

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 Students learn historical content, and discuss the methodological and philosophical issues that inform the exploration of history today, including the difficulty in saying what exactly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 ago up to the present, though we are strongest in the period from circa 1000 C.E. onward. Geographically, we cover everything from small local communities to cities, nation-states, regions such as the Atlantic world, Africa, Europe, Asia or Latin America, and the globe. We offer a world history curriculum that includes World History surveys and a range of courses that explore thematic and transnational histories on a global scale.

The History program may cause you to re-examine your worldview and lead you to ask fundamental questions about yourself, your society and your world. In fact, this is one of our goals. We hope that both the content and presentation of our courses will help produce thoughtful and informed global citizens who appreciate the fascinating and diverse character of the world, past and present.

We are also committed to developing your critical, analytical and communication skills. We do not pretend that we can teach you all the answers, but we can help you learn how to ask and frame good questions. Whether you take one class with us or study to obtain a History Major or Honours degree, and whether you pursue a career in History or not, you will benefit from the skills and content we offer.

Note: The department recommends that 1000-level world history courses (HIST 1006 or 1013 and/or 1023) and HIST 2003 be taken in the first two years of the degree, because third- and fourth-year history courses build on the skills and knowledge acquired in these courses.

Students can only earn 6 credit hours at the 1000-level in history. For example, if you take HIST 1013 World History to 1400 and/or HIST 1023 World History Since 1400 you cannot also take and receive credit for the full-year HIST 1006 World History course. These courses cover the same material and may even use the same textbook. HIST 1013 and HIST 1023 are simply one-term offerings of the introductory world history course, designed to give students greater flexibility.

Minor in History

Students who select history as a Minor field must complete 18 credit hours in history.

Major in History

Students who select history as a Major must take a minimum of 36 credit hours of history courses. To obtain the Major designation students must take 6 credit hours of 1000-level world history courses and HIST 2003 Exploring History. As well, students are required to take at least 3 credit hours from each of the major categories of history courses: 1) world, 2) regions, 3) state, nation, and locality.

Honours in History

In addition to the requirements for a history Major, an Honours degree requires a minimum of 12 more credit hours (for a minimum of 48 credits in total, in history courses). At least 12 credit hours must be from 4000-level seminars. Students seeking an Honours degree must consult the History Honours Director for approval of their program of studies.

Course Numbering

- 1000-level world history courses serve as an introduction to the discipline of history and its expectations at the university level.

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HIST-1023. World History Since 1400

This 3-credit course is part of the world history survey. It offers an overview of world history events, issues, themes and approaches from roughly 1400 of the Common Era (CE) to the present. It will cover topics such as the emergence of long-distance exploration, cross-cultural interaction, the “early modern” and “modern” worlds, the Columbian Exchange, industrialization, modern imperialism, world wars, networks and “globalization” from circa 1400 onward. Note: Students who take this course cannot receive credit for HIST 1006. Students may take HIST 1023 before HIST 1013.

HIST-2023. World History: 20th Century to World War II

This course will provide students with an overview of the history of the 20th century to the conclusion of the Second World War. Major events and themes include the two world wars; the Russian revolution; imperialism and nationalism in Asia, Africa and Latin America; the emergence of the United States as the world's pre-eminent power; and struggles for political participation by workers and women. Prerequisite: At least 6 credit hours in History courses at St. Thomas University.

HIST-2053. World History Since the Second World War

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.

HIST-2103. The Material World: History Through Things

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.

HIST-2123. Introduction to Food in World History

This course explores how food was made, consumed and understood in the past. What were the social and cultural meanings of food and eating in human societies? How did foods travel from place to place? What impacts did man-made and natural disasters have on eating habits and food supplies, and how did the presence and absence of food influence behaviour? This course connects local and global interactions, past events and the present day through food.

HIST-2453. History of the United Nations (PEAC)

The United Nations represents the first serious effort toward an international government. History of the United Nations examines the evolution of this unique international body from its creation in 1945 to the present. It seeks to understand how the United Nations has shaped world history, what its low and high points have been, and what its challenges and potential are in the twenty-first century.

HIST-2553. History of the Islamic World to the Ottoman Empire

This course provides a basic introduction to Islamic societies in their formative centuries. We will explore how the Muslim umma first emerged, developed and ultimately established itself as a unifying yet far from monolithic ideal, linking different peoples across the

globe. Our focus will be on comprehension of historical experiences and relations between peoples rather than on detailed analysis of religious beliefs.

HIST-3053. Disability in History

This course treats disability as a historical subject. It explores questions such as what it means to be disabled in various times and places, how people with disability lived their lives, how society at large conceptualized differences in physical ability and mental capacity, when and how disability intersected with other identity constructs, and the roles myth and religion played in all this.

HIST-3173. The Global History of the Automobile

This discussion-based course will introduce students to a global perspective on the history of the automobile, the technology that has arguably shaped the planet more than any other in the past century. The emphasis will be on the car's social and cultural history, rather than its technical evolution. Specific course themes will include automobile production and labour, car culture and the rise of global consumerism, the environmental impacts of automobile use and road building, and the implications of driving for modern citizenship. Prerequisites: 6 ch of history or permission of the instructor.

HIST-3383. Slavery in World History, 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.

HIST-3393. Gender and Empire

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 reconfirmed colonial regimes.

HIST-3403. Water and World History

This course examines the significance of water to human history, beginning with early agricultural societies and the development of hydraulic empires in Africa and Asia. It explores how humans have sought to manage water for agriculture, urban consumption, industry, and other purposes, and it considers the social, cultural, political, and environmental consequences of these developments. It gives particular attention to the extraordinary developments of the 20th century and the significance they hold for environmental change, human welfare, and international conflict. Prerequisite: HIST 1006 OR HIST 1013 & HIST

physical health; gender and citizenship; race, ethnicity and “otherness”; nationalism and imperialism; human rights; and the “rights revolution”.

HIST-3423. Agriculture in World History

This course examines the significance of agriculture to world history from the early domestication of crops and animals to the present. It explores the different locales in which agriculture emerged, and the impact of agriculture on human lifestyles and on the environment over time. As well, it considers the growth of human reliance on a relatively narrow array of foodstuffs and the consequences of the application of industrial techniques to the production of food. Prerequisite: HIST 2173, HIST 1006 OR HIST 1013 & HIST 1023, OR permission of the instructor.

HIST-3463. 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 fit between rivers and urban growth and sanitation; colonial cartography and exploration; industrial development; nationalism; tourism; and environmentalism.

HIST-3473. Frontiers in World History

This course examines how societies have imagined, represented, and interacted around so-called “frontiers” in world history. It explores places where trade, migration, conquest, and other cultural exchanges have had a profound impact on societies and even produced new cultural configurations.

HIST-3503. Social Movements That Have Changed the Modern World

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.

HIST-3563. History of Western Feminism (HMRT)

This course will examine the development of “feminism” and movements for women's rights and/or liberation in western countries from the 19th century to the present. The course will compare feminism in the United States with movements in Canada, Britain, and western continental Europe, and will question why feminism has taken on different characteristics in different nations and regions, and among different races and classes. Students who have taken HIST 3566 are excluded from this course.

HIST-3643. Race and Racism in Modern History

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.

Equally, we consider food's presence, its absence and the impact of man-made and natural disasters on eating habits and food supplies.

have engaged in exterminatory violence. In the twentieth century, the many one-sided killings make it self-evident that annihilationist mindsets have yet to disappear. Genocide in World History, a full-year course, studies such mass atrocities by exploring the various factors behind human intolerance, among them religious, racial, ethnic, national, economic, and environmental. Format: weekly group presentation on readings followed by class discussion. Students who have taken world history courses, including HIST- 3943 Genocide in Twentieth-Century World History, are particularly encouraged.

Regions (Oceans)

HIST-3153. The Sahara World

This course is designed to introduce students to the main events and themes that unite the societies and cultures of the Sahara, North Africa, and the Sudan/Sahel, from the earliest times to the present, with a particular focus on the 15th-19th centuries. Upon completion of the course, students should have an understanding of the cultures of the Sahara, the important events of Saharan history, and the role of the Sahara in world history.

HIST-3203. The British Atlantic World (1500-1800)

This course explores the social, political, and economic parameters of the Atlantic World from roughly 1500 to 1800. The course centres on the British experience of the Atlantic through a comparative and trans-national approach. Particular attention will be drawn to the role of Atlantic Canada and its connection to the larger Atlantic World.

Regions (The Americas)

HIST-2433. Comparative History of North America

This course is designed to acquaint students with broad developments in the history of North America. In the course of studying the North American continent, we will examine the experi-

gation of Urban North America, we will ask: does the border make a difference?

HIST-3823. History of Here: From the Pleistocene to The Present

This course examines the history of the Gulf of St. Lawrence region, broadly conceived, from 15,000 BCE to the present. It considers the ways that people have organized their lives in this region, in global contexts, and the consequences of the choices they have made.

HIST-4606. Twentieth-Century Latin America (Honours 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.

Regions (Asia)

HIST-2173. Modern Asia

This course surveys the history of Asia from c. 1500 to the present, though it may focus on one part of Asia (East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, etc.) more than another. It examines the richness and complexity of Asian societies and Asian engagement in the making of the modern world.

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Regions (Europe)

HIST-2033. Early Modern Europe

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.

HIST-2043. Modern Europe

An introduction to modern European civilization from the era of the French Revolution to the twentieth century. The course follows History 2033 chronologically but has no prerequisite. This course features various methods of historical research and writing.

HIST-2206. History of the Middle Ages

A survey of the imagined historical period between the fall of the classical Roman and Persian Empires and the emergence of an early modern state system. This course will range widely in its coverage, including glimpses of experience in parts of Africa and Asia as well as Europe. Special emphasis will be placed on social history and the use of primary sources to probe beyond simplified political narratives.

HIST-3033. Gender in Early-Modern Europe

Europe’s early modern period (c. 1450-1800) was a time of political tumult, religious conflict, and seismic shifts in centuries-old institutions. The resulting social changes were profound; new roles emerged for men and women as new questions were asked and new norms evolved. This course takes a thematic approach to the changing lives of men and

HIST-3343. Europe Since 1945

An analysis of Europe from the close of World War II to the collapse of the communist bloc. The course will focus on Europe's recovery, its role in the Cold War, the evolving and competing power blocs, and the end of the European schism.

HIST-3433. Eighteenth Century Europe At Play

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.

HIST-4206. Topics in Medieval History

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.

State, Nation, and Locality (The Americas)**HIST-2733. United States: Colonial Settlement to Civil War**

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.

HIST-2743. United States: Reconstruction to 21st Century

The continuation of the introductory survey HIST 2733. This course explores and examines some major developments in the United States, from the conclusion of the Civil War up to the present. Major issues include the legacy of the end of slavery in the United States, the expanded economic and military role of the US in the world, the emergence of transforming social movements, the changing role of the state, and American popular culture.

HIST-2913. Historical Roots of Contemporary Canada (HMRT)

This course examines the historical roots of many of the key issues in contemporary Canadian society. In addition to providing students with a narrative framework of Canadian history since the mid-19th century, the course will emphasize the historical dimensions of many of the most controversial issues facing Canada today, such as Quebec separatism, Aboriginal Land Claims, Western Alienation, Canada-US relations, etc. Students who have taken HIST 2806 or HIST 2823 are excluded from this course.

HIST-3043. US Women's History

This course will explore the history of American women from colonization through to the end of the 20th century, with particular emphasis on the 19th and 20th centuries. Major themes will include: race, ethnicity, and class; women and work (paid and unpaid); women and politics (both before and after suffrage in 1920); cultural assumptions about women's proper roles and their portrayal in popular culture; and women's activism.

HIST-3713. Making a Living in the United States

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

Special

HIST-2003. Exploring History: Critical Approaches to Historical Methods and Theories

This mandatory course for History Majors and Honours students provides an introduction to the discipline of History. The course examines a variety of historiographical and methodological approaches to History, as well as the history of History. It encourages students to re-examine their assumptions about History, but it will also help students develop their basic historical research and writing skills. Exploring History provides a foundation for upper-year History courses and students are strongly encouraged to take it before their third year. Prerequisite: At least 6 credit hours in History courses at St. Thomas University.

HIST-3553 The History 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.

HIST-3993. Topics in Global History

This course will examine specific topics in world history. The topics will change from year to year. For information regarding course content students should contact the Chair of the History Department. Prerequisite: At least 9 credit hours in History courses at STU or permission of the instructor.

HIST-4006. History Honours Thesis

The History Honours thesis is a scholarly essay or research paper. The topic of the thesis is determined by the student in consultation with a faculty committee. The committee is composed of the Thesis Supervisor (or supervisors) and another faculty member, typically from the History Department, who acts as the Second Reader. Students normally must submit a thesis proposal to the members of their faculty committee by 30 September of the academic year in which the thesis shall be written.

HIST-4116. The World at War

This year-long seminar examines the two world wars of the twentieth century. Students will explore various causes, aspects and outcomes of these conflicts through readings about home fronts and war fronts across the world. They will also do independent research and write a major paper based on a topic related to the course material. At least one previous course on the history of the twentieth century is strongly recommended.

HIST-4123. Seminar in Global History

This course will examine specific themes in global history. The topics will change from year to year, but might include issues such as the role of cities in history, the rise and fall of peasantries, patterns of migration, the emergence of global institutions, cultural and material exchanges, and the possibilities of global environmental history.

HIST-4906. Independent Study

With the approval of the Department, students (normally Honours candidates) may undertake a full-year course of independent study. Such a course is to be undertaken under the direction of a member of the History Department and must result in at least one scholarly

paper. Application to take an independent study course must be made to the Director of Honours. The application must include a written proposal indicating the reason for doing an independent study, as well as a description of the specific area of interest, a statement of research topic, and a preliminary bibliography. In order to complete their degree requirements, students may request that an independent study be considered as an alternative to an Honours seminar.

HIST-4996. Independent Study - Work Option

With the approval of the Department, students (normally Honours candidates) may undertake one full-year course of independent study as an alternative to an Honours seminar. Such a course would be undertaken under the direction of a member of the history Department and must result in at least one scholarly paper. Application to take an independent study course must be made to the Director of Honours. The application must include a written proposal indicating the reason for doing an independent study, as well as a description of the specific area of interest, a statement of research topic, and a preliminary bibliography.

University of New Brunswick Courses

St. Thomas students are advised that upper-level history courses offered at UNB, which are not offered at St. Thomas, may, with the permission of the Chair of the St. Thomas History Department and the registrar, be taken for credit. Please see the UNB calendar for course descriptions.

NOTE: Not all courses listed are offered each year. Please consult with the Department Chair for more information about current and planned course offerings.