

**Department of History**  
**Graduate History Course Descriptions**  
**Spring 2025**

**HIS 8011-001**

**Dr. Julia Mansfield**

**Thursday, 5:20-7:20**

**Colonial America**

Colloquium on British colonization of North America during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Drawing from recent scholarship and classic works, we will explore how historians continue to re-frame traditional narratives about colonization, slavery, and gender relations. Our starting point will be Daniel Richter's concept of "Facing East" by centering indigenous perspectives on early America. Other units of the course will engage with an Atlantic World perspective on slavery and the colonial economy as well as the intersection of gender and economic relations in the British colonies. Assignments will include book reviews, oral presentations, and a research paper.

**HIS 8081-001**

**Dr. Judith Giesberg**

**Wednesday, 5:20-7:20**

**Reconstruction**

For a long time, Reconstruction was understood to have been a "tragic era" of Republican misrule and corruption, led by naive freedmen, self-serving Northern carpetbaggers and turncoat Southern scalawags. The popularity of these myths prevented historians from seeing Reconstruction as an extraordinary and unprecedented experiment in democracy – one that began with the Emancipation Proclamation (1863) and ended when the U.S. Supreme Court upheld racial discrimination and segregation in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896). In the intervening thirty years, Americans re-imagined politics, renegotiated relations of labor, and redefined citizenship. And though *Plessy* marked the reversal of progress toward racial equality, many Reconstruction-era conversations about race relations, marriage contracts, federal authority, and corporate power continued well into the twentieth century. Indeed, in 1955, historian C. Vann Woodward aptly dubbed it "the First Reconstruction." We shall explore a number of these conversations, as we read the works of historians, starting with W.E.B. Du Bois. Among the conversations we will consider are the following: How far were Republicans willing to extend federal power to protect individual rights? How did postwar amendments reshape the Constitution? How would changes in postwar property rights change marriage and family? In effect, what was re-constructed?

**HIS 8207-001**

**Dr. Rebecca Winer**

**Tuesday, 7:30-9:30**

**Women and Gender in Medieval and Early Modern Europe**



**HIS 9002-001**  
**Dr. Paul Rosier**  
**Monday, 5:20-7:20**

**Research Seminar: Writing History**

This seminar provides an opportunity to conceive, plan, research, write and edit an article-length essay of 25-30 pages based on primary sources or a comprehensive curriculum plan based on primary sources. We will spend class-time discussing methodological, research and writing strategies and offer constructive criticism of fellow students' work via peer review. Our objectives include: develop empathy for historical actors and the choices confronting them; hone our research, critical thinking, writing, editing, and presentation skills; and create a collaborative environment in which we help our comrades improve their papers.

**HIS 9006-001**

**Graduate Internship in Public History**

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**Dr. Whitney Martinko/Dr. Craig Bailey**