

# History

**MAJOR, MINOR**

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS:** Rachel M. Nuñez (Batten Chair in Leadership and chair of history department)

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR:** Christopher M. Florio (Ruth Alden Doan Endowed Chair in History)

**VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR:** Hannah Alms, Charlotte Rossler

The history major at Hollins prepares students to be critical thinkers, effective communicators, and engaged and informed global citizens. Our faculty, trained primarily in the history of Europe and the United States, take a transnational perspective in a majority of their courses, which cover such topics as "Slavery: A Global History" and "Sex and Race in the Age of Empire." Most courses are discussion- rather than lecture-based and encourage deep engagement with primary sources.

While 100-level courses introduce students to the craft of historical thinking, at the 200 and 300 level students also gain research experience. The culmination of the major is a senior thesis capstone in which students develop their own topic, draw on relevant primary sources, and engage with important scholarship in the field to produce their own original scholarship. History majors pursue graduate studies in history, museum studies, education, and law, and find work in fields ranging from K-12 education to business to government.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR A MAJOR IN HISTORY:

9 courses (36 credits)

- One 200-level course
- Two 300-level courses
- HIST 470: Senior Thesis
- Five additional history electives (any level)

A student is expected to complete one 300-level course before senior year. Coursework used to satisfy major requirements must be taught by at least two Hollins faculty members.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR A MINOR IN HISTORY:

5 courses (20 credits)

- One 200-level course
- One seminar at the 300 level
- Three additional history courses

Courses for the minor must cover at least two geographical areas (for example, Europe and the United States or Asia and Europe).

## COURSES IN HISTORY:

### HIST 111: CREATING THE AMERICAN NATION (4)

**Department**

American history from the contact of Native, African, and European peoples to the Civil War and Reconstruction, focusing on the development of a relatively democratic political system, experiments in living with and in a diverse population, and the emergence of the American economic system. An introductory course for building further study, a complete review for those not continuing in the field, and a course designed to meet teacher licensure requirements. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered 2023-24. (f, w, x, DIV, MOD)

### HIST 112: RISE OF MODERN AMERICA (4)

**Alms**

American history from Reconstruction to the present, focusing on the evolution of the modern American state, the development of a diverse society, and the nature and process of social change. An introductory course for building further study, a complete review for those not continuing in the field, and a course designed to meet teacher licensure requirements. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Offered Term 1. (f, w, x, DIV, MOD)

### HIST 113: INTRODUCTION TO MEDIEVAL HISTORY (4)

**Department**

A rock-'em, sock-'em romp through 1,000 years without a bath. We'll weep at the fall of Rome, applaud the coronation of Charlemagne, scratch our heads in bewilderment at the Investiture Controversy, and thank God we got to the Renaissance. The course is an introduction to the main elements of the European Middle Ages, from the fall of

Rome to the Renaissance. We'll look at the economy, society, politics, and culture of medieval Europe, paying particular attention to such issues as the transition from ancient to medieval, church-state tensions, the rise of feudal monarchy, and the cultural conflicts of the late Middle Ages. Open to first-year students. Not offered 2023-24. (w, x, PRE)

**HIST 114: MODERN EUROPE (4)**

**Rossler**

This course surveys European history from the late 18th century to the present. Topics include the French and Industrial revolutions; new ideologies of liberalism, socialism, nationalism, and imperialism; the two world wars; the emergence of totalitarian regimes; and new problems of identity centered around decolonization and immigration. Open to first-year students. Offered Term 1. (f, w, x, GLO, MOD)

**HIST 117: DOES AMERICAN POVERTY HAVE A HISTORY?**

**Florio**

Our aim in this course will be to construct a history of America's poor as vivid and precise as the histories that have long been written about wealthier Americans. We will thus explore such topics as changes in the experiences of poverty, changes in the racialized and gendered dimensions of poverty, and changes in the treatment of the poor across U.S. history. Open to first-year students. Offered Term 2.

**HIST 125: INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN HISTORY (4)**

**Department**

An introduction to some of the main turning points and problems in African history. This course covers such issues as Mediterranean Africa in antiquity, the influence of Islam, and European contact and colonialism, decolonization, and post-colonial Africa. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2023-24. (f, w, x, GLO)

**HIST 135: INTRODUCTION TO ANCIENT HISTORY (4)**

**Department**

An introduction to the history of ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome. The course focuses on the intellectual and cultural achievements that have helped form the foundations of our world, as well as the individual accomplishment of ancient societies. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2023-24. (PRE)

**HIST 155: HITLER AND THE HOLOCAUST (4)**

**Department**

This course examines the causes, conduct, and consequences of the Holocaust, from the perspective of perpetrators, victims, and bystanders. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2023-24. (GLO, MOD)

**HIST 172: MAKING OF THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST (4)**

**Department**

This class examines the major factors which have shaped the history of the Middle East in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Topics covered will include, but are not necessarily limited to, the role of western imperialism, the origins and evolution of Arab nationalism, and the birth and growth of the Israeli state. The main focus will be on the politics and diplomacy of the region, but economic and social history will be integrated as necessary. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2023-24. (MOD)

**HIST 215: THE OLD SOUTH (4)**

**Department**

The origins of southern distinctiveness in the colonial period; the diversity of antebellum southern life; southern women and families, black and white; the South and the Civil War. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2023-24. (DIV, MOD)

**HIST 216: THE NEW SOUTH (4)**

**Department**

The South from Reconstruction to the 1980s, including different visions of the South in the late 19th century, industrialization, urbanization, and changes in race relations. Did southern distinctiveness persist into the late 20th century? Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2023-24. (o, DIV, MOD)

**HIST 217: THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR (4)**

**Department**

This course will examine the causes, conduct, and consequences of the bloody civil war that tore apart the American nation and people in the middle of the nineteenth century. Subjects covered will include the nature of slavery and its role in the war, both the Union and Confederate home fronts, the strategic choices made by both sides, and the war's legacies. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2023-24.

**HIST 218: HISTORY OF AMERICAN CAPITALISM (4)**

**Florio**

This course surveys the history of American capitalism from the colonial period to the near present. We will pursue questions, including: What is "capitalism?" When did the American economy become a distinctively capitalist economy? Why have the consequences of capitalism differed for different groups of Americans? And how have various Americans endeavored to embrace, reform, and resist capitalism? Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2023-24. (MOD)

**HIST 221: CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN AMERICA (4)****Department**

This course examines the origins, nature, and consequences of the struggle for civil rights in 20th-century America. Topics covered include the nature of segregation, the origins, goals, and tactics of grass roots organizations, the roles of local and national leadership, and the effects of the movement on American society. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2023-24. (DIV, MOD)

**HIST 222: WOMEN IN ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL EUROPE (4)****Department**

This course explores women's lives from ancient Greece through the late Middle Ages, as well as shifting understandings of gender during this period (roughly 600 BCE to 1400 CE). Themes will include views of women in classical philosophy, medical understandings of sexual difference, motherhood, women's legal status, women's roles in the development of Christianity and the early Church, women religious, images of women in art and literature, and models of queenship. Also listed as GWS 222. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2023-24. (w, x, PRE)

**HIST 225: WOMEN IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE - WITCHES, QUEENS, AND COURTESANS (4) Nuñez**

This course surveys both the experiences of women in early modern Europe and the ways gender structured notions of power and identity in this period. Topics include understandings of sexual difference, family life and organization, sexuality, midwifery, witchcraft, women and religion, women artists and intellectuals, and "queenship." Also listed as GWS 225. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2023-24. (w, x, PRE)

**HIST 226: WOMEN AND GENDER IN MODERN EUROPE (4)****Nuñez**

Explores women's lives in Europe from the late 18th century through the mid-20th century. Topics include: the birth of feminism during the Enlightenment and the French Revolution; industrialization and women's relationship to work; the domestic ideal; masculinity; prostitution; women's involvement in empire; the world wars; the impact of ideologies of liberalism, nationalism, socialism, and fascism on women and women's roles in these movements; and second-wave feminism. Also listed as GWS 226. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2023-24. (w, x, r, MOD)

**HIST 240: GREEK HISTORY (4)****Franko**

A history of the Greeks from the Bronze Age to the Roman conquest. Special emphasis is given to the golden age of Athens, focusing on the democratic system, the interplay between foreign and domestic politics, social and economic developments, and outstanding cultural achievements. Other topics include The Trojan War, the Spartan state, women in Greek society, the origins of historiography, the empire of Alexander the Great, and the diffusion of Greek ideas. Also listed as CLAS 240. Open to first-year students. Offered Term 2. (PRE)

**HIST 241: ROMAN HISTORY (4)****Franko**

A survey of Roman history from the foundation of the city to the fall of the Roman Empire. Special emphasis will be placed on the social and political changes leading to the collapse of the Republic; on the growth and development of Christianity in the Roman Empire; and on the transition from the ancient world to medieval Europe. Most readings will be taken from Roman sources, which will also provide an opportunity to investigate some of the vivid personalities of Roman history. Also listed as CLAS 241. Open to first-year students. Not offered 2023-24. (PRE)

**HIST 246: AMERICAN CULTURAL AND INTELLECTUAL HISTORY (4)****Florio**

This course surveys the history of American ideas and culture from the colonial period to the near present. What ideas have Americans held in the past? When, how, and why have cultural convictions changed in the United States? In what ways and to what extent have ideas mattered across U.S. history? We will explore topics, including Puritan theology, Transcendentalism, the civil rights movement, and the "culture wars," drawing on historical sources ranging from autobiographies to paintings to popular music. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2023-24. (MOD)

**HIST 248: DECOLONIZATION (4)****Nuñez**

This course explores the end of European overseas empires and the emergence of independent states in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and the Middle East in the 20th century. Among the questions we will consider: what does it mean to decolonize? How did people in colonial and metropolitan societies negotiate these conflicts? What challenges did people in former colonies face in trying to build new states? Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2023-24. (w, x, MOD, GLO)

**HIST 250: HISTORY OF SCIENCE, MEDICINE, AND TECHNOLOGY Rossler**

This course surveys the development of modern science, medicine, and technology from the eighteenth century to the present. We will explore the ways we conceive of science and medicine—how it is done, who does it, and what it

means—have shifted dramatically in tandem with how we understand the world and society. Open to first-year students. Offered Term 1.

### **HIST 250: WOMEN, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY IN THE UNITED STATES**

**Alms**

This course moves chronologically from the nineteenth century to the present day and examines how American women's lives were shaped by their gender, race, sexuality, and class; by government policy and social norms; and by individual choices. Topics include: women, slavery, and the Civil War; social movements in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries; and women at work. Open to first-year students. Offered Term 1.

### **HIST 255: AMERICAN SOCIAL HISTORY (4)**

**Alms**

Studies in the lives of the American people, the movements and institutions in which they organized and acted, and the processes of social change in which they participated. Topics range from Puritans to Progressives, from urban workers to southern farmers. Open to first-year students. Offered Term 1. (MOD)

### **HIST 258: THE HISTORY OF HUMAN RIGHTS (4)**

**Department**

This course surveys the complicated and often fraught history of human rights. We will explore how various people, governments, and international organizations have answered questions including: what is a "human right?" Are such rights universal? And are they enforceable? In doing so, we will also consider whether human rights are a recent invention or the product of longstanding historical traditions. Open to first-year students. Not offered 2023-24. (w, x, MOD)

### **HIST 264: AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY TO 1865 (4)**

**Florio**

This course provides a survey of African-American history from the era of the transatlantic slave trade to the end of the American Civil War. Subjects covered will include the origins of chattel slavery and racism in North America, the development of distinctive African-American cultures and communities, and the leading role of African Americans in the struggle to abolish slavery. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2023-24. (DIV, MOD)

### **HIST 265: AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY, 1865 TO THE PRESENT (4)**

**Florio**

This course provides a survey of African-American history from the end of the American Civil War to the near present. Subjects covered will include the emergence of Jim Crow in the wake of Reconstruction's collapse, the impact of urbanization on African-American life and culture, the origins of the civil rights movement, and the struggle to make Black Lives Matter. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2023-24. (MOD, DIV)

### **HIST 266: DISSENT AND REFORM IN AMERICAN HISTORY (4)**

**Department**

This course explores the history of American social reform from the era of the Revolutionary War to the near present. How have Americans dissented from the status quo and agitated for change? To address this question, we will focus on reformers and radicals including abolitionists, socialists, environmentalists, anti-war protesters, and LGBTQ activists. Open to first-year students. Offered Term 2. (w, x, MOD)

### **HIST 270: MAKING REVOLUTION (4)**

**Nuñez**

This proseminar explores key revolutionary movements from the 18th century to the present. What makes these movements 'revolutionary?' What visions of the social and political order did revolutionaries attempt to create? To what degree were they successful? What can we learn by comparing these revolutions? Focus will be on the French and Russian Revolutions, with additional case studies from the Americas, Africa, and Asia. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2023-24. (w, x, GLO, MOD)

### **HIST 274: THE FIRST WORLD WAR AND THE MAKING OF THE 20th CENTURY (4)**

**Department**

The First World War marked the end of Europe's "long nineteenth century" and set the stage for the conflicts and transformations of the twentieth century. This course will explore the origins, development, and consequences of the conflict. Topics include the roots of the war, military tactics and strategies, soldiers' experiences, life on the home-front, the peace settlements, and the war's legacy. No prerequisites. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2023-24. (w, x, MOD)

### **HIST 290: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)**

**Department**

Individual projects below the advanced level arranged with history faculty members. Offered both terms.

### **HIST 298: REVOLUTIONARY FRANCE: FROM THE GUILLOTINE TO DE GAULLE (4)**

**Nuñez**

A survey of French history from the ancient regime to the present, including political, social, and cultural developments. The course begins with the absolutism of Louis XIV and continues through the Enlightenment, the French Revolution, Napoleon, and the two world wars of the 20th century, ending with De Gaulle and Mitterrand. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2023-24. (w, x, MOD)

**HIST 310: THE BODY AND SEXUALITY IN EUROPEAN HISTORY (4)****Nuñez**

This seminar explores shifting views of the body, sexuality, and gender in Europe from the ancient world to the present. What does it mean to undertake a “history of the body?” What is the relationship between the body, gender, and sexuality? Topics may include changing understandings of anatomy and sexual difference, torture, witch hunts, midwifery, prostitution, venereal disease, pornography, cross-dressing, homosexuality, and intersections of the body and sexuality with race and class. Also listed as GWS 310. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing or permission of the instructor. Not offered in 2023-24. (w, x, MOD)

**HIST 318: COLONIAL AMERICAN HISTORY (4)****Florio**

A study of early American society with emphasis on religion, intellectual life, labor systems, family life, and colonial personalities. Opportunity for individual research. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing or permission of the instructor. Not offered in 2023-24. (w, x, DIV, MOD)

**HIST 327: EARLY CHRISTIANITY (4)****Department**

This course looks at the history of early Christianity. We will examine the origins of Christianity and its expansion within the Roman Empire, looking at the problems of conversion and persecution; the creation of a church; and the organization of Christian doctrine. We will also examine the many struggles to establish a satisfactory relationship between the church and a Christian state; and we will end with a look at the Reformation and its comprehensive critique of the Roman church. Also listed as REL 327. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission of the instructor. Not offered in 2023-24. (PRE)

**HIST 328: ANTEBELLUM UNITED STATES (4)****Department**

This seminar explores the history of the United States from the aftermath of the War of 1812 to the eve of the Civil War. Topics covered will range from economic development to empire-building, from racism to religion, from immigration to sectionalism. Along the way, we will focus on the connections between the rise of a more democratic American politics and the emergence of the largest and richest slave society of its time and perhaps in all of world history. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission of the instructor. Not offered in 2023-24. (w, x, DIV, MOD)

**HIST 329: SLAVERY: A GLOBAL HISTORY (4)****Florio**

This seminar investigates the history of slavery in different times and places. Looking well beyond the United States, we will explore how slavery has been organized and experienced from the ancient world to the present day, in locations ranging from Africa to India to the Caribbean. We will also delve into the global history of slave emancipation. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing or permission of instructor. Not offered in 2023-24. (w, x, GLO)

**HIST 331: MEDIEVAL SOCIETY (4)****Department**

This seminar examines and explores the main outlines of western European medieval society: church, government, economy, and culture. We will discuss the central institutions, the main outlines of conflict and tension, and the sources of cultural stability in the European Middle Ages. Specific topics will include medieval women, education, the legacy of the Roman Empire, the birth of common law, and the growth of representative government. Finally, we will look at the legacy of the Middle Ages and its influence on later European history and civilization. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission of instructor. Not offered in 2023-24. (w, x, PRE)

**HIST 334: SEX AND RACE IN THE AGE OF EMPIRE (4)****Rosler**

This course explores both how imperial ideologies were gendered and how empire provided an arena in which gender norms could be rethought. Topics include European women's experiences in the empire as wives, missionaries, and travelers; empire as a space for sexual transgression; and the role of gender in decolonization movements. Prerequisite: sophomore standing, and a 200-level course in history or GWS. Also listed as GWS 334. Not open to first-year students. Offered Term 1. (w, x, GLO, MOD)

**HIST 341: 18<sup>TH</sup>-CENTURY EUROPE – ENLIGHTENMENT AND REVOLUTION (4)****Nuñez**

This course examines one of the most transformative periods in Western history, that of the Enlightenment and French Revolution. In the first part of the course, we will explore the multi-faceted nature of Enlightenment thought, including new conceptions of rights, critiques of absolutism, and new ways of organizing knowledge, as well as other important developments in 18<sup>th</sup>-century society, including the rise of the public sphere, the emergence of consumer culture, and demographic changes. In the second part of the course, we will turn our attention to the French Revolution and to its relationship to the Enlightenment. Though our focus will be on France, we will also consider important developments in other parts of Europe. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission of instructor. Not offered in 2023-24. (w, x)



**HIST 356: TWENTIETH-CENTURY AMERICA (4)****Department**

A seminar on American political and social history from 1900 to the present. Topics covered will include the origin and evolution of reform movements (progressivism, women's rights, civil rights), the effects of war and economic change, and major shifts in political alignments. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission of instructor. Not offered in 2023-24. (w, x)

**HIST 360: THE SECOND WORLD WAR (4)****Department**

Reading, discussion, and research into the most cataclysmic war in modern history. Topics covered include origins of the war in both Europe and Asia; the leadership of Hitler, Stalin, Churchill, Roosevelt, Mao, and others; the causes, conduct, and consequences of the Holocaust; the birth and first use of atomic weapons; and the effects of the war on empires and civilizations around the globe. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission of instructor. Not offered in 2023-24. (w, x, GLO, MOD)

**HIST 371: CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION (4)****Department**

A seminar on the causes, conduct, and consequences of the American Civil War. Topics covered will include the nature of slavery, the origins of sectional conflict, the road to war, the strategies and tactics employed by each side, the nature of nineteenth-century warfare, political and social developments within both the North and the South, the course of Reconstruction, and the popular image of those events in contemporary American culture. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission of instructor. Not offered in 2023-24. (w, x, MOD)

**HIST 372: GOING GLOBAL: U.S. HISTORY IN TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE (4)****Florio**

Our aim in this seminar will be to rethink U.S. history by thinking beyond the borders of the United States. As we cover topics including revolutions, borderlands, identities, empires, migrations, and globalization, we will consider how recent transnational scholarship, focused on connections between the U.S. and the wider world, calls into question longstanding assumptions about America's national history. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission of instructor. Not offered 2023-24. (w, x, MOD, DIV)

**HIST 390: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)****Department**

Individual projects at the advanced level arranged with history faculty members. Offered both terms.

**HIST 399: INTERNSHIP (2 or 4)****Department**

May be proposed in either term.

**HIST 470: SENIOR THESIS (4)****Florio**

Required of all senior history majors. Students will write a significant history paper using primary sources. Offered Term 1.

**HIST 490: SENIOR HONORS THESIS (4)****Department**

Decisions on departmental honors are made at the conclusion of the project. Students should not register for HIST 490. Students achieving honors will be registered for HIST 490 after honors decisions are made. Offered Term 2.