

HISTORY DEPARTMENT – FALL 2025
GRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS

H. 705 (50491) Readings in the History of the Second World War

Prof. B. Wintermute Tuesdays 4:30-6:10pm

A readings seminar devoted to the history of armor and combined arms doctrine during the Second World War. Beginning with developments in the Interwar Years, topics to be covered will include: The Blitzkrieg Myth and armor doctrine in the first two years of the war; individual national doctrine (US, Soviet Union, Great Britain, France, and Italy); the evolution of armor design; the rise of Allied Combined Arms Doctrine; the Patton v. Rommel debate; and other related topics.

H. 799 (50712) AMERICA IN THE SIXTIES

Prof. C. Giardina Wednesdays 6:40-8:20pm

How did the socially conscious, uproarious, irreverent “Sixties” evolve from the quiet-ism 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.

H. 799 (53385) Stories about Immigration

Prof. A. Freundsuh Mondays 4:30-6:10PM - PH 304

In this course, we'll look at migration and immigration from cultural, political, and social perspectives since the late-nineteenth century in Paris, New York, and London. How do empires treat their mobile subjects? How are immigrant stories told in fiction and film? And how have scholars, political figures, and a host of other public figures dealt with or mythologized the "problem" of movement of across borders, a historical phenomenon that has arguably been more rule than exception?

H. 799 (50713) A Pivotal Decade: The 1970s and America

Professor P. Vellon Wednesdays 4:30-6:10pm

The 1970s is often perceived as the forgotten decade between the “transformative” and “radical” 1960s and the Reagan “revolution” that ushered

in “morning in America” in the 1980s. However, the 1970s was much more than a ten-year interval connecting two critical decades. By examining the impact of profound shifts in economic, political, and cultural power, this course will explore the far-reaching impact of the 1970s. Some of the many themes explored will include: the economic impact of an emerging post-industrial society; the expanding war on crime and carceral state; the rise of the Sunbelt; urban “decay;” the feminist movement; civil rights; the rise of ethnic identity; political corruption and realignment; environmentalism; religious fundamentalism; cultural production, and more. We will place these themes within a broader historical context and strive to illustrate how many of these themes are interrelated. Further, we’ll examine the impact of these changes and their continued influence on American society today.

**H. 735 (50495) German and Central European History:
 The Two Germanies, 1945-1990
Prof. J. Sneeringer Thursdays 4:30-6:10pm**

People have long been fascinated by Hitler and the Third Reich, but what came after? How did Germany rebuild itself physically, politically, internationally, even psychically? This course will explore how Germany became divided into two states in the postwar era and how those states developed competing visions – one capitalist, one communist – of what Germany should be. We’ll examine their rivalry and status as ground zero of the Cold War. We’ll also see how these two countries handled challenges such as “guest worker” migration, the rise of youth, the sexual revolution, the green movement, and terrorism. We’ll delve into what life was like for people on both sides of the “iron curtain” and see how that wall eventually came down. Finally, we’ll explore the long shadows of the past, from the legacies of Nazism and the Holocaust to the memory of the GDR after 1990.

H. 791 (52458) INTRODUCTION TO HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Prof. K. Schlichting Mondays 6:40-8:20pm

The course will provide an introduction to historiography, to the primary and secondary sources used in historical research, to historical research methods, and to the writing of history. Examples of the primary sources to be covered include letters, diaries, documents, and historical newspapers. During the course students will assess primary sources, analyze secondary texts, and provide proper scholarly apparatus to their written work, including accurate and properly formatted citations and bibliography. Students will make use of the best secondary sources wherever they are available. Students will utilize primary sources located at QC or other libraries, including records and papers,

published or unpublished, printed or online. The course goals include each student producing properly researched and documented historical papers.

**H. 799 (50492) African Film History
Prof. G. Davie Thursdays 6:40-8:20pm**

This course will explore modern African (and global) history through the lens of African films. Each week students will watch one film at home and read a few scholarly articles relevant to the filmmaker and their world. Class discussions will center on the economic, social, and political context in which each film was produced and received; the biography and creative choices of the filmmakers; as well as the question of how historians can best use African films as primary sources that, since the 1960s, have sought to intervene in timely controversies about colonialism, apartheid, decolonization, corruption, and gender. We will also discuss how African cinematographers have constructed particular visions of precolonial social order, present-day cultural change, and futuristic possibilities. No prior coursework in African history required.

**H. 740 (52107) The Memory of the Second World War in Europe
Prof. T. Ort Tuesdays 6:40-8:20pm**

This course examines the contested legacy of the Second World War in Europe and the diverse ways the war is remembered in Eastern and Western Europe. Organized around some of the central memory controversies of the postwar years, the course probes the coherence of the concept of memory and emphasizes its inextricability from contemporary political and social needs. Among other controversies, the course examines France's "Vichy syndrome" (the attitude toward its wartime collaborationist government); the German "air war" debate (memory of the Allied aerial bombardments); the question of Polish complicity in the Holocaust; the shifting memory of the anti-Nazi resistance in the Czech lands; and the place of the Holocaust in pan-European memory debates.