Spring 2018 Topical Courses

Hist 400: Junior Seminar Methods and Historiography
Professor Kornfeld
This seminar is designed to introduce undergraduates to historical methods and historiography through a focus on gender in American culture. During the first part of the semester, the seminar will consider a variety of outstanding recent historical studies of gender in American culture. From these models, students will learn about the types of questions, arguments, sources, and methods used in the history of gender in American culture. During this part of the course, students will give weekly oral presentations and complete several short writing assignments based on the shared readings. In the second part of the semester, students will choose and develop topics for their culminating independent papers, which will compare and contrast the historical questions, arguments, methods, and types of evidence used by three different historians about a single issue or topic in the history of gender in American culture. Groups of students with similar interests will meet each week to consider each member’s successive five-page drafts and offer suggestions for revision. Finally, students will revise their draft papers and submit polished papers to the professor.

Hist 450: Senior Seminar in Historical Research
Professor Passananti
450 is the capstone course for history majors. The goal of this undergraduate seminar is to identify, research, and write a paper based on primary sources. The topic in spring 2018 will be some aspect of the transnational history of the San Diego-Tijuana region.

Hist 580: War and Violence in the Middle East
Professor Arieli
The course will explore the history of civilization and conflict in the Middle East, addressing the roots of multiple ethnic and national regional identities. The historical and contemporary geopolitics of the Middle East will serve as a case study to understand the multi-faceted phenomena of social conflict. The course will be based on student participation—reading, analysis and presentation of media, theoretical writings, and historical documents with the aim of developing skills of historical and political analysis.

Hist 584: The Green City
Professor Wiese
Can cities be Green? Focusing on US cities from the industrial revolution through the present, this course examines the relationship between the city and country, between human and non-human environments, through the lenses of history, landscape, economy, ideas, and politics. Topics include: capitalism and nature, pollution and public health, the rise of suburbia, popular culture, movements for environmental justice, green politics, and sustainability in an age of climate change. Designed for undergraduates, with additional work assigned for graduate students.
Hist 620: Comparative Genocide Europe  
Professor Frieberg
This course interrogates the specific aspect of 19th and 20th century society and warfare that is genocide and ethnic cleansing. We begin by understanding the emergence of mass murder in modern history. Readings and class discussions will address the definition of Total War, genocide, and ethnic cleansing, the causes of genocide, its' link to modernity and science, and, finally, the history of intervention on a national and international level. Thus this course focuses on historiography and historical methods – particularly transnational and comparative history – while also exploring the role of interdisciplinary approaches in graduate work.

Hist 630: Gender in Early America  
Professor Kornfeld
This seminar will introduce students to the central topics that interest historians of gender and the family in early America, to some of the major historians working in these fields, and to the main controversies and debates in which they engage. Topics will include theoretical perspectives on gender and family history; comparisons of colonial Puritan, Quaker, Virginia, and Amerindian gender, families and communities; gender and witchcraft; gender, family, and the Revolution; the "deep changes" of the Early Republic on rural, urban, and frontier gender and families; work, class and gender; the construction of American manhood; and antebellum Southern white and African-American gender and families.

More than most, this seminar depends upon the active engagement and informed participation of each student. Each student is expected to read the material assigned each week prior to the seminar meeting and to join in the discussion of that reading; to lead a seminar discussion of the readings assigned for one week of the course; and to do individual research for a 15-page paper and group presentation. Students with or without previous experience in the history of gender, family, or early America are welcome to enroll.