History and Global Studies

Faculty

Gordon Barker,
B.A. (McGill), M.A., Ph.D. (William and Mary)
Professor

Cristian Berco,
B.A. (Toronto), M.A., Ph.D. (Arizona); Professor

Jean L. Manore,
B.A. (Western), M.A., Ph.D. (Ottawa); Professor

David Webster,
B.A. (York), M.A., Ph.D. (British Columbia)
Professor
Chair of the Department

Program Overview

In an increasingly compartmentalized and specialized world, historical study is one of the best ways to promote an ability to synthesize information, to expand cultural awareness, and to gain access to the many creative ways in which humans have responded to the challenges which face them. In addition, historical study deepens a number of specific skills which are invaluable assets for graduates entering the labour market and taking on the duties of citizenship, such as the ability to think critically, to devise strategies, to solve complex problems, to engage in research, and to present conclusions in an organized, reasoned and coherent way, both orally and in writing.

Graduates who have an ability to work across cultures and who are able to engage the world both as workers and as citizens are valued in today’s increasingly globalized societies. The study of history is ideally suited to produce such individuals. The Department of History and Global Studies is keenly aware that the study of the past is not just about dates and events; it is primarily about developing in the individual student the ability to understand the world and to undertake reasoned, effective, well-informed action as a result. Our program is designed to enable you to accomplish these goals.

We believe that all graduates, whether Majors or Honours, must possess the ability to undertake self-directed intensive research, to be familiar with a wide range of past societies and to be aware of the interpretive and methodological options for analyzing them. Our programs are constructed to allow students to acquire a deep historical knowledge and to develop both historical and general, transferable skills.

Courses in our program lead to a B.A. with either an Honours, Major, or Minor in History and Global Studies. Students may also take advantage of pursuing historical studies in interdisciplinary contexts. Such programs include a B.A. in Arts Administration (Public History Concentration). Finally, students may also be interested in combining their History and Global Studies with a Minor in Pre-Law. Further information on those programs can be found in their respective section of the Academic Calendar.
Areas of Specialization
The History and Global Studies Department offers introductory courses which cover the historical development of four main geographic areas: Canada, the United States, Europe and the Global South, often within a global context. In the senior years, courses reflect the research interests of its faculty, which include gender and family history, race relations, human rights, and Indigenous history, cultural theory, and the history of disease.

PROGRAMS AND REQUIREMENTS

Honours in History and Global Studies (61 credits)

HONHIS

An overall average of 70% is required to obtain an honours. The last 30 credits of the program must be completed at Bishop’s.

The 61 credits required for the Honours degree must include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Requirements</th>
<th>Honours</th>
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<tr>
<td>Calendar Category</td>
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<td>HIS 105</td>
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<td>HIS 109</td>
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<td>Historiography and Methods</td>
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<td>HIS 240</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global Courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Histories</td>
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<td>1 US Course</td>
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<td>1 Europe Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Courses</td>
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<td>*May include one internship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminars</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>2 HIS xxx</td>
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Major in History and Global Studies (49 credits)

MAJHIS

A minimum of 24 credits must be completed at Bishop’s, including:

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<th>Program Requirements</th>
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<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>2 HIS xxx</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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Minor in History (24 credits)

MINHIS

- 9 credits in 100-level courses
- 9 credits in 200-level courses
- 6 additional credits of either history, cognate, or cross-listed courses

Indigenous Studies Minor (24 credits)

MININD

The Indigenous Studies Minor is designed to introduce students, through an interdisciplinary approach, to the global processes of cultural encounters and the resultant responses of resistance, accommodation, and adaptation. Students will be exposed to theories and world-wide applications of, and responses to, imperialism and colonialism, as well as decolonization and post-colonialism.

Program prerequisites:
No specific prerequisites are necessary, except for the ESG courses which will be subject to the instructor’s approval.
Course sequence:
The Minor requires the completion of 24 credits; one of which must be either HIS 108, A Global History of Indigenous Peoples, or ENG 123 Introduction to Indigenous Literatures. The other mandatory course would be at the higher end of the student’s scholastic learning. Students take either HIS 300 The Law of the Land: Indigenous Treaties with Canada or ENG 358 Approaches to Indigenous Literatures in Canada or an approved SOC seminar. Both sets of mandatory courses are designed to give students the opportunity to experience Indigenous Studies within an interdisciplinary framework. The remaining 18 credits must be taken from the list of courses below. Note that the courses will be offered on a rotational basis so students may wish to consult with the course instructor or the ISM coordinator when considering their course options.

The required courses for the minor are the same for the 120-credit and 90-credit programs.

ONE of the two following courses:
HIS 108 A Global History of Indigenous Peoples
ENG 123 Introduction to Indigenous Literatures in Canada

SIX (18 credits) from:
ABE 101 Abenaki Language and Culture I
ABE 102 Abenaki Language and Culture II
AGR 100 Intro to Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems
AGR 172 Permaculture pt.2
AGR 344 Indigenous Food Systems
HIS 269 First Nations/Settler relations in Canada
HIS 255 History of Modern Southeast Asia
HIS 257 Latin America to 1800
HIS 279 The Middle East in the Twentieth Century
HIS 289 Transatlantic Slave Trade and the Atlantic World, 1500 to 1867
EDU 205 Education, Colonialism and De-Colonization
ENG 215 Introduction to North American Literatures
ENG 228 Introduction to Post-Colonial Literature
ENG 375 Colonial Narratives
ESG 266 Environmental Policy
ESG 350 Environmental Justice
POL 236 Introduction to Middle East Politics
SOC 205 Family I
SOC 233 Carceral Studies and Justice Clinic
SOC 235 Women and the Penal System
SOC 309 Advanced Seminar in Global Colonization and Decolonization
SOC 333 Justice Clinic
UNI XXX Belize Field Trip
UNI XXX Japan Field Trip

ONE of:
HIS 300 The Law of the Land: Indigenous Treaties in Canada
ENG 358 Approaches to Indigenous Literary Cultures in Canada
SOC 309 Advanced Seminar in Global Colonization and Decolonization
SOC 402 Honours I: Special Topics (with permission of instructor)
HIS 377 Teaching internship, in years when this course is attached to HIS 108
HIS 293 Research internship (if on an Indigenous Studies topic)

Minor in Global Change
(24 credits) MINHGC

Structure:

4 required courses:
Core foundational course: HIS 105.
Core course 2: HIS 277 (South: The Making of the Third World).
Core experiential learning course: HIS 376 Global Studies Internship or HIS 292 Research internship if no overseas placement is possible. Please contact the department chair for placement.

4 Electives from the following list:
All HIS courses in the current “Global” category: 206, 208, 228, 229, 238, 242, 245, 249, 268, 285, 289, 294, 296.
All HIS courses in the current Asia, Latin America, Middle East and North Africa category: HIS 255, 256, 257, 279, 283, 284, 291.
HIS 397 Asia: Constructing a Region

Electives from other disciplines:
ECO 220 Economic Development I
ENG 228 Introduction to Post-Colonial Literature
FIH 314 Colonial and Postcolonial Issues in the Visual Arts
JSE 150 Japanese Society and Culture
RSC 101 Eastern Religions
RSC 124 Hinduism
RSC 125 Buddhism
RSC 126 Judaism
RSC 127 Islam
SOC 296 Globalism and Culture
SPA 313 Mexico: Civilization and Culture
SPA 314 The Central American Region and the Spanish Caribbean: Civilization and Culture
SPA 317 The Southern Cone and the Andean Region: Civilization and Culture

Any Language course from FRE (French), ABE (Abenaki), CHI (Mandarin), SPA (Spanish), GER (German), JSE (Japanese)
North American Studies Minor
(24 credits) MINHNA

Structure:

2 required courses:

Core foundational course: HIS 109, the New World. Provides the historical background and comparative aspect necessary to understand the creation and development of settler societies and states on the continent. This course will be a pre-requisite for continuing in the minor and should normally be taken before the electives.

Core Seminar: Any HIS seminar on Canada or US topics, with the requirement for a comparative essay addressing both Canada and the US, and/or an integrative paper on a North American Studies topic, which can be coded as HIS 399 Senior Research Paper.

6 electives from the following list, with the requirement for at least one course on primarily on the United States and at least one course primarily on Canada.

From History:

HIS 207 Canada 1867-1945
HIS 211 Canada Since 1945
HIS 214 The United States, 1877-1945
HIS 215 The United States to 1877
HIS 217 The United States Since 1945
HIS 228 The Cold War
HIS 241 Canada and the World
HIS 249 The Hispanic world in the 17th Century
HIS 250 The American Civil War and Reconstruction
HIS 256 Latin America from 1800
HIS 257 Latin America to 1800
HIS 262 Women in America, 1765-1920
HIS 263 Pre-industrial Quebec
HIS 265 Québec: Political Change and Industrialization
HIS 267 History of Sport in Canada
HIS 269 First Nations/Settler Relations in Canada
HIS 288 Women in 19th and 20th Century Canada
HIS 289 Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and Atlantic World
HIS 290 Survey of the African American Experience
HIS 292 American Foreign Relations
HIS 296 The Americas: A Comparative Colonial History

Electives from other disciplines:

FIH 225 Special Topic in Canadian Art
DRA 201 Contemporary Canadian Drama
DRA 202 Contemporary American Drama
ENG 108 The American Short Story
ENG 110 English Writers of Quebec
ENG 111 Canadian Short Story
ENG 123 Introduction to Indigenous Literatures in Canada
ENG 215 Introduction to North American Literatures
ENG 252 English-Canadian Literature to the First World War
ENG 253 English-Canadian Literature from the First World War to the Present
ENG 256 The Early Twentieth-Century American Novel
ENG 257 The Contemporary American Novel
ENG 275 The Contemporary Canadian Novel
ENG 281 Canadian Cinema
ENG 352 Canadian Literature and Theories of Globalization
ENG 353 Boy Meets Girl: Masculinity Scholarship, Feminist Theories, and American Literature
ENG 356 Early Nineteenth-Century American Literature
ENG 357 Late Nineteenth-Century American Literature
ENG 358 Approaches to Indigenous Literary Cultures in Canada
ENG 359 Approaches to Canadian Culture
ESG 162 Canada: A Nation of Regions
ESG 339 The Canadian Arctic
ESG 340 The Circumpolar North
FRA 166 Textes en contexte : initiation à la littérature québécoise
FRA 181 Histoire socioculturelle du Québec I
FRA 182 Histoire socioculturelle du Québec II
FRA 187 Introduction au théâtre québécois
FRA 255 Littérature et cinéma au Québec
FRA 258 La télévision : miroir de la société québécoise
FRA 259 Québec Cinema
FRA 285 Roman québécois contemporain
RSC 310 Christian Nationalism in America
POL 112 Introduction to Canadian Politics
POL 213 Canadian Sport System and Policy
POL 217 Business and Government in Canada
POL 317 Globalization and the Canadian State
POL 172 Introduction to American Politics
POL 173 U.S. Government and Public Policy
POL 343 Canadian-American Relations
SPA 313 Mexico: Civilization and Culture
SPA 332 Introduction to Spanish American Literature
SOC 102 Québec Society I
SOC 107 Indigenous and First Nations Peoples in Canada
SOC 207 Sociology of Indigenous-Settler Relations

Any Language course from FRE (French), ABE (Abenaki), SPA (Spanish)
Micro-Certificate on Racism and Resistance (15 credits)  
MCERAR
This Micro-certificate aims to give students the opportunity to learn about the historical and current construction of racism and related systems of oppression and marginalization, in multiple geographic and chronological contexts. The program equally intends to raise the profile of resistance stories that are less known, in order to reject ahistorical excuses such as “he was a man of his times” by showing that in all historical moments, there has been active resistance to racism and oppression.

**Required foundational course:**
SOC 190 Introduction to Postcolonial Study  
OR
HIS 109 New World: The Americas to 1850

**Two courses from the following:**
HIS 201 / CLA 201 Ancient Slavery and its Legacy  
HIS 214 U.S. from 1877 to 1945  
HIS 217 U.S. to 1877  
HIS 241 Canada and the World in the 20th Century  
HIS 250 American Civil War  
HIS 257 Latin America to 1800  
HIS 277 South: The Making of the Third World  
HIS 289 The Transatlantic Slave Trade and the Atlantic World, 1500 to 1867  
HIS 290 Survey of the African American Experience, 1619 to 1896  
HIS 294 The Age of Imperialism, 1870-1914  
CLA 325 The Classical Tradition: the Use and Abuse of Classics  
CLA 336 Greeks, Romans, and Others  
ENG 239 History of Feminist Theory  
SOC 233 Carceral Studies and Justice Clinic  
SOC 245 Race and Ethnicity

**Required integrative experience (2 courses):**
This requirement provides students with the chance to apply some of the analytical frameworks and methodologies from the previous introductory courses to higher-level research and practice.

*Students may therefore choose one course from:*
The following Seminars (all seminars require an original article-length research component)
HIS 307 The American Civil War  
HIS 397 Asia: Constructing a Region  
ENG 352 Globalization Theory and Canadian Literature  
SOC 402 Honours I

For students who demonstrate the expertise and capability to do so, they may substitute a seminar with HIS 399 Senior Research Paper in History (on an appropriate topic, determined in consultation with supervisor)

*And one Practical applied course from:*
HIS 391 Archival or Institutional Internship (to be taken with an anti-racist organization)  
HIS 392 Research Internship (research on a topic relevant to anti-racist work.)  
SOC 304 Experiential Learning in Sociology II (Note: SOC 233 may be a pre-requisite; consult with the instructor)

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Micro-Certificate on Archives and Museums (15 credits)  
MCEARC
This Micro-Certificate aims to give students the opportunity to earn a credential and good knowledge of archival creation, management and research and/or museum curation through an experiential learning micro-certificate that will boost job prospects for our graduates by providing them with experience in archiving and information management systems, both paper and digital, and/or museology.

**Required: Five of the following:**
HIS 239 History and the Archives  
HIS 225/FIN 235 Museology  
HIS 298/FIN 388 Museums and communities  
HIS 275 Digital History  
HIS 200 Historical Theories and Methods  
HIS 391 Archival or Institutional Internship or a paid internship at the Eastern Townships Resource Centre, subject to chair’s approval  
ENG 395 Women Writers and their Archives

Micro-Certificate in Canadian Studies (15 credits)
This Micro-Certificate aims to have students, both domestic and international, engage with the various ideas, myths, and presentations of Canada and in so doing explore the “great” questions of today and in the past: national development and progress, identity politics, race and racism, colonization and decolonization, gender, military involvement, social justice, climate change, etc. In exploring these ideas and issues, students will have a better understanding of the challenges Canada has faced and is facing. They will also be able to adapt to changing circumstances, as well as challenge existing circumstances in ways that address the pressing social and political issues of the day.

**Required Integrative Experience (2 Courses):**
CDN 100 Introduction to Canadian Studies  
DRA 201 Contemporary Canadian Drama  
DRA 311 Production Dramaturgy I  
DRA 312 Production Dramaturgy II  
DRA 313 Production Dramaturgy III  
ENG 252 English-Canadian Literature to the First World War  
ENG 253 English-Canadian Literature from the First World War to the Present  
ENG 275 The Contemporary Canadian Novel  
ENG 359 Approaches to Canadian Culture  
FRA 166 Textes en contexte : Initiation de la littérature québécoise  
FRA 181 Histoire socioculturelle du Québec I  
FRA 182 Histoire socioculturelle du Québec II  
FRA 187 Introduction au théâtre québécois  
FRA 208 Histoire du français au Québec  
FRA 255 Littérature et cinéma au Québec  
FRA 258 La télévision: miroir de la société québécoise  
FRA 252 De la contreculture a la contestation ouverte : les années 1960 et 1970  
HIS 109 New World The Americas to 1850  
HIS 207 Canada 1867-1945
HIS 211  Canada Since 1945
HIS 221  Pre-Confederation Canada
HIS 227  The Stuff of History: An Introduction to Material Culture
HIS 239  History and the Archives
HIS 240  History and Heritage
HIS 241  Canada and the World in the 20th Century
HIS 263  Pre-Industrial Québec, 1608-1840
HIS 265  Québec: Political Change and Industrialization 1840-1930
HIS 267  History of Sport in Canada
HIS 269  First Nations/Settler Relations in Canada
HIS 288  Women in 19th and 20th Century Canada
HIS 391  Archival or Institutional Internship (relevant to the study of Canada)
HIS 392  Research Internship (relevant to the study of Canada)
HIS 399  Senior Research Paper in History (relevant to the study of Canada)
HIS 300  The Law of the Land: Indigenous Treaties with Canada
HIS 302  British North America
HIS 396  Public History
POL 112  Introduction to Canadian Politics
POL 118  Constitutional Law and Canadian Government
POL 216  Canadian Provincial and Territorial Politics
POL 214  Public Administration
POL 312  Canadian Federalism
POL 317  Canadian Welfare State
POL 315  Indigenous-Settler Intergovernmental
POL 318  Canadian Elections, Parties and Voters
POL 410  Selected Topics in Canadian Politics and Public Policy
SPO 390  Sport and Social Inequality

Double Counting
The maximum number of courses that can be double counted towards a History Major or History Honours degree is 4 courses. For a History Minor, the maximum number of courses is 2.

List of Courses

Introductory Courses

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIS 105</td>
<td>Introduction to Global Studies: A Century of Conflict and Resistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIS 108</td>
<td>A Global History of Indigenous Peoples</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

HIS 105  Introduction to Global Studies: A Century of Conflict and Resistance 3-3-0
From the First World War to the present, the planet has faced multiple challenges - political, economic, social, environmental, cultural, health-related, and many more. From the First World War and the “Spanish flu” until today, people have faced global processes and transformations, the rise of totalitarian movements, wars, cold wars and other conflicts, decolonization, economic crisis, genocides, racism, natural and man-made environmental disasters, pandemics and other challenges. They have responded with calls for human rights, global understanding, economic and ecological justice, the empowerment of women, and other movements. This course surveys the past century of conflict and resistance and introduces the field of global studies through close reading and critical inquiry into how the world got to where it is today, and how people have confronted global challenges.

HIS 108  A Global History of Indigenous Peoples 3-3-0
This introductory course is designed to acquaint students with the global processes of contact and colonization through the presentation of colonial and post-colonial theory and the examination of specific case studies within Asia, Africa and North America. While largely historical in content, guest speakers and other resources will be used to expose students to interdisciplinary approaches to studying these continuing phenomena.

HIS 109  New World: The Americas to 1850 3-3-0
An introduction to the history of North and South America from the pre-Columbian era to the mid-19th century. The main topics include a survey of pre-Columbian civilizations, contact between native Americans and Europeans, the rise and fall of European empires in the Americas, the creation and growth of independent nation states in the New World.

HIS 111  History of Pandemics 3-3-0
This course explores a series of historical pandemics, from ancient plagues, the Black Death and Columbian epidemic diseases in the premodern world to 19th century cholera outbreaks, the Spanish Flu, and the AIDS crisis in modern times. Considering the widespread reach and global consequences of these pandemics, the course pays particular attention to the sociocultural, medical, and institutional dimensions of illness.

Historiography and Methods Courses

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<tr>
<td>HIS 101</td>
<td>History Methods Lab 1-0-1</td>
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</table>

HIS 101  History Methods Lab 1-0-1
This lab introduces students to research methods in history through the use of tutorials and workshops. Topics to be covered include use of research databases, organization of research materials, reporting research results, and proper notation and referencing techniques.

HIS 200  Historical Theories and Methods 3-3-0
This course will survey the discipline of history as a branch of human knowledge. It consists of two main components. The first section will provide a survey of the development of the western historical consciousness through a detailed study of classical, medieval, modern and postmodern texts. The second component will focus on practical problems in historical methodology through a study of the key works in the various historical subdisciplines, and through projects focusing on applied research and analytical techniques.

HIS 240  History and Heritage 3-3-0
This course is designed to introduce students to the practice and presentation of history in public institutions and spaces, such as museums, archives and historic sites. It will explore practical applications of history, the history vs heritage debates and the theoretical underpinnings of public history including the use and creation of memory, ideas of performativity and voice, and identity studies, and analytical techniques.

Global Courses

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<tr>
<td>HIS 201 / CLA 201</td>
<td>Ancient Slavery and its Legacy 3-3-0</td>
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CLA 201  Ancient Slavery and its Legacy 3-3-0
Slavery was ubiquitous in ancient Greece and Rome due largely to frequent warfare. This course will examine the ways that the institution of slavery influenced societal and class structures, the economies, and the moral attitudes of ancient Greek and Roman societies. We will also examine how ancient slavery influenced modern attitudes around slavery, and the differences between ancient and modern slavery.

Open to first-year students.

HIS 204  Playing the Past: Understanding History through games and simulations 3-3-0
Through games and simulations of past events, students play historical figures in order to understand major events in the past and significant historical processes. Students will use historical sources to simulate events such as the Black Death in medieval Europe, Indigenous-settler relations, the French revolution, Korean adaptation to European incursions, international responses to apartheid in South Africa and genocide in Rwanda, or global climate change conferences (games change from year to year). The course builds oral and written communication skills, understanding of the past and its relevance to today’s issues.

HIS 206  The History of Night: An Exploration of the ‘Darker’ Side of Life 3-3-0
Half of our existence as human beings resides in the night, and while most of that time is spent sleeping, the night has been a dominant presence in our waking lives as well. Night-time has historically been associated with criminality, ghosts and goblins, and sexual deviance, but the night-sky has also represented contemplation of eternity and our beginnings. This course will explore ideas of night as an historical subject of inquiry. It will examine the various ways that night has been culturally constructed as an object of fear but also as a place of inspiration and wonder.
From the mutilated body as a form of public warning in the pre-modern world and the use of legal torments in medieval trials to the extra judicial application of torture in various modern contexts, this course examines the history of torture from a thematic perspective. In particular, the course will analyze the changing factors that shaped how societies across time and space resorted to such extreme measures. This will include torture in jurisprudence and practice, changing scientific understandings of the body and pain, the involvement of state and non-state actors in rationalizing and employing torture, and the sociocultural aspects informing its application, whether in the private or public realms.

A wave of activism for a better world is sweeping the global South (“Third World”) but is little-known in Canada. Through online presentations from activists in Asia, Africa and Latin America, reading of their work and direct engagement with their ideas and actions, students will gain knowledge about activist struggles in global perspective, global justice themes, and activist strategies.

One major method for reconciling post-conflict societies to the traumatic memories of conflict in recent years has been the “truth commission.” This course surveys truth and reconciliation commissions in throughout the world and the ways in which they are used to construct alternative national narratives in the search for usable pasts.

Have non-governmental organizations made a difference? How have they interacted with and altered the international system? This course examines the border-crossing activities and influence of transnational human rights, humanitarian and other non-governmental organizations from 19th century struggles against colonialism to 20th century campaigns to ban land mines and promote universal human rights.

This course will analyze the origins, evolution and consequences of the Cold War from the end of World War II to the collapse of the Berlin Wall. Among the topics to be studied are the ideological and geopolitical foundations of Soviet-American antagonism, the assumptions and objectives of each bloc, the emergence of the Third World and the impact of Cold War on its evolution, the building of the global justice system, and the challenges to imperial authority.

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This course explores Hispanic societies and cultures, as they grappled with rapid migration between the Old World and the New World, and supported cultures, economies and political territories. It will examine water as a resource for life, as well as a resource for power, with a focus on the role of water in the formation of political systems as foundational myths, as courses for food and energy resources and as a means of controlling populations. We will also consider the impact of water systems such as oceans, rivers and lakes and how they have shaped human societies and cultures over the past five centuries, with the emphasis on the 20th century and on contemporary issues such as water scarcity, water pollution, and climate change.

This course surveys the political, economic, social and cultural development of Canada from the pre-contact period to the twentieth century. The objective of the course is to provide students with an introduction to the study of Canadian history by thinking through narratives about origins, identities, and destinies. For that conversation to be meaningful, energetic, and controversial, students will explore basic facts and the recurring themes in Canadian history, culture, and society.

This course will trace the political, economic, social, and cultural history of Canada from 1867 to 1945. Special attention will be given to such topics as geographic expansion, relations among the founding peoples, the role of women, the role of women in society, the Great Depression, and politics and reform movements. The course will analyze the origins, evolution and consequences of the Cold War from the end of World War II to the collapse of the Berlin Wall. Among the topics to be studied are the ideological and geopolitical foundations of Soviet-American antagonism, the assumptions and objectives of each bloc, the emergence of the Third World and the impact of Cold War on its evolution, the building of the global justice system, and the challenges to imperial authority.

This course will trace the political, social, economic, and cultural history of Canada from the pre-contact period to the twentieth century. The objective of the course is to provide students with an introduction to the study of Canadian history by thinking through narratives about origins, identities, and destinies. For that conversation to be meaningful, energetic, and controversial, students will explore basic facts and the recurring themes in Canadian history, culture, and society.

By 1600, Spanish kings boasted that they ruled over an empire on which the sun never set referring to the vast territories they controlled in Europe, the Americas, and the Far East. Over the next century, internal demographic and economic crises as well as setbacks in war and trade would test the integrity of the empire. This course explores Spanish societies and cultures, as they grappled with rapid change, unexpected pressures, and increasing global interconnectedness during the seventeenth century.

For centuries people have tried to change the world in campaigns for human rights, peace, and the environment. How have they done so? When have they succeeded, and why? In this course, we examine activist movements in historical perspective, with a focus on the 20th century and attention to different parts of the world. Examples to be studied may include the slave abolition movement, Indigenous rights campaigns, movements for decolonization, and 1960s protest movements on both sides of the Cold War divide.
HIS 263  Pre-Industrial Quebec 1608-1840  3-3-0
This course traces the establishment, growth and eventual decline of traditional French-Canadian society in the St. Lawrance valley from the founding of New France in 1608 to the end of the eighteenth century. Topics to be explored include the French-Indigenous relationship, the seigneurial regime and the role of the Church, the evolution of a market-oriented economy, the advent of representative institutions and the crisis of the colonial order in the first decades of the nineteenth century.

HIS 265  Québec: Political Change and Industrialization 1840-1930  3-3-0
Beginning with the Union period, this course traces the main political, economic and social developments of an area marked by Confederation, the growing conflicts between French and English Canada, and successive waves of industrialization and urbanization. The course will also deal with cultural development in this period, with particular emphasis on the struggle between liberal and traditional nationalism.

HIS 267  History of Sport in Canada  3-3-0
This course will examine the development of Indigenous, recreational, and professional sports in Canada. It will include examinations of specific themes within sports history such as gender, race and colonialism, and it will examine sport’s contributions to the creation of national identities. Additionally, it will provide an historical view of specific contemporary issues like violence and drug use in sports, and its use as an agent of international diplomacy.

HIS 269  First Nations/Settler Relations in Canada  3-3-0
Through a variety of lectures, readings and films, this course will focus on the legal and political issues and events that have shaped First Nations/settler relations from 1763 to the present. Topics to be examined include: treaties, education, the Indian Act, Aboriginal protest movements and self-government negotiations.

HIS 288  Women in 19th and 20th Century Canada  3-3-0
This course will expose students to a variety of issues and experiences that have been historically relevant to women. Particular attention will be paid to the experiences of Aboriginal women, the impact of changing technology on women’s work and women’s participation in politics.

HIS 297  A History of Communications  3-3-0
Examines the evolution of different modes of communication from the advent of writing systems, through the printing press to the electronic media of the twentieth century. The focus of the course will be on the social, cultural, and economic impact of communication revolutions.

United States

HIS 214  The United States, 1877-1945  3-3-0
This course will examine American political, social, cultural, economic, diplomatic, and military history from the era of reconstruction until the end of World War II. Special emphasis will be placed upon industrial growth, continental expansion, the closing of the frontier, urbanization, immigration, industrialization, the two world wars, the depression, and America’s rise to global power.

HIS 215  The United States to 1877  3-3-0
This course traces the evolution of American society from the Colonial period, through the Revolutionary Era to the Civil War and Reconstruction. Among the topics to be discussed are the colonial experience, the forging of American republicanism, the Constitution, the growing complexity of antebellum society, the problem of slavery and the crisis of American federalism.

HIS 217  The United States Since 1945  3-3-0
This course will examine American political, social, cultural, economic, diplomatic, and military history since 1945. Emphasis will be placed on the postwar economic boom, social change, civil rights, the cold war confrontation, the war on poverty, the 1960s and the war in Vietnam, Nixon and Watergate, Reaganism, and the culture wars of the 1990s.

HIS 250  The American Civil War and Reconstruction  3-3-0
This course surveys events contributing to sectional strife in the late antebellum period and explores scholarly interpretations of both the Civil War and Reconstruction. It also deals with how these formative periods have been remembered by succeeding generations of Americans. The course examines the military campaigns and draws on recent advances in social, cultural, and African-American history to study the home fronts and identify social changes in both the North and South that help to provide new perspectives on emancipation, the politics of Reconstruction, and the onset of Redemption.

HIS 262  Women in America, 1765-1920  3-3-0
This course focuses on the experience of women from colonial times to the adoption of the 19th Amendment in 1920. Drawing on the growing literature on Women’s History and recent scholarship on gender, sexuality, and race, students will explore the conditions and challenges women faced during the Revolutionary Era through to the nineteenth century. The course will examine changing perceptions of gender, women’s roles in the public and private spheres, female education and work experience, and the impacts of the Revolution, Civil War, and World War 1 on women. Slavery and women’s demand for the franchise will also be discussed.

HIS 282  United States Presidential Elections  3-3-0
United States Presidential Elections: This is contemporary history course that examines the United States Presidential Election and explores how key issues, particularly race, gender, sexuality, class, and urban/suburban/rural demographics, as well as foreign policy concerns influence campaign strategies and shape results. Students will analyze key primaries, nominating conventions, presidential candidates’ debates and campaigns. Special attention will be placed on battleground states.

HIS 290  Survey of the African American Experience, 1619 to 1896  3-3-0
Through a combination of lectures and discussions, this course explores the African-American experience in slavery and freedom from colonial times to the late nineteenth century. Topics include: frontier race relations, the Atlantic and domestic slave trade, industrial as well as plantation slavery, slave resistance and revolt, African-American religiosity and culture, free blacks in antebellum America, black abolitionism, the role of African Americans in the Civil War and Reconstruction, and the emergence of segregation. Drawing on recent advances in cultural and social history, the course also focuses on legislation, executive policy, and landmark Supreme Court opinions.

Europe

HIS 232  France: Enlightenment & Revolution  3-3-0
An examination of eighteenth-century social and political controversies, key enlightenment figures and intellectual trends, the 1789 Revolution, counter-revolution, the Terror, and Napoleon.

HIS 234  The Italian Renaissance  3-3-0
This course will examine the Italian Renaissance as a pivotal moment for social, cultural, and political change. By examining the relationship between developments in art, literature, and popular mentalities of the time, the course will explore the Italian Renaissance as a catalyst for the broader transformation of the early modern world.

HIS 237  The Formation of Modern Europe 1815-1914  3-3-0
This course will provide an analysis of the concepts, forces and movements which created modern Europe in the nineteenth century. It will study the articulation of ideologies, the contest for emancipation in its various forms, the construction of new concepts of citizenship and political power, the technological and economic growth of the period, with its associated social tensions, and the growing rivalries among the emerging nation-states of the Continent. It will end by looking at the internal and external conflicts - socioeconomic, political, and cultural - that set the stage for the murderous struggles of the early 20th century.

HIS 244  Europe from the Black Death to the Wars of Religion  3-3-0
This course surveys early modern Europe, from the trauma of the Black Death in 1348 to the end of the Wars of Religion and the Peace of Westphalia in 1648. Over these three centuries, European society grappled with the slow loss of traditional medieval certainties in a rapidly changing world. Factors to explore include the Renaissance, the breakdown of the Christian unity, the encounter with the Americas, and the persecution of marginalized groups.

HIS 248  Tudor and Stuart Britain  3-3-0
This course will focus on the transition of Britain from an island divided between two feudal polities and societies into the first recognizably modern state. It will deal extensively with the stresses, resistances and complexities involved in this process. Themes which will be particularly highlighted include the rise of the Tudor state in England, religious conflicts in both island kingdoms and their impact on social and political developments, mid-17th century wars and civil wars, the transition to a market economy, popular culture and popular beliefs, and the emergence of a unified Britain as a European and world power. These themes will be explored through a combination of lectures, texts and the extensive use of documentary sources.
This course focuses on the Black Death, the epidemic that, between 1347 and 1350, decimated Europe’s population and ushered substantial institutional, social, and cultural changes. Given the wealth of material on the topic, the course will combine primary sources and available scholarship to explore the outbreak itself, its immediate effects and its long-term repercussions of social, cultural, and medical import.

This course explores the Medieval Mediterranean World from the historical perspectives of its three main regions: the Middle East, North Africa and Southern Europe. Themes to be examined include religion and politics, gender, and sexuality, as well as the production and transfer of knowledge.

This course is an introduction to the history of Europe from the breakdown of the ancient world to the beginning of Modern Europe. After a survey of the Germanic, Roman and Christian roots of medieval society, special attention is given to those institutions and developments which characterized the civilization of the high Middle Ages: the 12th century renaissance, the Christian ideal, the medieval university, relations between church and state, feudal society, the crusades, chivalry and the medieval style in the fine arts.

This course explores European history from the Russian Revolution to the Second World War by focusing on the brutal dictatorships that emerged in Bolshevik Russia, the Stalinist Soviet Union, Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany. Key themes include the principles of communist and fascist ideologies, the character and experiences of the dictators themselves (Lenin, Stalin, Mussolini and Hitler); the role of terror, state violence and resistance in everyday life in the Soviet Union, Italy and Germany; the responses of women and targeted minorities to state violence and oppression; the nature of the Second World War as an ideological conflict, including its ultimate horror of the Holocaust.

Secret intelligence, as an historical agent, is a large and controversial part of modern governance: we need to view it as an aspect of international statecraft, which raises legal, constitutional, and ethical issues. This course focuses upon the growth of the ‘secret world’ of modern intelligence communities across the twentieth century. It will consider: the creation of the modern intelligence community during the two World Wars and its massive expansion during the Cold War; the role of special operations and covert action (including state-sponsored assassination); the motivations and impact of spies and traitors, particularly the ideologically-driven agents working for the Soviet Union.

This course examines the international relations and foreign policies of the major European states from the beginning of World War I to the Cold War and the emergence of modern Europe. Cross listed as POL 277

This course will survey the history of Latin America and the Caribbean from c. 1800 to the present day. The course will deal with the major social, economic and political processes of the period. The class will also provide insight into problems of development and underdevelopment as well as a discussion of the movements for social change.

This course will provide a survey of the history of Latin America and the Caribbean from pre-Columbian times to the wars of independence. Topics to be explored include the nature and development of pre-Columbian cultures and civilizations, the impact of European contact and transatlantic migrations, the formation and evolution of colonial societies, economies and cultures, and the origins of national political movements in the late 18th century.

This course will survey the history of Latin America and the Caribbean from c. 1800 to the present day. Topics to be explored include the nature and development of pre-Columbian cultures and civilizations, the impact of European contact and transatlantic migrations, the formation and evolution of colonial societies, economies and cultures, and the origins of national political movements in the late 18th century.
HIS 298 Museums and Communities 3-3-0
This inter-disciplinary lecture/seminar course offers students an introduction to a range of theoretical approaches and contemporary developments in the field of Museology. Through case studies and actual work with community groups, students will have the chance to experiment with key processes around critical museum work today (rational, documentation, mediation, scenography). Cross listed as FIN 388

Seminars

Pre-requisite for all 300-level History seminars is HIS 200 or permission of the instructor

HIS 300 The Law of the Land: Indigenous Treaties with Canada 3-3-0
Foundational to Canada’s geography, economy, and politics are the numerous treaties negotiated between it and the Indigenous Peoples who lived and live within its borders. Central to the treaties are differing interpretations as to who owns or controls Indigenous territories and who owns or controls the resources within them. This course, using settler documents, oral accounts, government legislation and court decisions, from the late 1700s to the present, will examine the historic understandings of the treaties and how they represent the “law of the land” within this country.

HIS 301 Colonial America 3-3-0
Examines through readings and seminar discussions, the social, economic, cultural and political development of the Anglo-American colonies to 1776. Topics to be covered include the formation of colonial societies, the creation of slave and free economies, religious and political thought in transition, and the Anglo-American colonies as part of the British empire.

HIS 302 British North America 3-3-0
Examines the history of the British North American colonies from a regional and thematic perspective. Topics include economic growth in an imperial context, immigration, the rebellions in the Canadas, regional and ethnic identities, and relations with the United States.

HIS 307 The American Civil War 3-3-0
A seminar course which will analyze both the cause of the conflict and its political, social, military, and diplomatic consequences.

HIS 338 War and Society in Europe, 1914-1945 3-3-0
The first half of the 20th century in Europe was unprecedented in terms of the extent and intensity of war-related destruction and general social turmoil. Through assigned readings and discussions, this seminar course examines the causes and the impact of violent conflict in this period.

HIS 353 The War in Vietnam 3-3-0
This course examines, through a series of seminars, the causes and events of the Vietnam War, its political and social impact on the United States, as well as its effects on international relations.

HIS 354 Gender and Sexuality in the Pre-Modern World 3-3-0
This seminar course examines both the construction and everyday practices of gender and sexuality before the rise of modern viewpoints and sensibilities on the subject. By looking at various cultural groups, discussions will focus on the legal, socio-economic, and cultural processes that shaped pre-modern understandings of these changing concepts. Issues such as the role of women in society, gender identity, masculinity/femininity, and marginalized sexual or gender practices will be analyzed taking into account the development of different perspectives within the historical profession.

HIS 393 Inquisitions, Law and Society 3-3-0
This seminar course focuses on the changing faces of inquisitorial practice, from the nascent medieval Inquisition and infamous characters like Bernard Gui to the modern papal version, not forgetting of course Torquemada’s Spanish Inquisition and its less known Portuguese cousin. Relying on a thematic approach, the course will particularly examine the social and legal contexts of inquisitorial practice.

HIS 394 The Social History of Disease in the West 3-3-0
This seminar course will explore the construction of disease and its social and political repercussions by focusing on specific epidemics that have indelibly left their mark on the West. In particular, students will utilize primary sources within a corpus of historical literature to unravel the complex interactions brought about by epidemics such as the Black Death in Medieval Europe, Syphilis across the Early Modern World, Smallpox in the Americas, and most recently AIDS.

HIS 396 Public History 3-3-0
This course is designed to introduce students to both the theory and practice of public history by examining sources from both Canada and the United States. By focusing on the origins and current issues of the field and by highlighting certain public history domains such as government consulting, museums and heritage sites, and the media, students will learn about information management, the demands of the client-contractor relationship and the ethical issues and controversies which make public history exciting and challenging. Students are strongly encouraged to take HIS 240 before HIS 396.

HIS 397 Asia: Constructing a Region 3-3-0
Asia was imagined by Europeans and constructed from outside; yet Asians have increasingly asserted “Asian ways.” This course interrogates the idea of Asia and its shifting borders, from orientalism to the discourse of the “Pacific Rim” to pan-Asian and nationalist narratives that place China, Japan, India or Southeast Asian states at the centre. Stress is placed on decolonization, nationalism, economic development through modernization paradigms and their challengers, internal challenges to the developmentalist state, and the interplay of local and international currents.

HIS 398 New Histories of the United Nations and Global Studies 3-3-0
The United Nations has been derided as a useless talking shop, and praised as the best hope of humanity. This course aims to examine the UN, along with its predecessor and affiliated international organizations, on their own terms, as international actors in their own right. It exposes students to newer theoretical approaches in transnational history and highlights the role of international organizations in global politics, economics, and social relations. Prerequisite: HIS 200 or HIS 277

Internships and other Capstone Courses

HIS 375 Global Studies Internship 3-3-0
Unpaid 3-credit internship at an approved overseas organization under the joint supervision of organization staff and a member of faculty. Students will be evaluated on the completion of pre-established objectives which will include a written reflection component. The course requires some in-person preparation before departure. A reflection paper is expected after completion of the overseas experience. Note: American students on financial aid cannot take this course for credit. Unpaid internship
Prerequisite: Permission from the instructor.

HIS 376 Global Studies Internship 6-6-0
Unpaid 6-credit internship at an approved overseas organization under the joint supervision of organization staff and a member of faculty. Students will be evaluated on the completion of pre-established objectives which will include a written reflection component. The course requires some in-person preparation before departure. A reflection paper is expected after completion of the overseas experience. Note: American students on financial aid cannot take this course for credit. Unpaid internship
Prerequisite: Permission from the instructor.

HIS 377 Teaching Internship in History 3-3-0
Unpaid internship working directly with a Bishop’s professor. Students will assist in teaching the course through such tasks as leading discussion groups and develop teaching skills under the supervision of a member of faculty. Students will be evaluated on various scales including a reflection paper on their experience. Prerequisite: Permission from the instructor.

HIS 391 Archival or Institutional Internship 3-3-0
Unpaid internship in a local archival repository or other institution under the joint supervision of an archivist or other representative and a member of faculty. Students will be evaluated on the completion of pre-established objectives and must be prepared to perform a variety of projects such as writing a major report, preparing an archival inventory or a finding aid. Prerequisite: Permission of the department chair.
HIS 392  Research Internship  3-3-0
Unpaid internship under the supervision of a member of the department. The student will be responsible for undertaking research related activities in support of the research project of a faculty member.
Prerequisite: Permission from the instructor.

HIS 399  Senior Research Paper in History  3-3-0
Individualized research project in consultation with a faculty advisor. Students will be expected to make an original contribution to a topic through primary source research in relation to existing literature. The final product will be an article-length paper and a formal oral presentation to department faculty and other students.
Prerequisite: Permission from the instructor.

Independent Studies and Other Courses
HIS 286  Independent Studies for U2 Students
HIS 287  Independent Studies for U2 Students
HIS 299  Special Topics in History  3-3-0
A course that addresses the historical background of current headlines or special topics of contemporary interest for both History majors and other interested students. Topics vary from year to year and explore different regions, time periods, and methods.

Cognate Courses
Classics:
CLA 102, CLA 120, CLA 160, CLA 223, CLA 229, CLA 261, and CLA 336

Politics:
Cognate courses must be selected in consultation with the Chair prior to registration in the course.

Psychology:
PSY 342, PSY 443.

Religion, Society and Culture:
RSC 257.

Sociology:
SOC 207.

Students in the Major or Honours program may count a maximum of 12 credits in cognate courses toward the degree. Students in the Minor program may count a maximum of 6 credits in cognate courses toward the degree.

College of Liberal Arts

Faculty
Jenn Cianca,
B.A. (Bishop’s), M.A. Ph.D. (Toronto);
Full Professor
Chair of the department (after Jan, 2025)

Bruce Gilbert,
B.A. (Toronto), M.A. (McGill),
Ph.D. (Penn.State); Full Professor
Coordinator for the Minor in
Social Justice and Citizenship
Chair of the Department (until Dec. 2024)

Program Overview
The Bishop’s College of Liberal Arts offers a dynamic, interdisciplinary major for particularly motivated students interested in the intensive study of the great themes and texts of Western civilization. The heart of the program is the Liberal Arts Foundation Courses (LIB 210–218), each of which engages, in an interdisciplinary and historical way, with a key theme in the history of the human condition. Liberal Arts majors also complete a series of requirements from other departments (see below), for a total of 63 credits. Students in the Liberal Arts Program are encouraged to complete a second Major in a discipline of their choice. Up to two courses may be counted towards the requirements of both Majors. The Liberal Arts Program also offers an Honours degree, which requires the completion of a comprehensive research thesis.

Programs

Liberal Arts Honours Degree
(69 credits)  HONLIB
Liberal Arts students may opt to complete an Honours Degree. In addition to fulfilling the normal requirements for a Major (see below), an Honours student must register in the fall of his or her final year for LIB 400 (fall) and LIB 401 (winter), the requirement of which is to write a supervised, interdisciplinary Honours thesis. In keeping with Divisional regulations, at least a 70% average, calculated on the best 60 credits in the program, would be necessary for graduation with an Honours degree.

LIB 400  Honours Thesis I  3-3-0
Each student researches, writes, and publicly defends a comprehensive thesis proposal under the supervision of at least two faculty members who are from different departments. Students must receive a grade of 75% or higher in this course in order to be permitted to register for LIB 401.

LIB 401  Honours Thesis II  3-3-0
Based on the proposal completed in LIB 400, students draft, revise, and defend an honours thesis, as examined by all members of the Liberal Arts Program and relevant supervisors.
Prerequisite: LIB 400