History Course Descriptions

HST 101H  Western Civilization I. A survey of the development of Western civilization from its earliest times to the mid-17th century. It emphasizes the evaluation of institutions and the cultural contributions of successive periods. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 102H  Western Civilization II. A survey of the development of western civilization stressing major cultural, political, economic and institutional changes from 1648 to the present. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 110  Asian Civilization. A survey of cultural, political, economic, and social developments in Chinese, Japanese, Indian, and Central Asian civilizations. Critical attention will be paid to the interaction of Asia and the West in the modern era. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 199  Special Topics in History. See All-University 199 course description. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 200  The Historian’s Craft. An examination into the nature and method of historical inquiry and the construction and writing of history. The course will introduce students to historiography, the philosophy of history, issues facing historians, practical research methods and the evaluation of sources. The course stresses critical thinking and analysis as well as close critical reading, writing and speaking skills. HST 200 is a prerequisite for the SCE and is suggested as preparation for 300-level courses. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 201  Museum Studies. Public History is a vibrant field within the historical profession, and museum studies is an integral component of public history. This course offers students an understanding of the many facets of museum studies including an understanding of historical memory, creativity and historical purpose in museum exhibits, and an understanding of the knowledge and skills required to be successful in museum work. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 205  Colonial America. An examination of American history from the discovery of the Americas through 1787. The course will address elements in political, economic, and cultural histories of the thirteen colonial colonies of British North America; students will be introduced to the politics of the Enlightenment and the American founding, including discussion of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 206H  Nineteenth Century United States. An examination of U.S. history from 1870 to 1880, including the Early National Period, Civil War, and Reconstruction. Political, economic, social, military, and cultural history will be discussed. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 207  Progressive Movement in American History, 1880 to 1945. An examination of elements in political, economic, social, and cultural history, as well as foreign affairs, from the Gilded Age to the Second World War. Among topics addressed will be progressivism, the New Deal, the world wars. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 208  United States Since 1945. An examination of elements in political, economic, social, and cultural history, as well as foreign affairs from the end of the Second World War to the present. Among the topics addressed will be the cold war, the affluent society, the war on poverty, the counterculture, the rise of conservatism, the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, and more. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 215H  The Middle East. An interdisciplinary study of social, economic, cultural, and political developments in the Middle East from the decline of the Ottoman Empire to the present in the context of nationalism, religion, and international affairs. Elements in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will be given careful examination. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 220  East Europe. A survey of the history of Eastern Europe from antiquity to the present. Attention will focus on the various empires that have dominated the region at different times, national revival and the emergence of nation-states, communist domination and communist collapse and efforts to craft post-communist political and economic systems. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 225H  History of Africa. A study of the social, economic, and political history of Africa from the prehistoric era to the present, emphasizing Sub-Saharan tribal histories, slavery, colonization, anti-colonial movements, and the development of modern states. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 230H  Problems of Developing Nations. An interdisciplinary study of the social, economic and political history of the developing world from 1945 to the present. The course will focus on three broad geographical areas, Asia, Africa and Latin America, in the context of foreign aid, globalization, population growth, and human rights. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 260  Women in East Asia. By examining individual life histories, exploring the development of women’s consciousness, and analyzing historical events, this course is designed to make a historical survey of continuity and change in the roles and conditions of women in East Asian society from ancient times to the present. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 265  East Asia to 1800. A survey of the traditional cultures of China, Korea, and Japan from antiquity to the incursion of the West. Attention will focus on Chinese, Korean, and Japanese society, religion, art and literature, including the Chinese conception of “dao” and the Japanese “myth of uniqueness”. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 270  East Asia and the United States in Historical Perspectives. Beginning with the first voyages of the Empress of China, the course will examine the economic, political, diplomatic, military, and cultural relations between East Asia and the United States from the late eighteenth century to the present. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 275H  African-American History. A survey of African-American History from colonial times to the present. Slavery, abolition, segregation, civil rights, and social reform will be discussed in the context of social, political, economic, and intellectual history. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 280H  American Women’s History. This course concentrates on women as active participants in the history of the United States from pre-colonial contact to the present. It will begin with an examination of the status of women in Europe, Africa, and the Americas prior to colonization and will consider the changes that occurred as a result of Europe’s “discovery” of the Americas. It will examine both the general contributions women have made to the economic, social and political spheres and the roles specific women have played in the development of the nation. Women of all socio-economic, religious, ethnic and color groups will be considered. 4 Sem. Hrs.

HST 290H  History of Civil Rights Movements in the U.S. A study of the origins, development, and ramifications of the modern civil rights movement from the Niagara Movement to the presidency of Barack Obama. The course will focus on the development of black socio-political identity in the context of American culture and society. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 299  Special Topics in History. See All-University 299 course description. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 320  Renaissance and Reformation. A survey of Europe from the first stirrings of the Renaissance in Italy to the conclusion of the Catholic Counter Reformation, covering the approximate years 1300 to 1600. This course emphasizes intellectual, political and institutional developments. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 325  Early Modern Europe. A survey of Europe from the religious wars of the 16th century through the Enlightenment to the eve of the French Revolution covering the approximate years 1559 to 1789. This course emphasizes intellectual, political and economic developments. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 336  History of Southern Africa. A study of social, economic and political history of Southern Africa from the 16th century European invasions and Non-Bantu migrations to the present day with emphasis on European colonialism and black-white economic and political confrontations. Independence movements in
Lesotho, Swaziland, Namibia, and Union of South Africa will be addressed, as will the nature of the apartheid system in the Republic of South Africa. Attention will focus on post independence achievements and failures of the Republic of South Africa, and its external relations in the context of globalization. 4 Sem. Hrs.

HST 340  Revolutionary Europe. A survey of Europe from the French Revolution to the eve of World War I. This course emphasizes the development of nationalism and liberalism, the implications of the progress of science and industry and the emergence of imperialism. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 345  Contemporary Europe. A survey of Europe from World War I to the present. This course emphasizes the rise of communism and fascism, the breakdown of collective security, World War II, the Cold War, the development of the EU, and the disappearance of the Soviet Union. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 350  Ancient Greece and Rome. A survey of the ancient roots of Western Civilization. Attention will focus on the intellectual, cultural, and political development of Ancient Greece and Rome from c. 800 B.C.E. to 300 C.E. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 355  Medieval Europe. A survey of Europe from 300 C.E. to 1300 C.E. with emphasis on religious, political, and economic developments. Particular attention will be given to church and empire, feudalism, commerce, and the rise of the dynastic states. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 360  Modern China. An examination of the collapse of the old empire, the rise of Chinese nationalism, Nationalist and communist revolutions, the War of Resistance, the Civil War, the founding of the Peoples’ Republic of China, and relations with foreign powers. Attention will focus on China’s relationships with Japan, Russia, and the United States. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 365  Southeast Asia. An examination of the Asian countries south of China and east of India. Emphasis will be placed on the political, economic, and social development of the region in the 20th century. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 370  Modern Japan. An examination of Japanese political, economic, cultural and diplomatic history from the end of the feudal era to the present. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 380  South Asia. A study of the social, economic, religious, and political development of South Asia, including India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and smaller nations, from the end of the Second World War to the present. Economic achievements and failures, and the rise of religious extremism will be discussed. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 385  Modern Russia. A survey of Russian history in the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, from the era of the Napoleonic Wars through the Bolshevik Revolution to the collapse of the Soviet Union and the attempts to structure its successor state in the 1990s and 2000s. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 399  Special Topics in History. See All-University 399 course description. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 400  Seminar in Western History. Each student will select a research project from some area of European or American history, apply critical research techniques to it and complete a polished paper. This course satisfies the Senior Culminating Experience requirement for history majors. Prerequisite: HST 200. Fall Semester. 4 Semester Hours.

HST 401  Seminar in Asian History. Each student will select a topic from some area of Asian history, apply critical research techniques to it, and complete a polished paper. Arrangements must be made with the instructor during the semester prior to the one in which the course is offered. Prerequisite: HST 200. (Students majoring in Asian Studies may, with the written permission of the Director of Asian Studies, take HST 401 in fulfillment of their Asian Studies SCE. Generally, the Asian Studies SCE requirement is fulfilled by ASN 401.) 4 Semester Hours.

HST 405  Independent Study in History. Open to junior and senior students majoring in history. Emphasis is on an in-depth independent inquiry of a subject. Arrangements must be made with the instructor during the semester prior to the one in which the course is offered. Prerequisite: HST 200 and permission of instructor. Variable credit, 1-4 Semester Hours.

HST 494  Honors Thesis/Project. A formal, scholarly paper written under the supervision of an advising professor. (See All-University 494 course description. Can be completed in one or two semesters. Arrangements must be made with the instructor during the semester prior to the one in which the course is offered and proposal must receive approval from the Honors Review Board. Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing, instructor’s permission, and Honors Review Board approval. Prerequisite: HST 200. 4 or 6 Semester Hours.

HST 499  Internship. This is an experience-based course in which the student spends a specified amount of time with a local, county or state historical society in order to learn how such institutions function and to understand the richness of local historical sources and their importance to the historian. Supervision is provided by the cooperating society and the Department of History. The specific program for each internship will vary as agreed upon by the intern, the internship coordinator and the cooperating society. Arrangements must be made with the instructor during the semester prior to the one in which the course is offered. 1-8 Semester Hours.