***Fall 2024***

***HISTORY 398: UNDERGRADUATE SEMINARS***

*History majors are required to take an Undergraduate Seminar in History/ HIST 398. Fall registration is therefore restricted to History Majors only through the first two weeks of registration before opening to all students on Monday, April 8.*

***FALL 2024 SEMESTER***

**HIST 398.001 DR. JERMA JACKSON TUESDAY 2:00PM – 4:30PM**

**LEISURE-TIME AND MAKING OF MODERN AMERICA, 1880-1945**

*Today Americans are deeply invested in leisure. It assumes an almost sacred significance in our personal lives and is widely acknowledged as an indicator of the economic health of the nation itself. Yet leisure has not always enjoyed such widespread consensus. In this course we will turn our attention to a moment when rancor about leisure permeated American communities, homes and especially the pages of newspapers and magazines.*

*This is a research seminar that uses leisure to explore American life between 1880 and 1945. It was precisely in this moment that working Americans began to enjoy increasing amounts of spare time. Leisure itself changed, too, in this period. Commercial forces overhauled the kinds of leisure activities that were available. By the early twentieth century new kinds of amusements such as movie theaters and dance halls enjoyed increasing appeal in towns and cities throughout the country. These spaces nurtured a set of outlooks, identities and modes of social interaction we have come to associate with modern life.*

*We will use the array of activities and entertainments Americans pursued beyond the workplace to explore the social, cultural and economic dimensions of leisure. With this focus, we will consider how leisure-time fostered modern outlooks and habits. Our engagement will grow out of historical research and analysis that you will hone with guidance from me. Each of you will write a 20-25-page research paper on some aspect of leisure. You will have an opportunity to choose your topic and conduct original research using primary and secondary sources. We will spend a good deal of time throughout the semester learning how to research, write and revise a paper of this length.*

**HIST 398.002 DR. SUSAN PENNYBACKER TUESDAY & THURSDAY 2:00 – 3:15PM**

**MODERN LONDON: THE IMPERIAL METROPOLIS**

*We explore the making of London as a world city and imperial and postcolonial capital from 1890 through the present. At the heart of our investigations are the challenges of metropolitan political culture: a panoramic constellation of neighborhoods, social movements, demographic shifts, built environments, changing modes of economic life - and the language of varied artistic forms in which urban existence found expression. The nineteenth century West End luxury markets and the notorious rookeries of the Edwardian East End signaled the subsequent growth of new forms of social inequality at the heart of London’s present dilemmas. The metropolitan twentieth century witnessed the catastrophe of the Great War, interwar economic crisis, the terrors of the Blitz, and the promulgation of an encompassing postwar welfare state. A rigid class hierarchy and royal and aristocratic privilege coexisted with increasing multireligious, “multicultural” and interracial patterns of living. Historical struggles over immigration, racism and racial difference, gender conflict and sexuality rights, and religious commitment, continue as central problems for London and the city’s inhabitants in our time. The legacies of imperial conquest and conflicts over nationhood are visible in the record of parliamentary and electoral debate, print culture, and visual media, that depict London’s role as a political center and a marketplace of global capital. In the context of competing narrative histories, we consult a variety of rich archival and artistic materials in developing critically-engaged research and writing.*

**HIST 398.003 DR. KLAUS LARRES TUESDAY 3:30 – 6:00PM**

**SHAPING THE WORLD: THE EMERGENCE OF NEW GLOBAL ORDERS IN THE 20TH & 21ST CENTURIES**

*This course deals with three transitions from old established but increasingly contested order systems to new global orders. The course will explore: 1. the transition to a new order that followed the end of World War I and the Versailles Peace Treaty; 2. the transition from the end of World War II to the Cold War (c. 1944-1949) and, 3. the gradual emergence of a new global order that our own times have been grappling with since the end of the Cold War and the early 21st century.*

*For their respective research projects students are expected to focus on one of the above transitionary eras and chose a research topic in cooperation with the professor. There is abundance of published primary material available, especially for the first two transitionary phases but also for the third one. This will be discussed during the first few weeks of the semester.*

*Geographically the course will above all focus on Europe, the U.S. and China. However, if students wish to pick a research theme dealing with S.E. Asia, Africa, Latin America or the Middle East this may well be possible to a certain extent. But we need to discuss this.*

**HIST 398.004 DR. MICHELLE KING MONDAY 2:30PM – 5:00PM**

**TRAVEL WRITING**

*Imagine you are a British gentleman of the 19th century. You have just settled into your comfy club chair at home with a pipe in hand, ready to digest the latest edition of travel reports from Borneo. Or perhaps you are a schoolchild in America in the 1950s. The latest National Geographic has just arrived in your mailbox, and you eagerly pore over its glossy pages. In either instance, you are probably reading travel writing in order to learn more about foreign lands and peoples, whether to be entertained, edified, informed, titillated or transported.*

*In this historical research seminar, we will be turning the tables on these scenarios. Instead of reading travel writing at its most obvious level to learn more about foreign lands and peoples, we will be analyzing these works to discover more about the concerns and preoccupations of their 19th and 20th century American and European authors and readers, by asking a series of questions: How, why and in what modes have Westerners written about foreign lands and cultures? How does one’s situation and motivation for travel influence what one sees or records? Do accounts written by Western missionaries, adventurers, scientists or traders differ from each other? What about accounts written by women travelers? How have travel writings by Westerners shaped historical understandings of foreign people and places? Though our examples will be drawn primarily from American and British travel writing on the Middle East, Asia and Africa in the 19th - 20th centuries, the ideas we will explore in this seminar have a relevance and resonance with intercultural dynamics in the present. You will develop your own ideas about historical travel writing by completing an original research paper of 20-25 pages. Each stage of the research and writing process will be guided, so that if you work steadily you will achieve a successful outcome.*

**HIST 398.005 DR. WILLIAM BARNEY TUESDAY & THURSDAY 12:30 – 1:45PM**

**CIVIL WAR**

*What was it like to live through (or die in) the Civil War? What difference did it make if one was a Federal or a Confederate, soldier or civilian, white or black, free or slave, male or female? How did the war fit into contemporary political and social beliefs? How do we get at the subjective experiences of the war?*