

# History

Knowledge of the past allows students to understand the present, to consider their own beliefs, and to develop empathy for those different from themselves. To further these goals, the history curriculum at Exeter offers an historical perspective on the contemporary world and trains students in the skills of critical reading, speaking and writing. Class discussions around the Harkness table focus on historical issues that challenge every student to think independently and to articulate ideas in a clear and well-supported fashion. “Why?” or “what do you think?” questions are more central to the history classroom than “what happened?” As in class discussions, writing assignments focus on helping students develop clarity and sophistication with an emphasis on exposition and analysis.

All courses, except for History 332 and 333, may be taken without a prerequisite. Students may sample different areas or take courses in sequences that emphasize key themes and developments of both the Eastern and Western traditions. Many offerings emphasize parts of the world and cultures outside those of Europe and the United States, and taking one of these courses is a diploma requirement for three-year and four-year students. (See courses listed below.) Additionally, the department strongly encourages students to take at least one history course from the department’s offerings before beginning the United States history sequence.

Introductory courses, numbered in the 100s, are open to Juniors and Lower with the exception of History 100 and 101; these two courses, open only to Juniors, assume less familiarity with historical skills. 100-level courses emphasize fundamental skills in the study of history and the social sciences: gathering and interpreting evidence, analyzing concepts, and generalizing and synthesizing in frequent written exercises.

Intermediate courses, numbered in the 200s, are open to Lower and Uppers. They utilize more difficult materials, involve the study of more complex concepts, and demand a higher level of competence.

Advanced courses are numbered in the 300s and 400s. The American history sequence—331, 332, and 333— is required for the diploma and is open to Uppers and Seniors. This rigorous, yearlong sequence culminates in a major research paper in the spring term.

The 400-level courses are limited to Seniors, although, on occasion, Uppers are enrolled by permission of the department chair. These courses are often more topical in nature. Writing assignments and class meetings may be fewer in number than other levels in order to accommodate more sophisticated readings and independent work.

Advanced Placement Exams: the department does not confine itself to teaching in order to best prepare students for standardized tests. We believe that such an approach would compromise our commitment to student-centered discussion, close reading of primary and secondary sources, and independent research and writing. Those students wishing to take AP Exams in history are strongly advised to undertake sustained review on their own.

Courses in anthropology and economics are taught under the aegis of the History Department. These courses, however, do not satisfy the History requirement.

Three-year and four-year students are required to take at least one of the following courses: 100, 101, 131, 165, 167, 270, 436, 445, 446, 463, 465, 467, 477 and 486.

## ► Introductory Courses

### **HIS100: THE WORLD IN THE 20TH CENTURY**

This course is an introduction to the study of history. Students explore major developments of the 20th century in a global context: the rise of new nations and the search for a new international order after European control; the response of traditional societies to the impact of modernization on their values and customs; and the competition among nations for political, economic, or religious dominance. Special attention is given to geography, historical method, and improvement of reading and writing skills. *Open to Juniors. Offered: Fall Term.*

### **HIS101: PEOPLES AND CULTURES OF THE MODERN WORLD**

This course examines people who live in villages in the emerging world and the impact of modernization and industrialization on their way of life. Students gain a better understanding of the social and political issues facing many developing countries today as peasant peoples face and respond to the challenges of the modern institutions and technology. Through an emphasis on the geography and culture of the developing world, students are introduced to the skills necessary for the study of history and anthropology. This course makes frequent use of the library and engages in a discussion of contemporary social and political events. *Open to Juniors. Offered: Fall Term.*

### **HIS109: THE CLASSICAL WORLD: THE GREEKS**

This course examines the culture, politics, and society of the Greek city-states during the early and classical periods. The course emphasizes the rise and decline of democracy in Athens, as well as the conflicts with Sparta and the Persian Wars. A variety of materials introduces students to literature, (students read *The Odyssey* and several of Sophocles' plays) art, and everyday life in addition to politics. The course introduces and develops fundamental historical skills, particularly writing. *Open to Juniors and Loweres who have not taken a 200-level course. Offered: Fall Term.*

### **HIS110: THE CLASSICAL WORLD: THE ROMANS**

This course surveys the rise and fall of the Roman Republic and the emergence of the Roman Empire. Central themes include Roman expansion, imperialism, politics, and culture. To supplement the text, which was written by the faculty, students read the *Aeneid* as well as numerous primary sources. The course introduces and develops fundamental historical skills, particularly writing. *Open to Juniors and Loweres who have not taken a 200-level course. Offered: Winter Term.*

### **HIS111: THE MEDIEVAL WORLD**

This course examines the emergence of European civilization during the period between the collapse of the Roman Empire and the Black Death of 1348. Particular emphasis is placed on life in the High Middle Ages and on the institutions that provided stability and meaning to medieval people. *Open to Juniors and Loweres who have not taken a 200-level course. Offered: Spring Term.*

### **HIS131: NATIVE PEOPLES OF NORTH AMERICA**

This survey begins with the entry of prehistoric peoples into North America. Students analyze their population movements throughout the continent and their subsequent adaptations and cultural evolution. Library projects are integrated with laboratory sessions in which students work with archaeological and ethnographic materials to gain an appreciation of these prehistoric peoples. Field trips to local archaeological sites are included. Students then study the impact of European contact on Native peoples and the status of these tribal peoples today. *Open to Juniors and Loweres. Offered: Spring Term.*

### **HIS165: ASIAN CIVILIZATIONS: ORIGINS TO 1600**

Beginning with the origins of Asian civilizations, students examine and compare the development of various Asian societies and governments and analyze the effect that these civilizations had upon each other. The course begins with the rise of Chinese civilization and then focuses upon the growth of the region, including Japan, Korea, and Indochina. The spread of Confucianism and Buddhism, the rise of centralized governments, the development of social hierarchies, and the extent of China's influence throughout the region will also be evaluated. *Open to Juniors and Loweres who have not taken a 200-level history course. Offered: Winter Term.*

### **HIS167: ASIAN CIVILIZATIONS: 1600 TO 1900**

What was it like to be a peasant woman in China in the 17th century? What was it like to be the Emperor? Did they have the same views of government, culture, and society? After the class has considered Chinese history from these perspectives, students will then study Japan and ask whether being a samurai was a burden or a privilege, and whether samurai shaped history or whether history shaped the samurai. The course will close with a study of India, and it will examine how England came to rule India and what the costs and benefits were of being Indian but under British rule. Readings will include historical monographs, first person accounts, and some textbook chapters. History 165 is not a prerequisite for History 167. *Open to Juniors and Loweres who have not taken a 200-level history course. Offered: Spring Term.*

## **► Intermediate Courses**

### **HIS213: EARLY MODERN EUROPE, 1350-1660**

The centuries following the Black Death saw the beginnings of modern Europe. The course focuses on the crisis of the late Middle Ages, European society during the Renaissance, overseas expansion and the development of a new politics, the Reformation, the upheavals of the 17th century, and the Scientific Revolution. *Open to Loweres and Uppers. Offered: Fall Term.*

### **HIS214: ABSOLUTISM AND REVOLUTION, 1660-1800**

Beginning with the reign of Louis XIV, students will examine 18th-century European society, then how the Enlightenment challenged the ideas of the Old Regime and created new perceptions of humanity, society, and government. The course concludes with an analysis of the French Revolution and the rise of Napoleon. *Open to Loweres and Uppers. Offered: Winter Term.*

### **HIS215: THE EUROPEAN CENTURY, 1800-1914**

Beginning with the study of Napoleon's Empire and the Congress of Vienna, this course examines how the French Revolution of 1789 and the Industrial Revolution transformed European society and politics in the 19th century and established Europe's global pre-eminence. The course concludes with an examination of World War I, the shattering event that culminated Europe's dominance. *Open to Loweres and Uppers. Offered: Spring Term.*

### **HIS230: COLONIAL AMERICA**

This course examines cultural diversity, family, and community in colonial America. Topics include the clash between white and Indian cultures, the introduction of slavery, the Salem witch trials, and pivotal figures such as Anne Hutchinson, Cotton Mather, and Benjamin Franklin. A variety of sources including literature, diaries, paintings, architecture, and Exeter town records are explored. History 230 does not fulfill the U.S. history requirement. *Open to Loweres and Uppers. Offered: Spring Term.*

## **HIS270: PEOPLES AND CULTURES OF AFRICA**

This course examines the cultural history of sub-Saharan Africa. The course begins with the first hunting and gathering peoples and then traces the rise and spread of agriculture and the various language groups throughout the continent. Students then study the diffusion of Islamic traditions as well as the evolution of the high civilizations. The course ends with an analysis of the influences of industrialized Europe on the African peoples in the 19th and 20th centuries. *Open to Lower and Uppers. Offered: Winter Term.*

### **► Advanced Courses**

## **HIS331: UNITED STATES HISTORY, 1763-1877**

This course introduces students to the formation of American values and institutions during the period from the Revolution to the Civil War. Emphasis is given to the tension between local and central authority during the struggle for independence, the establishment of the Constitution, economic and social change in the young republic, slavery, and the growing sectional conflict that culminated in the Civil War. *Open to Uppers and Seniors. Offered: Fall Term.*

## **HIS332: UNITED STATES HISTORY, 1877-1945**

This course continues the survey of American history with emphasis on economic and social change and the emergence of the United States as a world power. Topics include the transformation of the United States into an urban industrial society, the dilemma of race, the changing role of women, the Depression, and the political response to these issues. The course ends with World War II. *Prerequisite: History 331 or equivalent. Open to Uppers and Seniors. Offered: Winter Term.*

## **HIS333: UNITED STATES HISTORY, 1945 TO THE PRESENT**

This course begins with the origins of the Cold War. Other topics include the Civil Rights movement, the social and political turmoil of the 1960s, the dual crises of Vietnam and Watergate, the Reagan Revolution, and the contemporary transformation of East-West relations. A term paper, based on independent research, is required. *Prerequisite: History 332 or equivalent. Open to Uppers and Seniors. Offered: Spring Term.*

*A student must pass all three U.S. History courses to satisfy the diploma requirements.*

### **► 400-Level Courses**

All courses numbered in the 400s may meet either three times a week or four times a week, as determined by the individual instructor.

## **HIS402: TOPICS IN WOMEN'S HISTORY**

This course explores the variety of women's experience around the world from the 18th century to the present through historical and literary sources. The content of the course will vary somewhat each year as the readings will change, but the effort to see the similarities and differences in women's lives across time, and in different cultures will remain the same. The course will conclude with a discussion of contemporary gender issues. *Open to Seniors. Offered: Spring Term.*

## **HIS406: CAPITALISM AND ITS CRITICS**

This course provides a survey of the origins and evolution of capitalism in a global world up to the present, with emphasis on the political economies of the West. Students examine the ideas of the great political economists such as Adam Smith, David Ricardo, Thomas Robert Malthus, Karl Marx, J.M. Keynes, Friedrich von Hayek, as well as trace the progression of modern industrial economies in Europe and the United States. This course concludes with an assessment of some key contemporary issues in globalization. *Open to Seniors. Offered: Fall Term.*

## **HIS408: WAR AND PEACE IN MODERN TIMES**

This course first examines modern warfare and its impact on the individual and society. Themes include the changing nature of the battlefield experience for the individual soldier and the impact of total war on institutions and values. In addition, students study, through readings and case studies of recent diplomatic problems, the international systems designed to end war, the forces that have led to the disintegration of such systems, and the search for peace in the nuclear age. The final exercise of the course is a simulation of an international crisis in which students assume the roles of specific participants who try to resolve the conflict without resorting to war. *Open to Seniors. Offered: Winter Term.*

## **HIS425: WORLD WAR AND EUROPEAN SOCIETY, 1890-1945**

This course explores the dislocation of European society during the first half of the 20th century. Topics include the social and political pressures leading to World War I, the war's impact on Europe, and the disintegration of democracies. Its central focus is on the rise of Hitler and Nazism and the origins of World War II. *Open to Seniors. Offered: Fall Term.*

## **HIS426: EUROPE SINCE 1945**

Europe's rebirth after 1945 and its struggle to define itself in a world in which it no longer predominated are analyzed in such topics as Europe and the Cold War, recovery and revolt in the 1950s, the abundant and troubled 1960s, the decade of detente, the new Europe that emerged in the 1980s, and selected contemporary issues. *Open to Seniors. Offered: Winter Term.*

### **HIS433: LAW AND AMERICAN SOCIETY**

This course provides students with an introduction to the American legal system and to the development of American constitutional law. Historic Supreme Court decisions and legal case studies will be used to develop an in-depth understanding of the historical background and present-day constitutional controversy over such topics as free speech, censorship, abortion, workplace discrimination, affirmative action, and the rights of the accused. Practitioners from the fields of law and criminal justice will provide an added dimension to the course. *History 433 does not fulfill the U.S. or the non-U.S. history requirement. Open to Seniors. Offered: Spring Term.*

### **HIS436: WHY ARE POOR NATIONS POOR?**

This course will examine the plight of developing nations. Students will explore why the quality of life of these countries' citizens remains, in the aggregate, so low and their choices so limited. Topics to be considered include the historical legacy of colonization, cultural and social issues, geography and climate, agriculture and famine, human capital, governance and corruption, and foreign aid, debt and trade. Case studies will be examined comparing various nations in Latin America, Africa and Asia. *Open to Seniors. Offered: Winter Term.*

### **HIS440: AMERICAN POLITICS AND PUBLIC POLICY**

This course introduces students to the study and analysis of current and future trends in American life. Students will explore the development of policy-making on such domestic issues as education, welfare, voting patterns, discrimination and others to be determined. Reading includes literature by political scientists, sociologists, journalists, and historians. Students will produce a position paper using computer search and data-bank systems. Speakers from university, government, and public policy foundations provide special lectures. *History 440 does not fulfill the U.S. or the non-U.S. history requirement. Open to Seniors. Offered: Fall Term.*

### **HIS441: TRIALS IN THE 20TH CENTURY**

In this course students read about and research trials of interest in the 20th-century world. Reading and research will be developed around courtroom dramas that allow students to see social, cultural and political dimensions of the society in which the trials took place. Class meetings will be in the Academy Library where students will pursue their individual research and meet for class discussions about common reading and about progress on their own research projects. Instructors will emphasize the skills of utilizing library research materials, including printed and electronic sources and online technology as well as techniques of drafting and documenting a research essay. *History 441 does not fulfill the U.S. or the non-U.S. history requirement. Open to Seniors. Offered: Fall Term. This course is not offered in 2008-09.*

### **HIS445: STATES AND EMPIRES OF MIDDLE AND SOUTH AMERICA**

This course examines the history of the high civilizations of Middle and South America. The course begins with the study of the origins of pre-Hispanic state level economic, political and religious systems. This serves as a background for understanding the culture of the Aztec and Incan Empires. Students will then examine the European conquest and colonization of these civilizations and the nature of the Spanish Empire which followed. The course will end with the Creole movements for independence from Spain in the early 19th century in Latin America. *Open to Seniors. Offered: Winter Term.*

### **HIS446: CONTEMPORARY LATIN AMERICA**

Students examine the origins of social and political institutions during the colonial period and the evolution of these institutions in the 19th and 20th centuries. They then survey the social, political, and economic issues facing the countries of Central and South America today. Three or four countries will be studied in depth, including Mexico and Argentina. *Open to Seniors. Offered: Spring Term.*

### **HIS450: IMPERIAL RUSSIA**

This course surveys Russian history to the beginning of the collapse of the Tsarist regime in World War I. After studying autocracy and orthodoxy in Old Russia and westernization under Peter the Great, students focus on the 19th century. Emphasis is placed on the impact of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars, the reaction under Nicholas I, the emergence of the revolutionary tradition, and the rise of Marxism. Special attention is given to Russian literature. *Open to Seniors. Offered: Winter Term.*

### **HIS451: 20TH-CENTURY RUSSIA**

This course is an introduction to contemporary Russia, beginning with a study of the revolutions of 1917. Topics studied are Marxist-Leninist theory in practice, Stalin's dictatorship and the rise of Russia as a world power, Russia's role in World War II, the Cold War, change and reform from Stalin through Gorbachev, and the period following the collapse of the Soviet regime. *Open to Seniors. Offered: Spring Term.*

### **HIS460: THE 1960s**

This course allows students to study selected issues from modern U.S. social and political history in much greater depth than is possible in History 333. Topics include civil rights, the New Left, the re-emergence of feminism, and the war in Vietnam. The course makes use of the Academy Library, particularly periodicals. *History 460 does not fulfill the U.S. history requirement. Open to Seniors. Offered Spring Term.*

### **HIS463: VULNERABLE CONQUERORS: HUMANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

What drives human history? To a great extent, the pivotal factors lie beyond human control: climate, geography, soils, microbes, plants and animals. This course examines the interactions between people and the natural world, over time. In struggling to master an often hostile environment, human societies have had an ever-increasing impact on the planet, and apparent success has often ended in failure. The course begins with the emergence of humans in the Paleolithic era and then explores the invention of agriculture, the emergence of global trade and migration networks, the discovery of the New World, and the industrial revolution. Students examine in depth one instance of humans managing – or mismanaging – a natural resource, and conclude the course with a close look at 20th-century trends and the future we collectively face. A core theme is the paradoxical nature of humans: their impressive ability to innovate, coupled with their talent for destroying the world around them. *Open to Seniors. Offered: Winter Term.*

### **HIS465: MODERN CHINA**

This course surveys modern Chinese history from the mid-19th century to the present. Students first move quickly through an introduction of traditional, imperial China. They then study the rise of the Nationalist and Communist parties and their struggle through the 1930s and 1940s, and assess the roles played by the Soviet Union and the United States. Focus is placed on the CCP's efforts to build a new China after the founding of the People's Republic in 1949. Mao's "Cultural Revolution," Deng's reforms, and the contemporary pro-democracy movement receive close examination. *Open to Seniors. Offered: Spring Term.*

### **HIS467: MODERN JAPAN**

This course traces the development of Japan from an isolated country under feudalism to a modern, industrialized country. The story begins with the Meiji Restoration and westernization. Students then study how Japan's shift from liberalism to ultra-nationalism paved the way to Pearl Harbor and Hiroshima. Post-Occupation Japan is then studied topically: economic development, social change, political issues, and Japan's international role. *Open to Seniors. Offered: Fall Term.*

### **HIS477: AFRICA IN THE 20TH CENTURY**

To provide the context for an understanding of contemporary African affairs, this course examines the history of the continent since Europe's "scramble for Africa" in the late 19th century. Topics include the European colonial period, decolonialism, the struggle for independence, African nationalism, and the development of independent African nations. Two countries will be studied in depth: Kenya and South Africa. *Open to Seniors. Offered: Winter Term.*

### **HIS486: CONTEMPORARY MIDDLE EAST**

The course begins with the breakup of the Ottoman Empire and examines the rise of Arab nationalism and the struggle against foreign domination. The strategic and economic importance of the region is studied along with the founding of Israel; the continuing conflict among Jews, Arabs, and Christians; and the rise of Islamic fundamentalism. Particular emphasis is placed on understanding the Arab-Israeli conflict. *Open to Seniors. Offered: Fall Term.*