

HISTORY DEPARTMENT – FALL 2025 COLLOQUIUM (392W) COURSE OFFERINGS

H. 392W (50827) GLOBAL HISTORY OF TEXTILES

PROF. K. ANTONOVA WEDNESDAYS 1:40-4:30PM

This course explores the histories of technology, trade, gender, material culture, globalization, nationalism, political activism and popular culture around the world and across time, using textiles as a lens to narrow our explorations. Each week we focus on a different historical method as applied to the history of textiles. We will also learn some basic textile making techniques in order to better understand non-textual forms of evidence like objects, images, and processes. The course will culminate in a (minimum) 10-page research paper on a textile-related topic of the student's choice, and workshops on the methods of research and writing historians use will also take place throughout the semester.

H 392W (54974)

**ANTONY and CLEOPATRA and AUGUSTUS and LIVIA:
POWER COUPLES IN ANCIENT ROME**

PROF. J. ALLEN TUESDAYS 12:15-2:55PM

In the 40s and 30s BC as the Roman Republic lay in ruins, two couples squared off in a rivalry for control over what was left and what to do next. Antony and Cleopatra—a notorious pair if ever there was one—had ambitions rooted in centuries of Egyptian prosperity under the heirs of Alexander the Great. Augustus and Livia countered with a worldview more based in Italy and the West. This course explores how both sides navigated society, politics, the military, religion, and gendered expectations. Looking beyond the male protagonists, who have been the traditional focus of historical inquiry, we encounter new valences and nuances in the power exercised by the couples' other halves, as well as challenges in interpreting male-oriented primary sources.

TURN OVER

H. 392W (50690) IN OUR TIMES: THE UNITED STATES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

PROF. P. CONOLLY-SMITH MONDAYS 3:10-5:50PM

This reading- and writing-intensive discussion-based seminar examines major social, cultural and historical events of the twenty-first century and their impact on the United States. Alongside broad issues such as the rise of the internet and smartphones, streaming services, the climate crisis, and the United States' place within the global order, specific topics include the Y2K panic, the 2000 election, the Bush, Jr. presidency (includes 9-11; the Afghanistan and Iraq Wars; Hurricane Katrina; and the 2008 financial crisis); the Obama presidency (includes Obamacare; the rise of the Tea Party; BLM; Occupy Wall Street; and LGBTQ+ issues including legal gay marriage); and, finally, the Trump presidencies and Biden interregnum (includes travel bans; the border Wall; covid19; the Ukraine and Gaza Wars; inflation; the Green New Deal; tariffs, and the dismantling of the United States' federal government apparatus