Spring 2022

**JUNIOR SEMINARS**

**HSTRY 388 A**

**HOW TO WRITE THE HISTORY OF THE AZTECS**

SLN: 16545

Mondays and Wednesdays 12:30pm – 2:20pm

Adam Warren

In this course, we will interrogate “how to write the history of the Aztecs” as a means to gain a better understanding of the Aztec past and the methodology and practice of history. Historians know a great deal about the Spanish colony established in Mexico after the invasion and overthrow of the Aztec Empire in the sixteenth century. Much less is known, however, about the ruling population of the Aztec Empire, the Mexica, and the populations who fell under their control prior to the arrival of the Spanish in 1519. This dearth of knowledge results from historical events that involved the widespread destruction of primary sources, the written and visual records that people in the past created and that historians typically use as evidence. The Mexica themselves destroyed one key type of primary source, codices (pictographic books) containing the histories of the people they conquered, in order to deliberately reshape how their own rise to power would be remembered. Later, Spanish colonists ordered the mass burning of codices from the Aztec Empire, believing that they recorded pagan thought and the work of the Devil. Facing these constraints, historians have debated and reconstructed the Aztec past through innovative analyses of other types of sources including archaeological findings, artwork, and early colonial texts, many of which indigenous peoples created through the mediation of Spanish priests. These sources raise important questions about past forms of historical thinking and the reliability of historical knowledge and memory, which we will explore together.

This is a Writing (W) credits course.

**HSTRY 388 B**

**GLOBAL WAR AND THE WORKERS’ STATE: THE SOVIET UNION, 1939-1945**

SLN: 16546

Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30pm – 3:20pm

Glennys Young

On June 22, 1941, the Nazi Wehrmacht invaded the Soviet Union. The “Great Patriotic War,” as World War II was known in the USSR, became an existential threat to the Soviet state. It was also the great test of the socialism that Stalin and the Communist Party of the USSR had built. Close to 27 million Soviet soldiers and civilians lost their lives; of that total, 7.5 million occurred in Ukraine, and at least one and a half million of the losses in Ukraine were Jews. But the Red Army turned the tide at the Battle of Stalingrad in late 1942 and early 1943. The Soviet Union’s victory over Nazi Germany extended Soviet empire into Eastern Europe. It legitimated the Soviet system.

  In this course, we’ll learn about the political, social, military, and cultural history of the Soviet Union during World War II. Among the questions we’ll read, write and talk about are the following:  why and how was the Soviet Union able to defeat Nazi Germany? How did civilians in Leningrad, the USSR’s second largest city, cope with the nearly 900-day siege of the city by Nazi forces? What was the contribution of Soviet propaganda, including posters and films, to Soviet victory? How did the war affect different regions and republics within the USSR, such as the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic? What was the legacy of the war for the Soviet system? How has the Putin regime drawn upon myths of the war in waging its “special military operation” in Ukraine? Along the way, students will develop their skills as historians!

**HSTRY 388 C**

**CHRISTIANITY IN EAST ASIA**

SLN: 16547

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00am – 11:20am

Hajin Jun

This course examines the long and dynamic history of Christianity in East Asia, beginning with its origins in the 16th century to the present. We will explore shared religious experiences that transcended national boundaries, while also tracing the divergent trajectories that Catholicism, and later, Protestantism, took in China, Korea, and Japan. The following questions will help guide our inquiry: What motivations propelled Christian missionary activities? How did Christian beliefs and practices adapt to local contexts? How did the rise of modern empires impact the spread of Christianity in the region? How do global flows shape Christianity in Asia today? To investigate these questions, students will encounter a wide range of primary sources, including letters, novels, maps, and ethnographic accounts. Ultimately, the course will call upon students to reconsider dichotomous understandings of Christianity as either an agent of Western imperialism or a catalyst for modernization.

This is a Writing (W) credits course.

**SENIOR SEMINARS**

**HSTRY 494 A**

**AMERICAN EMPIRE IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE**

SLN: 16549

Mondays 3:30pm – 5:20pm

Vicente Rafael

The theme for this colloquium is ***the United States Empire in Comparative Perspective.*** We will read some of the more recent scholarship that situates U.S. national and imperial histories in relation to other imperial and postcolonial histories--for example, those of Spain, Britain, Native American, and an emergent "Third World"--around such topics as imperial ideology, war, slavery and abolition, nationalism, colonialism and diplomacy; along the axis of race, gender and immigration. The goal of the course is to develop some ways of thinking critically and comparatively about the paradoxical nature of the United States as simultaneously an empire and a republic, at once peripheral and central to the spread and mutation of a certain “Western” civilization, a place founded on democratic institutions and ideas, yet sustained by undemocratic practices and ideologies.

This is a Writing (W) credits course.

**HSTRY 498 A**

**CIVIL RIGHTS AND THE LABOR MOVEMENTS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST**

SLN: 16552

Wednesdays 12:30pm – 3:20pm

James Gregory

This class explores the history of social justice activism in the Pacific Northwest. Civil rights movements representing many different communities, labor unions, women’s movements, LGBTQ activists, and various radical organizations have played major roles in defining political values in the area since the late 19th century. No other region has a more vibrant history of labor and civil rights activism. Students will design research projects that examine particular issues, events, or organizations related to this theme.

The UW History Department is home to the online **Civil Rights and Labor History Consortium,** a set of website projects that explore issues relating to this course.  Students in earlier HSTRY 498 seminars have been involved in producing these projects and there may be an opportunity for some students in the current class to publish their research papers. You will find the projects here: <http://depts.washington.edu/labhist/>.

This is a Writing (W) credits course.