

FALL 2026

**Upper Level
History Course
Offerings**

HIST 303: Virginia's Place in #VastEarlyAmerica

Rebecca Brannon,
brannorn@jmu.edu

M/W 3:25-4:40 pm

Wilson Hall 1001

Come study early America through the Revolution! We will use Reacting to the Past and class discussions to learn about slavery, servitude, religion, politics, and government.

- Fulfills ISS requirement



HIST 322: Jim Crow South

Dr. Steven Reich, reichsa@jmu.edu

M/W 1:50–3:05 pm

Wilson Hall 1012, In-Person

During the era of Jim Crow—a period that spanned the years from the 1890s to the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s—state laws, municipal ordinances, and social customs racially segregated public and private life across the American South. Jim Crow, as both legal framework and social practice, shaped the everyday lives of Black and white Southerners. It determined where they worked, where they attended school, what they learned, where and what they ate, what they wore, where they shopped, whom they married, how they raised their children, how they worshipped God, how and where they socialized, and the political allegiances they held. This class examines the complexities of segregation—its legal boundaries, its social and cultural peculiarities, and its violent enforcement. It especially focuses on the political actions that challenged and eventually dismantled it.

- The course counts toward the minor in African, African American, and Diaspora Studies (AAAD), the Medical Humanities minor, and Tracks 1, 2, 3, and 7 of the Humanities and Social Sciences Concentration of the IDLS major.



Segregated drinking fountain on the courthouse lawn in Halifax, North Carolina, 1938.

HIST 338: US Urban History

Prof. Evan Friss,
frissej@jmu.edu

Tu/Th 3:55-5:10 pm
Wilson Hall 1001

Explore the history of urban spaces in the United States.



HIST 359: History and Public Policy

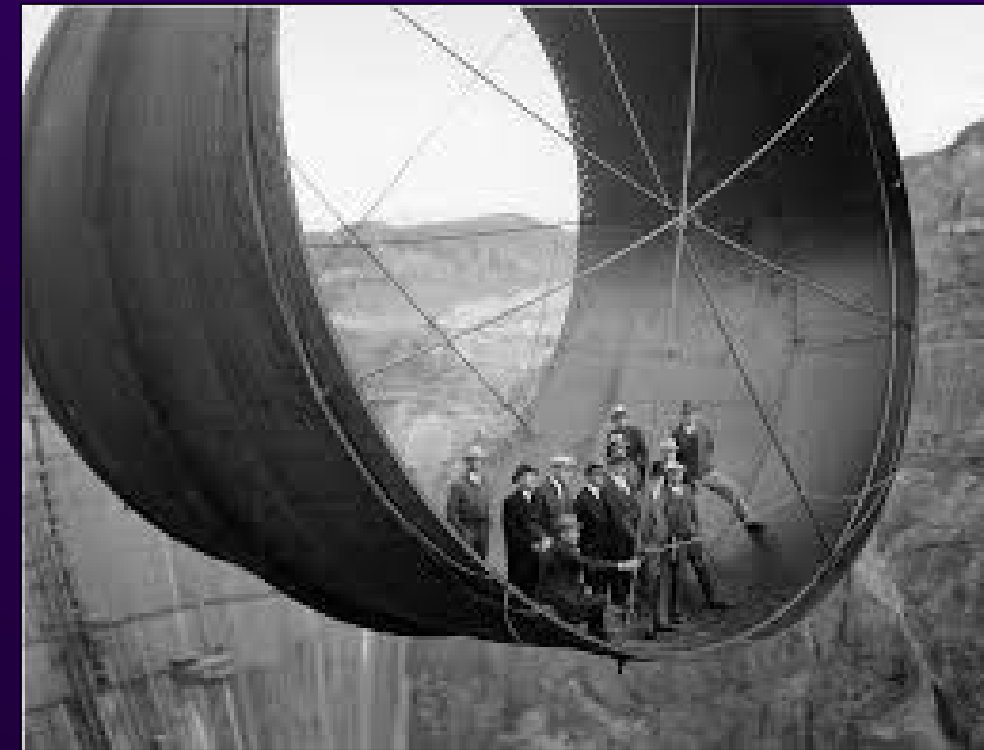
Rebecca Brannon,
brannorn@jmu.edu

M/W 1:50–3:05 pm

Wilson Hall 1001

History provides a powerful way to think through complicated and unclear dilemmas common for policy analysts, practitioners, and advocates.

- Meets requirements for Applying



HIST 365: Medieval Legacies of Rome

Dr. Maria Harvey, harveymx@jmu.edu
M/W 9:35–10:50 am, Wilson Hall 1014

This class explores how medieval people (Jews, Christians and Muslims) engaged with the ancient past, with a focus on material culture. Through a series of case studies, we will discover how medieval Mediterraneans negotiated their built environment, often characterised by the presence of Greek and Roman structures; how they presented themselves as heirs to the ancient republics and empires; and how they dealt with the pagan past, and with philosophical and scientific ideas. By focusing on the cultures on the shores of the Mediterranean, this class will demonstrate the centrality of Rome for the Ayyubids and the Carolingians, the Swabians, the Byzantines, and the Italian city-states. At the same time, it will highlight the multivalency of *'romanitas'* and show how these medieval engagements contributed to the so-called 'rediscovery of antiquity' in the modern era.



- Connected Histories, Classical Studies Minor, Medieval and Renaissance Studies Minor, counts for Art History credit (with directive)

HIST 368:

Blurred Borders: A Cultural History of the Caribbean, Latin America and the United States

Dr. Kristen McCleary, mccleakl@jmu.edu

Tu/Th 2:20–3:35pm, Wilson Hall 1014, In person

This course explores the political, social, and diplomatic relations between the United States, the Caribbean and Latin America. Each of these regions have similar histories where Europeans, Africans, and indigenous peoples came together in unequal colonial systems after 1492. We examine the interconnectedness of these regions and explore how the identities of these territories are shaped in connection to one another. To do this, we analyze cultural expressions such as theater, literature, music, film, poetry, essays, and diplomatic correspondence.

- Fulfills LAXC requirement
- This is a discussion-based class and regular attendance is required.



HIST 373: History of the Ottoman Empire, 1453-1922

Timothy J. Fitzgerald, fitzgetj@jmu.edu
Tu/Th 9:35-10:50 am, Wilson Hall 1001

This course uses a global lens to survey the history of the Ottoman Empire from its roots in medieval Anatolia through its demise in World War One. We examine the persons, events, institutions, and ideas associated with imperial state formation, military expansion, cultural elaboration, political reformism, and the evolution of modern identities—highlighting connections and comparisons beyond the empire. Other topics include law, commerce, art, science, recreation, women and non-Muslims in Ottoman society, and interaction with European, African, and Asian neighbors. While previous coursework in world or European history is helpful, the class has no formal prerequisites. The course aims to provide a general introduction to the Middle East and, to a lesser extent, the Islamic world. It also showcases the methodologies of global history.

HIST 373 is a

- 1) 300-level "Connected History" course;
- 2) Middle Eastern Communities and Migrations (MECM) minor "Regular Offering;"
- 3) International Affairs, "Historical Patterns" and "Europe" and "Middle East" Track class;
- 4) Medieval and Renaissance Studies (MedRen) minor "Advanced" course.



19th-century engraving by Eugène Flandin of the "New Mosque" in Istanbul.

HIST 374: The Southern Plantation

Dr. Philip Herrington, herrinpm@jmu.edu

M/W 1:50-3:05PM,

Wilson Hall 1014

This course explores the southern plantation as both a physical and imagined space. Through a range of primary sources—including memoirs, government records, travel accounts, maps, letters, novels, paintings, and architectural drawings—we will study the creation and evolution of the plantation landscape in the American South and the experiences of those who lived there and visited it. As an Applied History elective, this course pays special attention to ongoing debates about the interpretation and contemporary use of plantation sites.

- This course fulfills the Applying History credit and serves as 300-level History elective.



HIST 385: The Russian Empire

Dr. Colleen M Moore,
moor23cm@jmu.edu
Tu/Th 12:45-2:00 pm,
Wilson Hall 1014

This course examines the history of Russia as a world power under tsarist rule, including the development of the autocracy, the adoption of Orthodoxy, and the establishment and abolition of serfdom. It explores attempts to reform Russia from above and below and investigates the relationships between state, society, and the masses. It also considers the impact of gender, empire, and revolution on imperial Russian history.

- Fulfills a requirement for the Russian, Eurasian, and Slavic Studies (RESS) minor



Ilya Repin (1885), Ivan the Terrible and His Son Ivan on November 16, 1581

HIST 401-0004: Research Capstone Seminar: The Paris Peace Treaties of World War I

Prof. Maura Hametz, hametzme@jmu.edu

M/W 1:50-3:05 pm, Wilson Hall 4033

The Treaties of Versailles, Saint Germain, Trianon, Neuilly, and Sèvres set the Peace terms for World War I. Not only did they redraw the boundaries of Europe, but they set the basis for international systems that remain in place today. This seminar will use the text of the treaties as a launch point to explore issues of territorial contest, ethnicity, national identity, citizenship, international law, international health, gender, work, economies, and culture. Students will choose research topics and themes for a capstone research project that will reflect on the treaties and the Paris Peace process, their impact, and their legacy today.

- The course fulfills requirements for the history major. It is open to all students.



HIST 438: Workshop in Public and Local History

Andrew Witmer, witmerad@jmu.edu

TuTh, 2:20-3:35 PM

Wilson Hall 4033

This workshop explores the theory, practice, and ethics of local history and invites students to apply what they are learning in an original research project. What is local history, and how does it relate to historical analysis at larger scales? What is locality, and how is it produced? Who writes local history, how do their methods and motives differ, and what place should the local have within academic history?

- Satisfies research capstone requirement for the History major and primary course requirement for the public history concentration.



HIST 482: French History Seminar: The Limits of Privilege in Old Regime France

Professor Mary K Gayne,

gaynemk@jmu.edu

M/W 3:25-4:40pm

Wilson Hall 4033

An exploration of how power, status, and everyday life were reshaped in France from Louis XIV to the Revolution, as state-building and rising consumer culture redefined privilege and revealed its limits.

- What did it actually mean to have privilege in a society built on inequality?
- How did war and the demands of the state reshape society and strain the limits of privilege?
- Why were so many men wearing peasant women's hair?
- How did struggles over work, credit, religion, and status shape everyday life across the kingdom?
- Why did attempts to fix the system make its problems harder to control?



Louis XIV (at 60 years) by Antoine Benoist, c. 1705

HIST 493: Historic Preservation

Dr. Philip Herrington,
herrinpm@jmu.edu

W 5-7:50pm, Wilson Hall 2041

“See” the world as you have never seen it before! Enroll in Historic Preservation to gain a broad understanding of the history, philosophy, and controversies of historic preservation; develop the ability to “read” and research historic structures, communities, and landscapes; learn about the legal, political, and community structures that have been used over time to promote preservation; and carefully consider the potential economic, environmental, and cultural impacts of historic preservation as both a private endeavor and public policy.

- This course fulfills the 400-level capstone credit and serves as a Public History concentration primary course and a 400-level History elective. It is also cross-listed as ARTH 493 and serves as an Art History elective.

