

HISTORY DEPARTMENT – SPRING 2027

COLLOQUIUM (392W) COURSE OFFERINGS

H. 392W (20046) MONGOLS AND WORLD HISTORY

Prof. M. Rossabi – Mondays 1:40-4:30pm – PH 347

In the thirteenth century, Chinggis Khan and his sons and grandsons established the largest contiguous land empire in world history. Though the Mongols have been portrayed almost exclusively as warriors who massacred thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, and destroyed numerous sites, they also built capital cities in China, Persia, and Russia, supported a variety of foreign religions, and served as patrons of art and theater, leading to Chinese and Persian artistic renaissances. The rulers, especially Chinggis' grandson Khubilai Khan, commissioned a new universal written language, promoted commerce along the Silk Roads (leading to the arrival of Marco Polo in China), fostered astronomy and medicine, and initiated a new legal code for China.

This colloquium surveys the Mongol impact on Eurasian history. One class will be held at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and will consist of a tour of Yuan (or Mongol era) dynasty art led by the Curator of Chinese Decorative Arts.

T U R N O V E R

H. 392W (20049) UNFREEDOMS IN MEDIEVAL EUROPE:

EXPLOITATION, ENSLAVEMENT AND TRAFFICKING

Prof. T. Billado-Lotson Tuesdays 1:40-4:30pm - PH 347

Medieval Europe is often imagined as a world divided neatly between free and unfree, but the realities of dependence, coercion, and human exploitation were far more complex. This course will examine the many forms of unfreedom that shaped medieval European societies between the fifth and fifteenth centuries, including slavery, serfdom, and human trafficking. Through close readings of legal codes, chronicles, religious texts, commercial records, and personal narratives, students will investigate how individuals and communities experienced, justified, resisted, and profited from systems of coercion.

H. 392W (20047) SISTER EMPIRES: FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES

Prof. A. Freundschuh – Wednesdays 3:10-6:00pm - PH 231

Going back to the eighteenth century, France and the United States have built competing, parallel, allied and overlapping imperial regimes, with influence around the world. While generally avoiding armed conflicts with one another, Paris and Washington have dueled culturally and politically in regions as diverse as Latin America, Southeast Asia, North America, the Caribbean, and North Africa. This course will consider introduce a few historical cases, examining how the two global empires have evolved through time, as well as how each has contributed to the making of "national identity" at home: pride in the overseas conquests of the past is commonly felt by the French even today; their American counterparts, on the other hand, can seem blissfully innocent of the fact that they inhabit an imperial nation-state.