

HISTORY DEPARTMENT
SPRING 2025 COLLOQUIUM (392W) COURSE OFFERINGS

H. 392W MASS VIOLENCE IN MODERN EUROPE
Prof. E. Bemporad Thursdays 3:10-5:50pm

This course explores instances of unprecedented mass violence in modern Europe during the twentieth century. It is based on several case studies, including events in German South-West Africa, Germany, Ukraine, the Soviet Union, and Chechnya. By analyzing some of the most recent scholarship on genocide and ethnic cleansing, the course examines the short-term and long-term causes for mass violence, assessing the extent to which, in different contexts, it resulted from political ideologies, colonialism, bureaucratic pressures, or ethnic and religious hatred. The course will also focus on the repercussions of mass violence, including acts of revenge, changes in international law and human rights, and attempts to create sites of memory in those places where atrocities were committed. Finally, this course aims at tracing how such unprecedented violence against civilians was experienced by ordinary citizens of European countries, and how it transformed and affected their everyday lives, political choices, and social attitudes during and after the events.

H.392W THE SILK ROAD THEN & NOW
Prof. M. Rossabi Mondays 1:40- 4:30pm

The fabled Silk Roads kept traditional and modern China in touch with the rest of the world and had important influence on China's and Asia's religions, politics, commerce, culture, and art. Students will receive a guided tour of Silk Roads-influenced art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. As the course approaches the modern period and considers China's Belt and Road policy, a Central Asian official and adviser to his government will address the class and the Queens College community on "China's Relations with Central Asia." Students will be guided through the research and writing of a term paper on their chosen subject relating to the modern and traditional Silk Roads.

H. 392W AMERICA IN THE SIXTIES
Prof. C. Giardina Wednesdays 4:30-7:20pm

How did the socially conscious, uproarious, irreverent "Sixties" evolve from the quietism of the 1950s? What has been the impact of this period of deep and rapid change? From the signature social movements to hallmark legislation, from the counterculture to the political murders and assassinations of leader after leader, the course will explore the highs and lows of this tumultuous decade. The course will include the role of Queens College activists on campus and nationally.