Spring 2019 Topical Courses

Hist 442: People from Our Past
Professor David Cline
People from Our Past: Picture the Revolution: A Study of Civil Rights, Black Power, and Revolution Through the Lens of the Graphic Novel. This course will draw on a recent trove of graphic novels concerning key figures in American and world social justice movements, as well as variety of other contextualizing texts.

History 650: Hotspots in Modern Chinese History
Professor Kate Edgerton-Tarpley
History 650 engages graduate students in an intense inquiry into seminal themes and issues in nineteenth and twentieth-century Chinese History. Focal points include scholarly critiques of the China field; China-centered versus World History explanations of the “fall” of imperial China; multiple perspectives on the construction of Chinese national identity; debates over the origins and impact of the Chinese Communist Revolution; theories of causation concerning the Mao-era Great Leap Famine and Cultural Revolution; new paradigms on gender in twentieth-century China; and recent scholarship on the impact of China’s rise in the twenty-first century world.

In addition to introducing M.A. students interested in Asia to the questions and approaches that have generated the most interest and controversy in the modern China field during recent years, H650 also introduces theories, methodologies, and questions that can be applied to any field of history. In the words of Sinologist Paul Cohen, it aims to help graduate students and future teachers embrace historiography in general by “discovering history in China.”

*PLEASE NOTE: Graduate students without any background in Chinese or Asian history are more than welcome in H650. The course begins with a “teaching ourselves modern Chinese history” activity in which the class reads a thoughtful textbook overview of modern Chinese history, and key themes are cemented by having each student “teach” a particular chapter of that text to the rest of the class. The course is designed not only for History M.A. students who hope to take their exams in Chinese history or write their thesis on a China-related topic, but also for M.A. students who want more practice in reading and writing historiographically (each unit of the course is framed around an important historiographical debate in the China field), and for current or future teachers interested in integrating China into their World History courses more effectively.

Hist 680: Public History: Theories, Methods, and Practice
Professor David Cline
Public History: Theories, Methods, and Practice is an introduction to the methodology, theory, and practice of the field of public history, with a community-based, service learning component working in public history venues throughout San Diego. This course provides an excellent "tool box" of skills for all historians, regardless of whether a future career will be in the public history sector. For those interested in
museums, archives, documentaries, historic sites, historical fiction, public humanities, digital history or humanities, etc., this course is essential!