

FALL 2025

**Upper Level
History Course
Offerings**

HIST 302: Latin American Urban History



Kristen McCleary,
Chalk artists depict Frida Kahlo,
Corrientes Blvd.
Buenos Aires, July 2019

Dr. McCleary, mccleakl@jmu.edu
Tu/Th 9:35-10:50am
Wilson Hall 1001

There is no group of people in the world more urban-minded than Latin Americans. Historically, cities here played an all-encompassing role that included administration, the reproduction of capital and responsibility for virtually all cultural activities. This class explores that history, as well as plans for further urban development, cultural activities and architectural design. We will do a digital assignment as well in order to introduce urban Latin America to a larger audience. This project always changes but here are two examples of the work past classes have done:

<https://sites.lib.jmu.edu/1919-plays/> and <https://sites.jmu.edu/hist302/> and <https://sites.lib.jmu.edu/windowurbanlatinamerica/>

Linked to:
Latin American, Latinx, and Caribbean
Studies minor, Digital Studies

Fields:
World

HIST 326: How Cars Changed Everything



**Kevin Borg, borgkl@jmu.edu
M/W/F 11:30am-12:20pm**

Course examines the historical process by which Americans transformed nearly all aspects of their lives through the automobile, while also constantly reshaping the car itself to meet evolving personal, economic, and socio-political goals.

**Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Minor;
Science, Technology and Society Minor;
Public History Concentration; American Studies Minor;
Environmental Humanities Minor**

HIST 333: Maps, Money, Manufacture and Trade

Alison Sandman, sandmaad@jmu.edu

Tu/Th 11:10am-12:25pm, Wilson Hall 1001, in person



How do maps make arguments? What is money anyway? Why did people build factories, and why did others resist? Can YOU prosper in Manchester in 1817, and will you build a factory or destroy the machines? How do you make sense of economics beyond numbers and graphs? We will look at a few key concepts and case studies in the geography and economics of a globalizing world to make sense of the interactions of maps, economics, and history. Recommended especially for future social studies teachers, but open to all.

meets the "Thinking with Economics" requirement for social studies teaching

meets the "connected history" requirement for the history major

features a "Reacting to the Past" simulation on the industrial revolution

HIST 335.0001: Topics in Applying History: The U.S. in the Vietnam War



Jonathan S. Jones, jones8js@jmu.edu
Tu/Th 11:10am-12:25pm
Wilson Hall 1014

This course investigates the Vietnam War, among the U.S.'s most divisive armed conflicts—even here at JMU. Students will explore the causes, course, and legacies of the American war in Vietnam. The class will conduct an applied history project on the anti-war movement at Madison College in the 1960s-70s.

Applying History

HIST 335.0002: Topics in Applying History: World War I Virginia War History Questionnaires

Prof. Maura Hametz, hametzme@jmu.edu
M/W 1:50–3:05pm
Wilson Hall 1014

After World War I, each Virginia who served was asked to fill out a War History Questionnaire, now preserved in a database at the Library of Virginia. Virginians from around the Commonwealth, men and women, black and white, those who served abroad, those who served on trains or ships, those who were wounded, those who served only at home, all offered demographic information, reasons for serving, the details of their service and their attitudes toward the war. This course will utilize the questionnaires to study the War and to produce heritage tourism sites to educate the public about Virginians' contributions.

Note: This Questionnaire should be completed as far as possible with such information as can be furnished at once, and returned with photographs and additional notes or letters, if available, to Secretary, Virginia War History Commission, State Capitol, Richmond, Va.

WAR HISTORY COMMISSION
State of Virginia
MILITARY SERVICE RECORD

Compiled by the Virginia War History Commission for a permanent record in the State Library, where it will be filed, as a memorial of the deeds of Virginia soldiers and sailors in the service of the federal, state and allied governments during American participation in the World War.

Name in full: Gordon Orville Whitehead
(family name) (first name) (middle name)

Date of birth: February 11 1897
(month) (day) (year)

Place of birth: Southampton Virginia United States
(town) (county) (state)

Name of father: Walter W. Gordon Birthplace: United States
(name) (county) (state)

Maiden name of mother: Katherine Patton Birthplace: United States
(name) (county) (state)

Are you White, Colored, Indian or Mongolian? White

Citizen yes Voter yes Church: Episcopal
(yes or no) (yes or no) (denomination)

Married no 1 0
(yes or no) (yes or no) (times)

To: (maiden name) Born: 1
(name) (name) (year)

Children: (name) Born: 1
(name) (name) (year)

Fraternities: Phi Gamma Delta, Mar
(name) (name)

College Fraternities: Phi Gamma Delta
(name) (name)

Previous military service or training: United States Army, 1917-1918
(name) (name)

Education (Preparatory): High School (College)
(name) (name)

(University): Univ. of Virginia (Degree)
(name) (name)

Occupation before entry into the service: Student
(name)

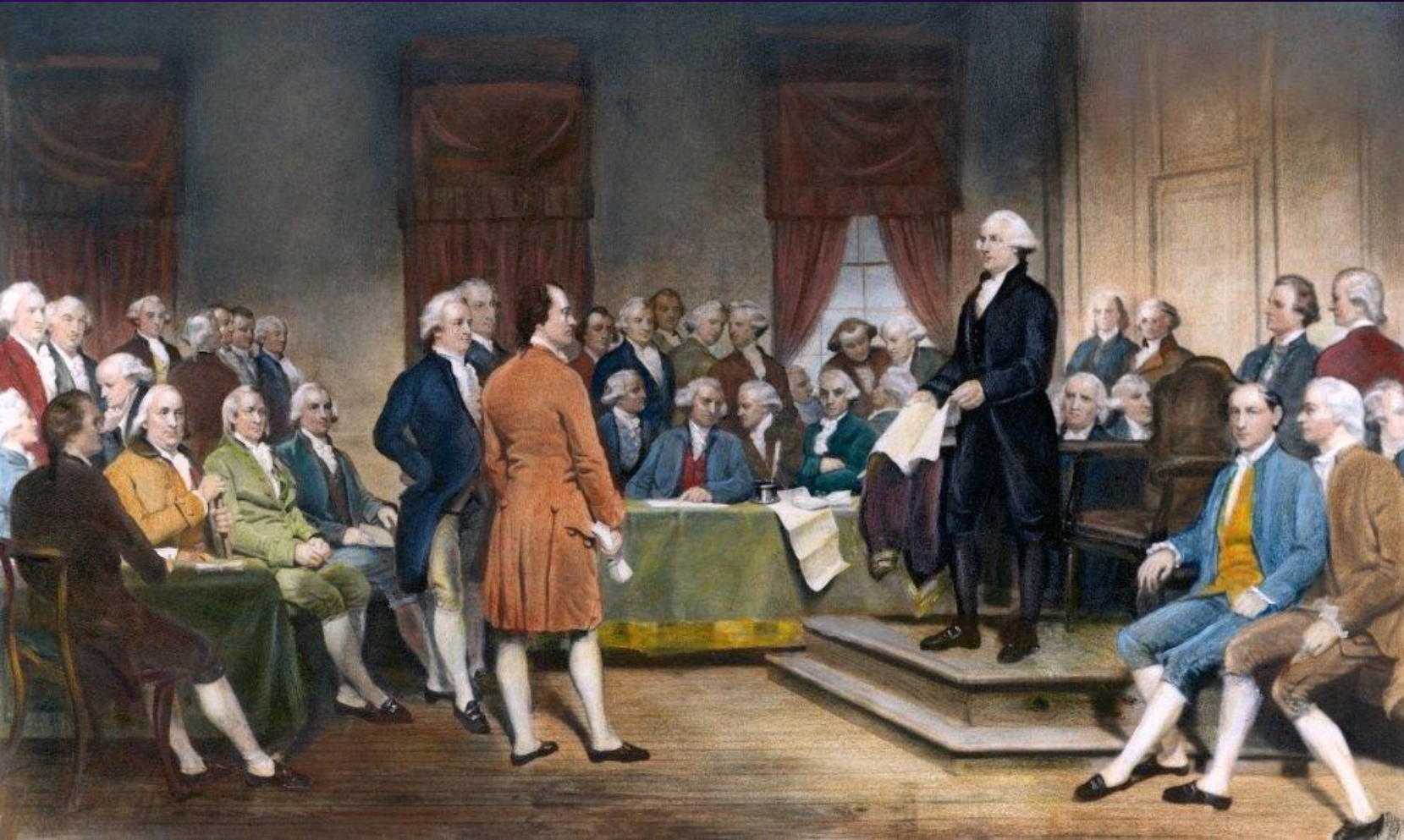
Residence before entry into the service: Franklin United States
(street number) (town) (county) (state)

Present home address: Franklin Southampton Virginia
(street number) (town) (county) (state)

Note: Report of Army League, filed under "State Paper" differs from above in a few minor details.

Applying History

History 337: Creating the U.S. Constitution



**Professor Kevin R.
Hardwick,
hardwikr@jmu.edu
M/W/F 1:50-2:40pm
Wilson Hall 1001**

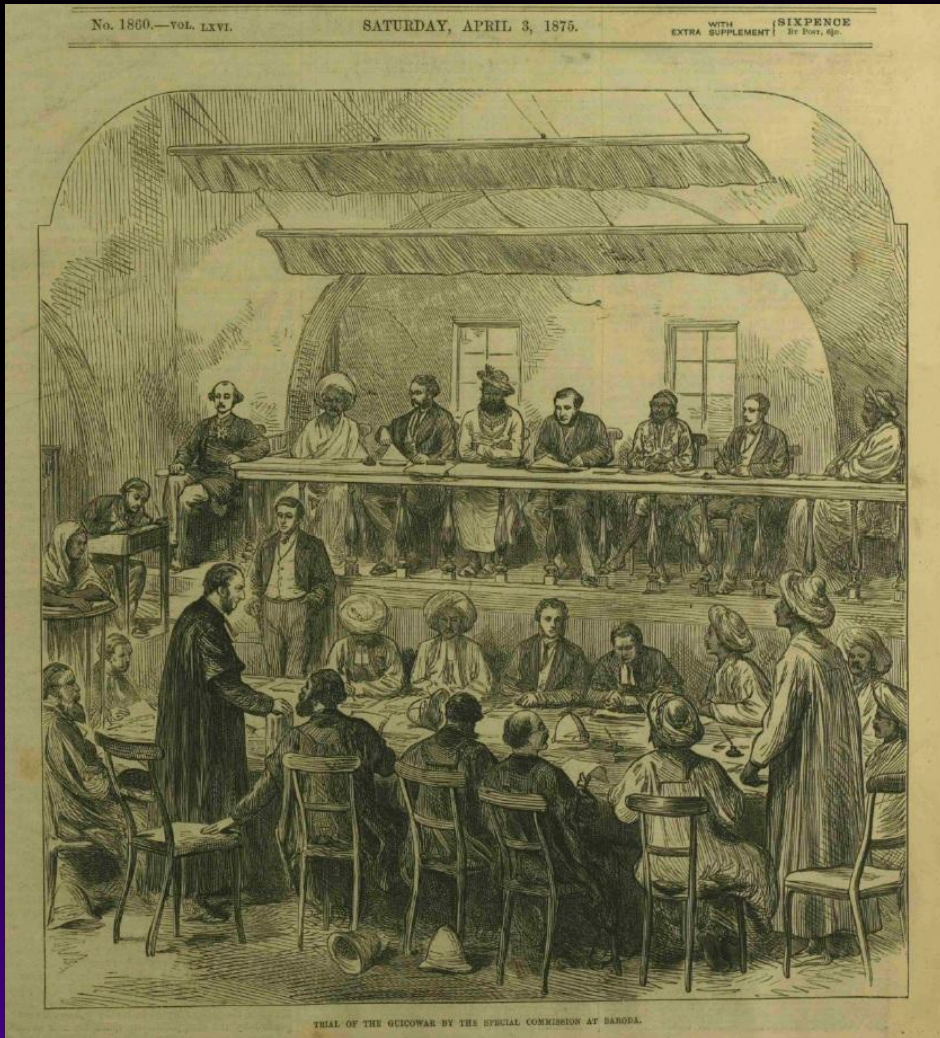
Students assume the role of delegates to the Philadelphia Convention of 1787, research the delegate whom they portray in the exercise, and gather in "Philadelphia" to write a new constitution for the United States.

What issues confronted the delegates at the Convention? What purposes and whose agenda did the new Constitution serve?

What would your delegate have to contribute to the deliberation in Philadelphia?

This class uses the "Live Action Role Play" pedagogy of Reacting to the Past. We will be working from John Patrick Coby's *The Constitutional Convention of 1787: Constructing the American Republic* (Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 2022).

HIST 346: Law & Order: British India



Dr. Neel Amin, aminnnn@jmu.edu
Tu/Th 2:20–3:35pm
Wilson Hall 1012

In the 19th century the British introduced a new criminal code to India that redefined what constituted a crime and, thereby, who was a criminal. Turning to legal reports, police reports, witness testimonies, and crime statistics from the time-period, we will examine the impact of the criminal code on colonial society.

**this course also fulfills a requirement
for the Asian Studies minor**

HIST 352: The Premodern Middle East: Themes and Intersections



Timothy J. Fitzgerald, fitzgetj@jmu.edu
Tu/Th 3:55-5:10pm
Wilson Hall 1012, in person

A thematic introduction to the premodern Middle East, with emphasis on the political, social, and religious developments that have shaped the region's diverse communities and connected them to world history.

**Middle Eastern Communities and
Migrations (MECM) minor core class**

300-level History elective

**International Affairs, Comparative
Study, Middle East Track class**

**Please note: HIST 352 was
formerly HIST 337 and HIST 269**

HIST 365: Topics in Connected History: Plagues and Pandemics in Modern World History

Jonathan S. Jones, jones8js@jmu.edu
Tu/Th 3:55-5:10pm
Wilson Hall 1014

How have humans responded to epidemics historically, and have those responses varied by place or evolved over time? This course seeks to answer these questions and others by investigating the history of epidemic diseases from the Black Death to Covid-19.



**Connected
History**

**Medical
Humanities**

HIST 369: Problems in Greek History

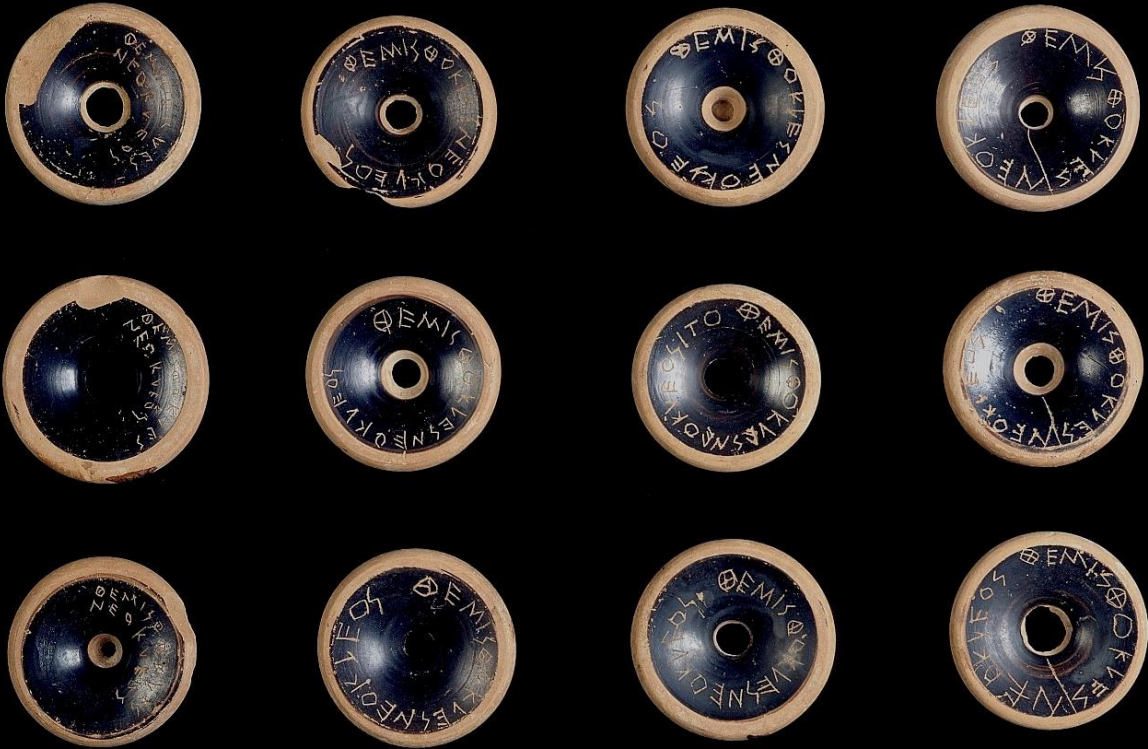
Dr. Carrara, carrarem@jmu.edu

Tu/Th 12:45-2:00pm

Wilson Hall 1014

This course introduces students to the cultural, political, military, social, economic and intellectual history of the ancient Greek world by centering discussions and explorations of major controversies and theories that have shaped modern understandings of the history of the Greek world and its neighbors. Students will survey the broader history of ancient Greece, ca. 3000-30 BCE as the background to a focus on narrower themes like, but not limited to, civil war, environmental history, gender, identity and colonization. The course is a mixture of lectures, discussions, and collaborations in class. Students will read primary sources and modern scholarship.

**Course counts as an elective
for the Classical Studies minor**



HIST 388: Germany since 1871

Dr. Christian Davis,

davis2cs@jmu.edu

Tu/Th 9:35-10:50am

Wilson Hall 2001, in person

This course examines the social, economic, political, and cultural history of Germany from unification onwards, paying special attention to the Imperial era (1871-1918), the period of National Socialism (1933-1945), and the two German states that emerged after the Second World War (1945-1990). Topics explored include the rise, nature, and depth of modern German antisemitism; the origins of National Socialism and the Holocaust; and the politics and cultures of the two postwar German states. A primary goal is to understand how one of the most modern, sophisticated, and--in some respects-- progressive societies in the world generated National Socialism and the horrors of World War Two.



HIST 389:

Revolution and Radical Change in Modern Europe

Dr. Christian Davis,
davis2cs@jmu.edu
Tu/Th 11:10am-12:25pm
Wilson Hall 1012, in person

This course covers the turbulent history of revolution and radical political change in modern Europe, beginning with the French Revolution of 1789 and ending with the overthrow of the communist dictatorships in Central-Eastern Europe near the end of the twentieth-century. Students will gain in-depth knowledge of the causes, chronologies, and outcomes of modern Europe's many political revolutions. We will also examine how political revolutions generated tremendous social, economic, and/or cultural change.



HIST 410: Research Capstone: Storytelling from the Historical Record

Steven Reich, reichsa@jmu.edu

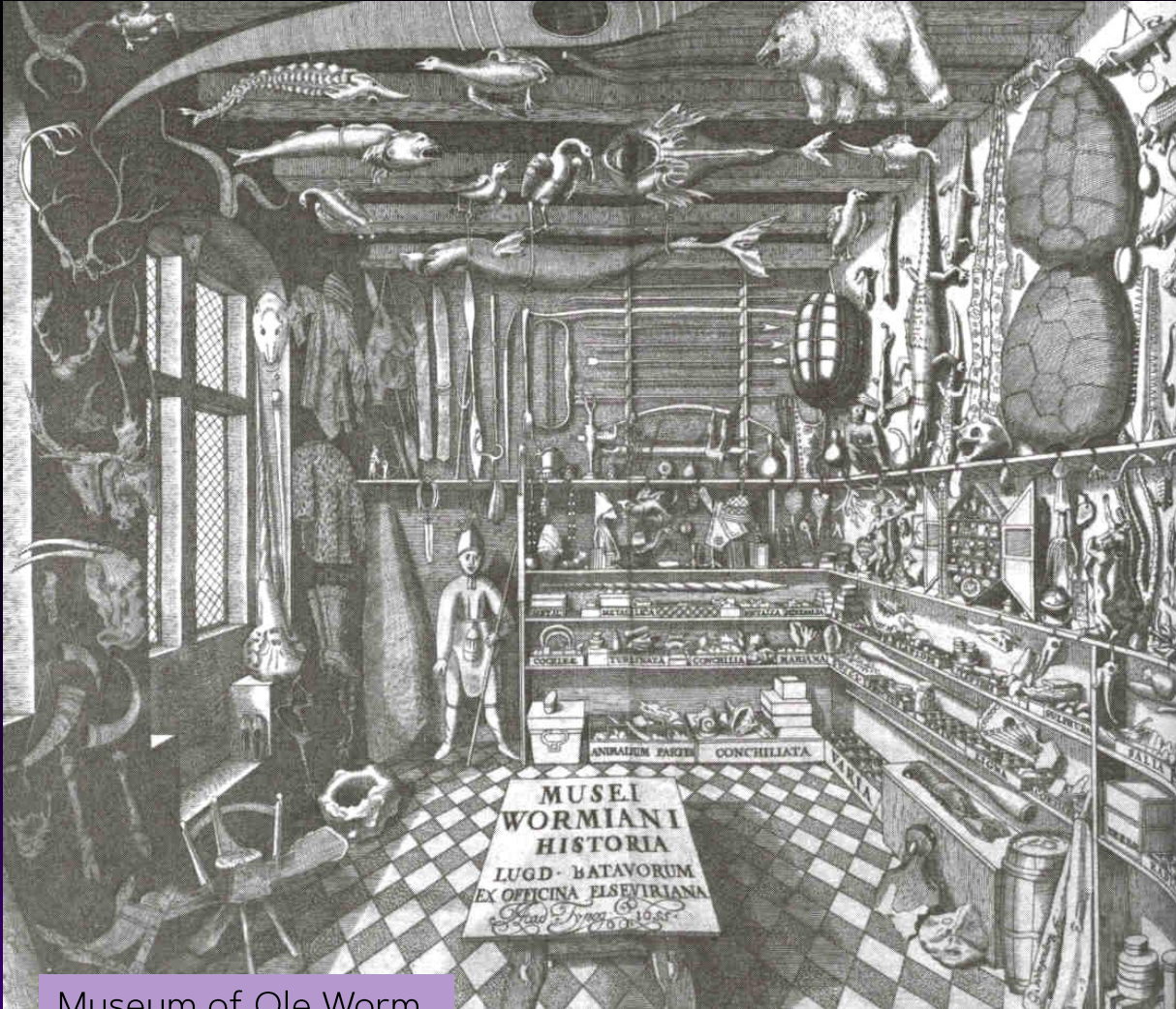
Tu/Th 2:20–3:35pm

Wilson 4033, in person



This course focuses on how to turn sources from the historical record into stories people want to read. Students will learn how to conceptualize their research into a well-framed story with a plot, narrative arc, and controlling idea. We will work on strategies for creating suspense and narrative tension. We will learn some of the key elements of character development, including how to build a cast of protagonists, antagonists, witnesses, and supporting players. Throughout the course, we will read the works of historians who excel as storytellers. Significant class time will be devoted to workshopping drafts of our own stories. By the end of the semester, students will complete their own work of narrative nonfiction.

HIST 440: The History Museum



Museum of Ole Worm,
Copenhagen, 1655

Gabrielle Lanier,
laniergm@jmu.edu
Tu/Th 3:55–5:10pm
Wilson Hall 4033

An exploration of the history,
evolution, and function of
history museums.

**elective for Public History
Concentration in History**

**elective for Historical
Archaeology Minor**

**elective for Museum Studies
Concentration in Art History**

HIST 451:

Crime & Criminality in World History

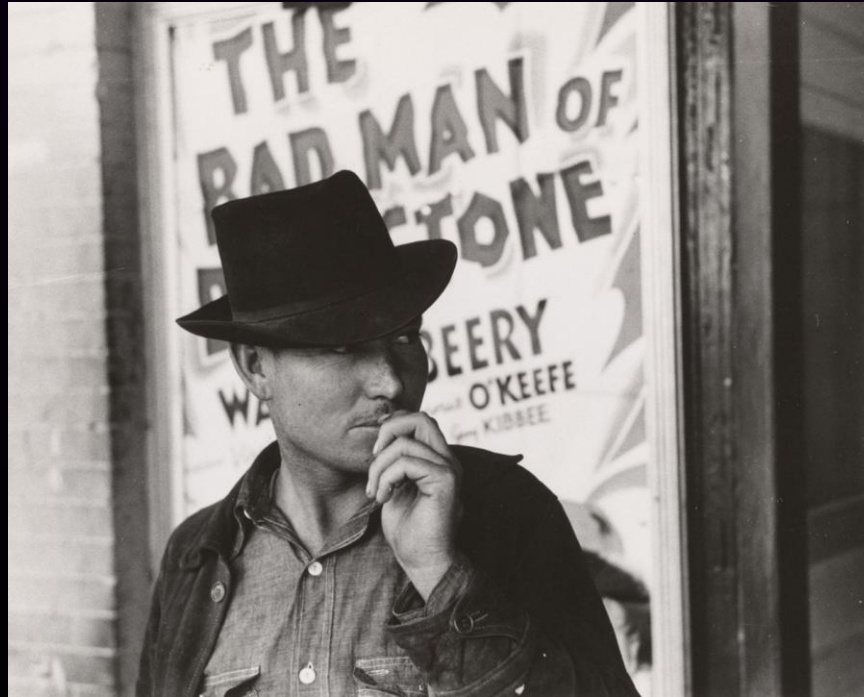
Dr. Neel Amin, aminnnn@jmu.edu
Tu/Th 11:10am-12:25pm
Wilson 4033

Who defined crime? Who decided punishment? Who was punished? What did punishment look like? What happened after punishment? This course discusses these questions and more from a historical perspective, using examples from around the world. Students will learn that few forms of crime were that unique or particular, since economic, social, cultural, and political trends produced similar patterns across national boundaries.



HIST 459: Gender and Popular Culture

Professor Westkaemper, westkaem@jmu.edu
M/W 9:35–10:50am, Wilson Hall 4033



This course evaluates the history of U.S. popular culture as a force shaping and reflecting gender norms. It will analyze creators' and consumers' use of popular culture to promote stereotypes and to challenge them, with attention to ways that messages about gender, race, class, religion, sexuality and age intertwined. Students' original research will focus on the creation and reception of media including magazines, film and television.

Image credit: from the New York Public Library

Linked to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

HIST 476: Revolutionary Russia



Boris Kustodiev,
The Bolshevik (1920)

Dr. Colleen Moore,
moor23cm@jmu.edu
Tu/Th 12:45-2:00pm
Wilson Hall 4033, in person

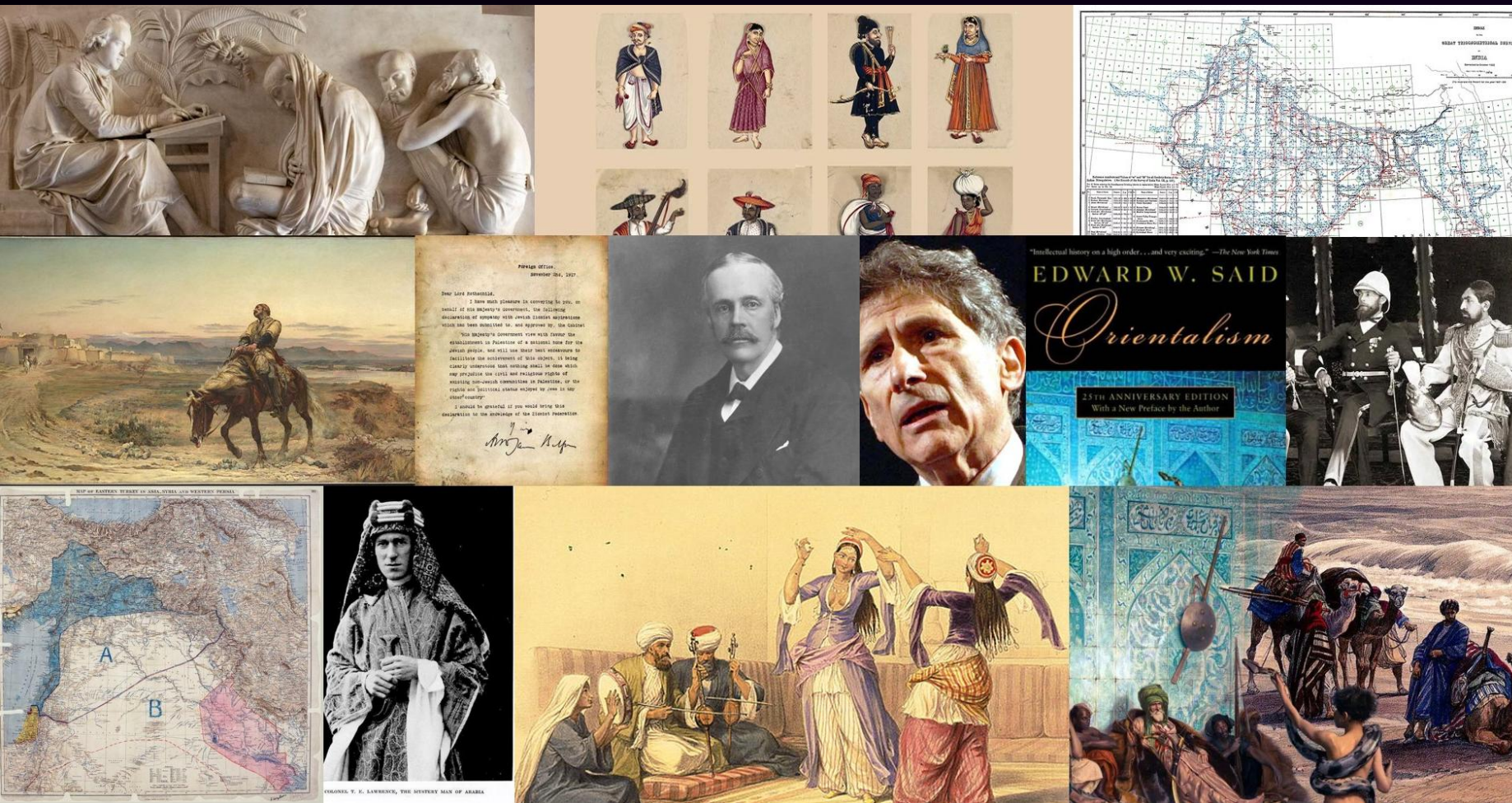
This course examines the causes, key events and consequences of the Russian revolutionary movement that culminated in the overthrow of the autocracy and establishment of the world's first socialist state in 1917. It explores both Western and Soviet historians' interpretations of the revolution and compares revolutionary experiences across classes, genders and nationalities in different parts of the former Russian empire.

Russian Studies minor

HIST 485: Colonial Knowledge Production in the Middle East and South Asia

**Prof. Shah
Mahmoud Hanifi,
hanifism@jmu.edu
M/W 1:50-3:05pm
Wilson Hall 4033**

How do empires learn about the people and places they colonize? How is colonial knowledge structured, and what are its gaps and limitations? How do empires convert knowledge into power? This participatory seminar course examines the intellectual and scientific infrastructure of modern empires in the Middle East and South Asia. Students will learn and write about American, British, and French colonialism in Afghanistan, Egypt, India, Iraq and Palestine.



**fulfills Middle Eastern Communities and Migrations,
Environmental Humanities, Asian Studies Minors**