

**HISTORY DEPARTMENT – SPRING 2026**  
**COLLOQUIUM (392W) COURSE OFFERINGS**

**H. 392W (40310) BYZANTIUM CONFRONTS THE WEST, 11<sup>TH</sup>- 13<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES**

**Prof. Woodfin                      MONDAYS 1:40-4:30PM - PH 231**

**This course traces the encounter between the Byzantine Empire and Western Europe in the era of the Crusades. The period witnessed the break between the Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches in 1054, the rise of Venetian merchant interests in Byzantium, and the conquest of Constantinople in 1204 by the armies of the Fourth Crusade. We will pay special attention to the rich primary sources from both sides of these confrontations, including authors such as Robert de Clari, Jean de Joinville, Anna Komnene, and Niketas Choniates, as well as lesser-known documents. The course will examine various points and levels of interaction, as well as the internal tensions revealed within Byzantine society regarding the identity of their empire *vis-a-vis* Western Europe.**

**H. 392W (40309)                      (IM)MIGRATION STORIES**

**Prof. Freundschuh              Wednesdays 3:10-5:50pm - PH 231**

**This writing-intensive course will combine literary works (fiction and memoir) with scholarship on the theme of (im)migration, with an emphasis on recent historical trends. The course readings offer a chance to examine the fundamentally historical nature of immigration as a social, spatial, and psychological process; and the complex, transnational identities and legal predicaments that have sometimes resulted from it.**

**H. 392W (40479)      AFRICAN HISTORY IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE**

**Prof. G. Davie                      Tuesdays 3:10-5:50pm - PH 231**

**This seminar will use primary sources to explore the global history of precolonial and modern Africa. Students will develop a research paper in which they examine primary sources, and a range of scholarly texts, to develop a well-defined argument based on evidence and analysis. At the end of the course, students will give oral presentations. A list of possible paper topics will be provided.**