

# Department of History

The History Department at St. Thomas University guides students in critically studying the societies and peoples of the past, as well as the various ways that “the past” is explained in “the present.” Students learn historical content, and discuss the methodological and philosophical issues that inform the exploration of history today, including the difficulty in saying what exactly “history” is or should be.

Chronologically, we offer courses from the first complex societies more than 5,000 years



### HIST 1123.

This course explores how food was made, consumed, and understood in the past. What did food and eating mean to different people at different times, in different places? How did everyday foods, like sugar or potatoes, travel around the world? What impacts did human-made and natural disasters have on eating habits and food supplies, and how did the presence and absence of food influence people's behaviour? In this course, students learn to connect local and global interactions, past events, and the present through food. (formerly HIST 2123). Students who have taken HIST 2123 cannot take this course for credit.

### HIST 1133.

Precolonial Africa explores the history of Africa up to the nineteenth century. Topics covered include Africa's place in hominid evolution, Africa's contribution to the Neolithic revolution, rise of the states versus stateless societies, traditional religion versus world religions, coastal societies versus inland societies, long-distance trade and the rise of empires, and domestic slavery versus transoceanic slavery and their effects on development. The objective is to challenge stereotypic notions about precolonial African societies, to contribute to students' understanding of Africa's place in early world history, and to introduce students to some of the key historiographical debates on precolonial African history. (formerly HIST 2133). Students who have taken HIST 2133 cannot take this course for credit.

### HIST 1143.

Modern Africa surveys the history of Africa from the nineteenth century to the present. The course focuses on three major topics: the scramble for Africa and the partition, European colonial rule, and the assessment of the post-independence era. Subtopics include missionaries and explorers, occupation and forms of resistance, settler colonies versus non-settler colonies, nationalism and wars of independence, post-independence successes and challenges, the Cold War and the War on Terror, and globalization and the fading significance of the nation state. The objectives for this course are to challenge stereotypic notions about contemporary Africa, to contribute to students' understanding of Africa's place in the modern world, and to introduce students to some of the major historiographical debates on modern African history. (formerly HIST 2143). Students who have taken HIST 2143 cannot take this course for credit.

### HIST 1153.

What is "magic"? What are "demons"? How have constantly evolving beliefs about the supernatural impacted the course of human history (and vice versa)? This introductory survey

### HIST 1413. **Z**

This course will explore the history of citizenship on a global scale since about 1800. How have ideas and practices related to citizenship changed over time? How did new nation-states try to define citizenship? How did people try to secure recognition, rights, and human rights? How do themes of age, gender, race, class, and ethnicity relate to the question of citizenship in the modern era? These are a few of the questions and themes that the class will investigate by looking at some interesting case studies. (formerly HIST 3413) Students who have taken HIST 3413 cannot take this course for credit.

### HIST 3763. **3**

This discussion-based course explores the global impact of modern sport from c. 1850 to the present. It focuses upon the global spread of sports such as track and field, soccer, cricket, hockey, and baseball and the manner in which such sports were resisted or appropriated by communities throughout the world. Course content examines the political, social, and cultural significance of modern sport rather than the intricate details of individual athletes or teams. (formerly HIST 3763). Students who have taken HIST 3763 cannot take this course for

**History 2033. Z**

This course provides an introduction to early modern European history from the end of the so-called "Middle Ages" to the era of the French Revolution (more or less the 15th to the 18th centuries). Students will study social, cultural, political, economic and other developments in order to better understand how the societies we recognize today evolved from the rather different world of the late "Middle Ages." The course traces themes and topics such as religious belief, absolutist politics, interactions between majorities and minorities, the changing status of women, and Europe's place in an increasingly "global" setting.

**History 2043. Z**

Beginning with industrialization and a wave of revolutions that started in the late 1700s, this course traces the history of Europe to today. Who governed and whose labour made economies run? Who held power and who did not? While studying how Europeans interacted with each other and the world, students will analyse historical changes and explore issues of inclusion, exclusion and diversity. The course follows History 2033 chronologically but has no prerequisite.

**History 2053. U**

This course examines developments in world history since the Second World War, such as the emergence of the Cold War, decolonization, the growth of American power and struggles for human rights. It also explores the consequences of urbanization, demographic growth, technological change, and environmental degradation.

**History 2103. Z**

This course examines themes in world history through the use and study of material objects. Histories of everyday materials and objects allow us to examine diverse issues such as the environment, history, technology, and culture. In general, historians have relied primarily on text-based sources and this course will explore the role and use of material objects in doing history. We will examine theoretical approaches to material history as well as survey the historical literature of this branch of study.



**23. Latin American History**

This course surveys the history of Latin America from the early 1800s, when the Spanish and Portuguese colonies won their independence, to the present day. It focuses on how people have grappled with colonial legacies such as social and racial hierarchies, global economic inequality, and foreign domination. Major themes include the struggles of early nationhood, migration and urbanization, U. S. imperialism, social movements, revolutions, and human rights.

**33. American History**

An introductory survey that explores and examines some major developments in what becomes the United States, from early European colonization up to the Civil War of the mid-19th century. Major issues include relations with Native peoples, slavery, the African-American experience, revolution and independence, economic development, political and intellectual traditions, and social change.

**43. American History**





### 3343. History of Europe since 1945

In ruins and divided after the Second World War, Europe was a central theatre of Cold War conflict until 1989/90. This course traces social, political, cultural, and other developments during the Cold War and subsequent decades. Students use sources from the past to explore how Europeans saw themselves and others, and how these perceptions changed over time. They study conflict and stability, diversity and nationalism, imperialism and regional convergence, as well as Europeans' attempts to answer challenging questions about who they are and what role they should play in the world today.

### 3333. History of Germany, 1871-1945

In 1871, newly unified Germany looked forward to a future that seemed to promise greatness. By 1945, after two world wars and the repressive Third Reich, the country was in ruins. How did this come about? In this course, students study social, cultural, political, and economic developments in order to understand better the history of one of Europe's most important states. Using text and images from the past, they learn more about how Germans lived, as well as considering broader issues like nationalism, racism, imperialism, and conflict.

### 3333. History of Germany, 1945-1990

The defeat of Nazi Germany and disagreements among the victors led to the enforced division of Germany. By 1949, two separate German states had been founded, and they lasted for forty years as enemies during the Cold War. This course traces the history of Germany from the end of the Second World War to the present, covering not only division, but also reunification and Germany's role in Europe today. Students consider both "high-level" issues, such as international tensions, and the ground-level preoccupations of an increasingly diverse German population.

### 3333. History of Slavery, 1500-Present

This course is designed to provide a comprehensive and comparative overview of slavery in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the Americas from 1500 to the present. Upon completion of the course, students should have an understanding of important events in world slave systems, changes in the practice of historical forms of slavery, similarities and differences between different slave systems, and an understanding of the historical background of modern-day slavery.

### 3333. History of Gender in the Construction of Empires

This course explores the place of gender in the construction and preservation of empires through such topics as constructions of difference, motherhood and domesticity; civilizing missions and tourism; and contestations of power. This course operates from the premise that empires are never static: subjects in different imperial contexts, in various cases, resisted, thwarted, or reformed colonial regimes.

### 3433. History of Leisure in Europe, 1680-1820

This course examines the social history of leisure in Europe during the long eighteenth century (c. 1680-1820). With the rise of global trade in luxury goods, a new era of prosperity and wealth coincided with a richly-supplied market in beautiful non-essentials. This course will trace the social and cultural changes that went hand in glove with the entertainment fashions of the eighteenth century, and the encoded priorities and ideals of the people who enjoyed them.

### 343.033 Rivers in World History

This course explores the significance of rivers in world history. It examines rivers as geological agents and the biological habitats rivers create. It investigates the role of rivers in sustaining trade networks and explores changing transportation technologies. It considers the role of rivers in the development of early agricultural societies and hydraulic empires. It also studies the relationship between rivers and urban growth and sanitation; colonial cartography and exploration; industrial development; nationalism; tourism; and environmentalism.

### 3503.001 Social Movements of the Post-World War II Period

This course examines social movements of the post World War II period, such as struggles of national liberation, movements against racism, militarism, and the proliferation of nuclear weapons, the emergence of a youth counter-culture, struggles for women's rights, indigenous people's rights, grassroots democracy, on behalf of the poor and disempowered, in defence of the environment, and against neo-liberal globalization. The course considers the historical roots of various movements as well as the context of their emergence, their scope, the continuities and discontinuities among them, and their impact on today's world.

### 3553.001 Historical Workshop

The Workshop provides students with the opportunity to enhance their skills of historical analysis, writing and oral communication through close engagement with an important historical "event" or issue. The Workshop is recommended for students planning to take 4000-level seminars, as well as students considering an application to graduate programs or professional schools. Please consult the History Department Handbook, Chair or web page for upcoming Workshop topics. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

### 353.001 Empires and Imperialism

What is an empire? This course focuses on imperialism and empires from 1800 to the present. Using examples from a variety of historical empires across the world, we explore imperial societies, trade and exchange between peripheries and metropolises, imperial cultures, issues of race, gender and violence in imperial contexts. We also discuss the difficult beginnings and complex ends of empires, and their on-going legacies today.

### 303.033 Disney's Theme Parks and Films

Focusing primarily upon Disney's theme parks and films, this course explores issues of representation, selectivity, and appropriation, and a wide range of topics including colonialism, gender, race, class, urban utopias, educational initiatives, and Orientalism. The course examines one of the world's most powerful entertainment companies and - more generally - the complex, controversial, and contested relationship between history and entertainment.

### 313.401 Latin American Gender Relations

Latin American gender relations have often been shrouded in stereotypes about "macho men" and "exotic women." However, ordinary Latin Americans have defied stereotypes and challenged gender norms for centuries, and the continent is currently experiencing a powerful feminist revolution and explosion of LGBTQ organizing. This course traces the evolution of gender relations and gender identities in the continent, with a focus on the modern era.

### 343. Z Z Z . . .

Differences in skin color and physical characteristics took on a new significance in modern times. The newly invented concept of race classified human beings into several distinct categories with corresponding intellectual and behavioral traits. Race and Racism in Modern History studies the evolution of race thinking during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, as well as the extent to which such thoughts have since shaped the trajectory of world history.

### 303. Z Z Z : : & Z

Hockey. The beaver. The canoe. Poutine. This discussion-based course examines some of Canada's most recognizable and influential symbols. The course proceeds thematically and focuses on specific symbols to explore key themes such as national identity, appropriation of Indigenous culture, political conflict, and commodification. Questions addressed in the course include: Where do symbols come from? How have their meanings changed over time? How does their popularity prioritize some interests over others? How have such symbols been appropriated, resisted, and reclaimed? And, perhaps most importantly, how are Canadians shaped by this symbolic landscape?

### 313. Z Z Z . . . Z

Making a Living in the United States examines the struggles of Americans to earn their daily bread over the last couple of centuries. This course will use such themes as work and workplaces, labour and capital relations, as well as the roles of gender, race, class, ethnicity and region in shaping how people made a living in the USA. There are no prerequisites for this course, (ten-US)/MCID 574 BDC BT7.8 0 0 7.87 key r)10 (oles o (, r)dit8 0BDCA. ).mmd 04 (icans0)0BDC d





**420** **Medieval History Seminar**

This advanced seminar deals with important aspects of social, religious, intellectual and institutional history in the so-called Middle Ages. Specific topics will change from year to year but generally focus on relationships between the different sorts of medieval communities. The seminar is intended for students with some background in pre-modern history, philosophy and/or theological traditions, whether Christian, Muslim, or Jewish.

**40** **Latin American History Seminar**

A study of political and social developments in Latin American republics during the twentieth century. Topics to be discussed will include the social revolutions and political leaders of this part of the Third World.

