FRESHMAN SEMINARS

HITO 87. Biology and Society
This course explores selected contemporary issues in biology, ethics, and society in their historical context. Among the subjects addressed: genetic engineering, genetically modified foods and organisms, patenting life, pharmaceuticals, the control and use of human genetic information, and more.

HITO 87. The Seven Deadly Sins
This seminar explores the history of “the seven deadly sins” (gluttony, lust, anger, envy, greed, sloth, and pride). We will learn how the “Seven Deadly Sins” have emerged against the background of earlier notions of sin. We will also look closely into each one of those “deadly sins,” considering why and how it came to be viewed as a sin and how it resonates in the world in which we live.

HITO 87. Why Do Europeans Love and Hate America?
“Americanization” and “McDonaldization” in Europe spark controversy and even violent protests. Many treat imports of American culture with disgust. Yet the US is also admired, even loved, and demand for American things remains strong. We will study key forms of and resistance to Americanization.

LOWER DIVISION COURSES

HILD 2C. United States History
A year-long lower-division course that will provide students with a background in United States history from colonial times to the present, concentrating on social, economic, and political developments. (Satisfies Muir College humanities requirement and American History and Institutions requirement.)

HILD 7B. Race and Ethnicity in the United States
A lecture-discussion course on the comparative ethnic history of the United States. Of central concern will be the Mexican-American, race, oppression, mass migrations, ethnicity, city life in industrial America, and power and protest in modern America.

HILD 12. Twentieth Century East Asia
The East Asia survey compares and contrasts the development of China, Korea, and Japan from ancient times to the present. This course examines the emergence of a regionally dominant Japan before and after World War II; the process of revolution and state-building in China during the nationalist and communist eras; and Korea’s encounter with colonialism, nationalism, war, revolution, and industrialization.

UPPER DIVISION COURSES

HIEA 115. Social and Cultural History of Twentieth-Century Japan
Japanese culture and society changed dramatically during the twentieth century. This course will focus on the transformation of cultural codes into what we know as “Japanese,” the politics of culture, and interaction between individuals and society.

HIEA 133. Twentieth-Century China: Cultural History
This course looks at how the historical problems of twentieth-century China are treated in the popular and elite cultures of the Nationalist and Communist eras. Special emphasis is placed on film and fiction.

HIEA 138. Women and the Chinese Revolution
Examines women’s roles and experiences in the twentieth-century Chinese revolution, the ways in which women participated in the process of historical change, the question of to what extent the revolution “liberated” women from “Confucian tradition.”

HIEU 106. Egypt, Greece, and Rome
This course is a survey of the political, social, and cultural history of the ancient Mediterranean. It focuses on the ancient empires in the Near East (Sumer, Babylon, Assyria, Persia), Egypt, Greece, and Rome. +

HIEU 150. Modern British History
Emphasis on changes in social structure and corresponding shifts in political power. The expansion and the end of empire. Two World Wars and the erosion of economic leadership.

HILA 121A. History of Brazil through 1889
This course covers many of the most transformative and fascinating social, political, and racial phenomena in Brazilian society through 1889, including indigenous life, Portuguese colonization, slavery and abolition, royal exile, independence and Empire, the birth of the Republic, war, social unrest, and ideals of modernization. +

HILA 132. Modern Mexico: From Revolution to Drug War Violence
The social and political history of twentieth-century Mexico from the outbreak of revolution to the current “war on drugs.” Highlights include the Zapatista calls for land reform, the muralist movement, and the betrayal of revolutionary ideals by a conservative elite. We will also study the Mexican urban experience and environmental degradation.

HINE 115. Death and Dying in Antiquity
Exploration of ideas, beliefs, and practices pertaining to death from a variety of ancient cultures: Near Eastern, Israeliite, Greek, Roman, Jewish, and early Christian. Themes include immortality, afterlife, care for the dying, suicide, funerary rituals, martyrdom, and resurrection. +

HINE 116. The Middle East in the Age of European Empires (1798-1914)
Examines the contacts of the late Ottoman Empire and Qajar Iran with Europe from the Napoleonic invasion of Egypt to World War I, the diverse facets of the relationship with the West, and the reshaping of the institutions of the Islamic states and societies.

HINE 120. The Middle East in the New Century
An examination of the conflicts, changes, and continuities in the Middle East since 2000. The course includes inspection of the US role in Iraq and the region generally.

HISC 108. Life Sciences in the Twentieth Century
The history of twentieth-century life sciences, with an emphasis on the way in which model organisms such as fruit flies, guinea pigs, bacteriophage, and zebra fish shaped the quest to unlock the secrets of heredity, evolution, and development.

HISC 131. Science, Technology, and Law
Science and law are two of the most powerful establishments of modern Western culture. Science organizes our knowledge of the world; law directs our action in it. Will explore the historical roots of the interplay between them.

HINE 100. The Hebrew Bible and History
The history and literature of ancient Israel c. 1300 to 300 BCE. Reading from the Bible, historical and archaeological surveys, and studies of authorship. +

HINE 118. The Middle East in the Twentieth Century
An introduction to the history of the Middle East since 1914. Themes such as nationalism, imperialism, the oil revolution, and religious revivalism will be treated within a broad chronological and comparative framework drawing on the experience of selected countries.

PLEASE NOTE: “+” indicates that a course fulfills the pre-1800 requirement for the History Major
HISC 106. The Scientific Revolution
A cultural history of the formation of early modern science in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries: the social forms of scientific life; the construction and meaning of the new cosmologies from Copernicus to Newton; the science of politics and the politics of science; the origins of experimental practice; how Sir Isaac Newton restored law and order to the West. +

HIEU 160/260. Topics in Ancient Greek History
Selected topics in ancient Greek history. May be taken for credit three times. Prerequisites: upper-division standing and department approval required. +

HIEU 171/271. Special Topics in Twentieth-Century Europe: The Two Germanies since 1945
Demilitarization, Democratization, Denazification, and Decentralization: These were the four “Ds” that the allied victors set as their goals for Germany’s future in 1945. The story of the two German states that quickly emerged under the conditions of the Cold War can be understood as a constant struggle to achieve these goals. What is a true democracy? How could the perpetrators of the Holocaust be turned into trustworthy Democrats, and how could a democratic Germany contribute to a peaceful post-war international order? This seminar seeks to explore the different paths that the capitalist West and the communist East took after 1945, emphasizing the extent to which policies in both states were always dependent on one another. In particular, it will take a look at calls for democratization in both German states since the 1960s, including the 1968 student revolution in the West and the East German civil rights movement that evolved in the late 1980s. Finally, the course will analyze how the legacies of both German states continue to shape Germany after reunification and how today’s Germany deals with challenges to democracy in light of its totalitarian past.

HIEU 178/278. Soviet History
Topics will vary from year to year. Graduate students are required to submit a more substantial paper. Prerequisites: consent of instructor.

HILA 168/268. Scholarship on Latin American History in the Nineteenth Century
Introduction to the historiography on Latin America for the nineteenth century: world economy, nation-state building, agrarian processes, incipient industrialization, political and cultural thought, and social structure. Requirements will vary for undergraduate, MA, and PhD students. Graduate students are required to submit an additional research paper. Prerequisites: upper-division standing or consent of instructor; reading knowledge of Spanish; department stamp.

HISC 180/280. Science and Public Policy
This course will explore the evolution of the institutions, ideologies, procedures, standards, and expertise that modern democratic societies have used in applying science to generate and legitimate public policy.