

Fall 2024 History courses:

HIST 121: Western Civilization I

A survey of western history from the Paleolithic Age to the end of the European Renaissance, this course requires class participation and is built on quizzes, a midterm and final, and a multi-step project.

HIST 122: History of Western Civilization II (DGP)

This course covers from the seventeenth century through the Age of Absolutism, the Enlightenment, and the French Revolution to the era of nationalism and industrialism and the modernism of the twentieth century. Three quizzes, three written exams, and class participation are the main graded work.

HIST 131: American History to 1865

This course introduces students to important characters, moments, and themes in the history of the United States from the earliest European colonization of North America to the U.S. Civil War. Along the way, we will focus on many different groups and individuals as they came to know themselves and their neighbors. From the first long winters at Jamestown to the high hopes of the saved union, we will explore the contested meanings that shaped Britain's North American colonies and the early United States.

HIST 132: American History since 1865

This course surveys the development of the United States since 1865. It considers the United States' ascension to world power status, its role on the world stage during the World Wars and Cold War, and the relation between international affairs and domestic policy and economic developments. This course also considers how diverse Americans shaped and were impacted by those international affairs as they contested definitions of American citizenship, rights, and liberty, and participated in creating American culture. Central themes will include race, the role of government, capitalism's relation to environment and labor, and human rights.

HIST 141: Asian Civilizations I (DG, HUM)

Asian Civilizations with a focus on China and Japan from 2000 BCE to 1600 CE. Key themes: political models for state and society, shifting empires and discourses of "civilized," as well as gender, social class, and material culture through primary and secondary sources.

HIST 299: Intro to the Study of History (WI, SI)

In HIST 299, students learn how to "think like historians." They practice the essential skills of historians as they undertake the research and writing of a history research paper and its related projects. The course prepares students for the research, writing, and thinking required in upper-division history courses. Prerequisite: HIST 121 and HIST 122 OR HIST 131 and HIST 132 OR HIST 141 and HIST 142 and major status.

HIST 300 D5: From Empires to Nation-States

This course will explore the diplomatic and political history of the European "Age of Imperialism," starting from the articulation of sovereignty following the 1648 Treaty of Westphalia and tracing developments through the 1919 Paris Peace Conference. In the course of this examination, students will interrogate the process behind negotiating sovereignty between family-based empires to negotiating frontiers and nation-states on the basis of ethnicity, language, religion and other shared characteristics.

HIST 300D6: Post-Soviet Russia

Examines the history of Russia since the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991 with special emphasis on the transition to a market economy and democratic reforms in the 1990s, Putinism as a new form of Russian autocracy, the LGBT community in post-Soviet Russia, and Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Two written exams, two essays, two quizzes, and class participation are the main graded work for this course.

HIST 300 D7: African Nationalism and Resistance

This course will examine the discourse and actions of resistance to colonialism in Africa in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The class will focus on varying examples of political expression and action including journalism, music, poetry, film, and organized protest.

HIST 300D9: Minecrafting the Asian Past (HN, DI)

Students will work in groups on team projects research, designing, and creating Minecraft exhibitions related to historical sites. Using both primary and secondary sources, students will be exploring specific architectures, lived environments and material culture, as well as related aspects of political, socio-economic, and cultural history. No prerequisites. (Note: this course builds on a previous "Minecrafting the Ming" 400-level seminar; if you've taken that course you're not eligible to sign up for this one. Sorry!)

HIST 308: US Labor History

In this course, students will explore the emergence of working-class cultures and struggles in the United States, including efforts to organize labor unions and influence government policy. The class addresses developments that have unfolded during the last two centuries and will enable students to place contemporary cultural debates about labor in historical context.

HIST 318: The American Revolution is by definition one of the pivotal moments in the history of the United States, but historians have debated precisely how dramatic a transformation it was in American society, culture, and politics. This course will engage these historical debates by considering the Revolution as a lived experience from a variety of different perspectives. We will consider the origins, progress, and outcome of the Revolution as a political and military endeavor conducted by the great figures of history, but we will also investigate the revolutionary experiences of poor people, of slaves and free blacks, of Native Americans, and of women and children. We will also look at the ways in which the inheritors of the Revolution constructed revolutionary myths and revolutionary histories. Over the course of the semester, we will interrogate these diverse events, experiences, and interpretations in order to construct our answers to the fundamental question of how radical the American Revolution really was. This course counts in both the History and the American Studies major.

HIST 329: US History in Film examines historically oriented motion pictures as both primary and secondary sources of information about the past. It starts from the premise that the content in films, as with written sources, can (and should) be critically analyzed for its perspectives, interpretive choices, biases, and reliability. The course examines the relative successes or failures that major films have had in portraying the past, and analyzes how present events, cultures and attitudes shape our view of the past. This course counts in the History major and the American Studies major, as well as the Honors Program. It also counts for the Digital Intensive General Education requirement.

Students can check out the HIST329 syllabus from last time here: <https://courses.mcclurken.org/329/syllabus/>

HIST 361: History of Latin America I

This course examines the periods of Latin American History from the Reconquista, through the Encounter, Colonial era, and independence. The class will draw heavily from primary sources produced in a variety of regions to assess motivations of conquest, colonial methods, and indigenous modes of resistance.

HIST 385: The Arab-Israeli Conflict

This course surveys the development and evolution of what is commonly referred to as the "Arab-Israeli Conflict" in the past century and a half. Although we will concentrate on the political history of this contested region, we will also explore to some extent the internal dynamics of the respective societies involved in the conflict. Content goals include:

- Trace the transformation of Palestine from an Ottoman territory to a special type of settler colony in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

- Study the local and international factors that made possible the State of Israel's establishment.
- Examine the social and economic bases of modern Palestinian and Israeli society and their official national narratives.
- Examine polemical arguments used to support viewpoints connected to this conflict.
- Analyze the ongoing "peace process" and conflicts over land, water and identity.

HIST 400: From College to Career (AMW)

This course, designed for junior and senior history majors who are preparing for their post-college transition to the world of work and independent living, provides support for life and career after Mary Washington. Meeting for an hour one day a week, it focuses on building awareness and understanding of the connection between UMW's liberal arts education—including interests, goals, strengths, and skills—and personal and professional growth. Alums and others provide tips and mentorship. (Open to non-majors with instructor's permission.)

HIST 471F2: Empires of the Air: Histories of Aviation and Space in the Modern World

Examines the global history of aviation and space exploration from the Wright Brothers' first flight to the future of space tourism with special emphasis on the space race in the Cold War, aviation and modern warfare, and commercial air travel in the Jet Age. Class participation, reaction essays on course readings, and a research paper are the main graded requirements for this course.

471F6: Atlantic Piracy

This class explores the contours of piracy in the Atlantic World. We will look at piracy's legal, imperial, economic, gender, and social dimensions to consider how and why Atlantic piracy arose, flourished, and ultimately declined from the 16th to the 18th century. These dimensions will inform a semester-long discussion of pirates' appeal to the American public, as manifested in cultural products including popular films, Talk Like a Pirate Day, theme-park rides and casinos, sports mascots, music, and especially literature. Students will lead and participate in class discussions, conduct their own independent research, and evaluate scholarship and cultural productions.

HIST 471H1: Food in World History: Do you ever wonder where restaurants came from? Why there are so many celebrity chefs? Or the origin of your favorite dish? Take Food in World History! We will discuss readings on food history from all over the world, and students will get an opportunity to explore their own interests too.