance students’ capacity to edit their written work and that of others. In addition, students will learn about the process of publishing articles and books.

HIST 2736:

**World History Methods:**

**Digital Methods for Spatial Analysis of the Past**

Instructor: Ruth Mostern

Wednesday, 2:30-4:55pm

Transnational theme: World History

This seminar is an introduction to exemplary projects, applied methods, and techniques and tools for spatial analysis of the human past.  At the same time, it is an effort to bring together several approaches that are not yet frequently joined.  For instance, spatial history theory, method and exemplar are not well integrated, and we will approach the field from all three of these perspectives.  Moreover, spatial history is seldom practiced at the global scale.  World historians have not yet “put the world in world history.”

HIST 2711:

**Texts & Contexts Core Seminar**

Instructor: Vincent Leung

Tuesday, 1-3:25pm

Transnational field: Texts & Contexts

+++ may count as Historiography +++

This course introduces students to classic texts and key debates in cultural studies and intellectual history. It begins with the foundational works by G. W. F. Hegel and Karl Marx in the nineteenth century, and then the psychoanalytical movement and Frankfurt School in the early twentieth century. Then, we will turn to a survey of major methodological debates in the postwar decades to the present day over a diverse set of topics including sexuality and gender, memory and trauma, and popular culture. Offered by the History Department, this course welcomes students from all disciplines who are interested in cultural studies.

HIST 2739:

**City as Text: Reading Urban Landscapes**

Instructor: Gregor Thum

Wednesday, 6-8:25pm

Transnational theme: Texts & Contexts

Regional field: Europe

Cities are among the most fascinating manifestations of human civilization. They are not just the places where most people live and work in modern times, but also highly symbolic spaces designed to express a given society’s aspired social and political order. This seminar seeks to enable graduate students to appreciate the ways in which urban landscapes can be understood as physical and symbolic manifestations of those political, social, economic, technological, or cultural forces that shaped a given (urban) society. While this course focuses on European cities, students with a research focus on other regions in the world are welcome and will be accommodated regarding the choice of paper topics.

**\*\*\* Spring 2018 \*\*\***

HIST 2704:

**Approaches to Global History and Research**

Instructor: Mari Webel

+++ may count as Methodology +++

Working beyond and around traditional units of analysis – most characteristically departing from a focus on the nation-state – has opened up diverse possibilities for innovative research in history. But new frameworks also require new strategies for research and storytelling, in addition to the practical challenges of dealing with multiple languages, extended time periods, or highly mobile subjects and commodities. This course will explore the diverse strategies and methods for conducting historical research in global perspective. Providing students with a toolkit to pursue the development and execution of their own research projects, this seminar will introduce the different methodological approaches and central interventions of transnational/comparative, international, global, and world history, among others. Students from diverse disciplines are welcome; this course fulfills the Capstone requirement for the Global Studies certificate.

HIST 2515:

**Violence and the Politics of Memory in Latin America**

Instructor: Laura Gotkowitz

Regional field: Latin America

Focusing on a variety of Latin American countries, primarily in the twentieth century, this seminar explores the politics and culture of dictatorship, democracy, violence, commemoration, and memory. A key focus will be the dictatorships of the Cold War era, but we will study this period in relation to a longer history of violence encompassing both authoritarianism and democracy, and with attention to diverse conceptual approaches to violence and memory. Topics include the experience of specific sectors of society under authoritarian rule, sources of support for dictatorship, forms of resistance, movements for human rights, memories of terror and resistance, archives of atrocity, and efforts to forge peace and justice in the aftermath of extreme violence. Readings will draw from history, anthropology, political science, film, and law. The course welcomes graduate students from diverse disciplines as well as those with an interest in these issues in other parts of the world.

HIST 2699:

**Power and Inequality in American History**

Instructor: Marcus Rediker

Transnational theme: Power & Inequality

Regional field: US

This readings course covers the full sweep of American history from early Native America to the near-present.  The course will concentrate on four themes within the broader rubric of power and inequality: race, class, gender, and capitalism.  We will pay special attention to transnational approaches and to the ever-shifting politics of American historical writing.  We will read classic and newer works to demonstrate how historical practice has changed over time.  The course will serve as a broad survey for graduate students in any department or discipline who study any period or theme in American history.

HIST 2729:

**Seas, Peoples, and Empires**

Instructor: Pernille Røge

Transnational theme: Atlantic History

This course focuses on interactions between seas, peoples, and empires in historical and comparative contexts. Using maritime history as its point of departure, the course explores the multiple ways in which contact with the sea shaped the lives of peoples and empires across the world. Beginning with Braudel’s pioneering regional study of the Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World, the course moves into the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans. In each of these contexts, students will consider how the lives of people across social hierarchies were mediated through the interpenetration of empires and maritime regions. The course also considers the extent to which enclosed maritime worlds make sense historically – as the voluminous literature on specific basins suggest that they do – and if so, what distinguished one such world from that of another? Students will explore these lines of inquiry through readings that concentrate predominantly, though not exclusively, on the early modern and modern periods.