

## 2019 FALL GRADUATE SEMINAR DESCRIPTIONS

**CRN:** 28016

**HIST** 215L

**Catalog Title:** History of Slavery and Race in the United States

**Taught by:** Dr. McPherson

This is a graduate level course on the history of slavery and race in the United States. In this course, we will explore major themes in the field, engage contemporary debates, and consider issues of research and methodology within the field of African American history around issues of race and slavery. The goal of this course is to provide graduate students with a broad understanding of the history of slavery and race in the U.S. Students should expect to produce a term paper (approx. 3000 words) in addition to class presentations and weekly writing assignments. Although this course examines historical scholarship and engages historical interpretations, students from other academic disciplines are welcome.

Questions? Contact Dr. McPherson at [natasha.mcpherson@ucr.edu](mailto:natasha.mcpherson@ucr.edu)

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**CRN:** 28017

**HIST** 222

**Catalog Title:** Reading Seminar in Late Antiquity

**Taught by:** Dr. Salzman

### **The Decline and Fall of Rome**

Tuesdays: 3:10-6:00

HIST 222. Edward Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, published on the eve of American independence, has fueled a continuing stream of western intellectuals and scholars to ponder the last centuries of Rome. The vitality and longevity of Rome's empire, which had united three civilizations and three continents under a single government, still makes study of its fall "good to think with." Most recently, for instance, Kyle Harper's, *The Fate of Rome* (2017), which focuses on environmental factors that undermined Rome, is indicative of this phenomenon. But what did people living in the Roman Empire in the fourth through sixth centuries (the period now called late antiquity), think of these events? What difference did Christianity make in this process?

This course will consider Roman and Greek responses to the key crises that have led to the dominant paradigms for explaining not just the "Decline and Fall of Rome," but the rise of new cultural, political, and religious institutions. Not just what happened, but how the narratives of these events were used to advance the interests and shape the identities of key groups – women, barbarians, soldiers, senators, clerics - are the focus of this class in the pivotal centuries that brought the demise of the Roman Empire as a single political system and the rise of Byzantium and the Germanic Kingdoms.

We will read secondary texts in conjunction with certain primary texts. We will focus, in particular, on Augustine's *City of God*, which was written in response to the Sack of Rome in 410. To better understand the fate of Rome, we will also consider examples from comparative ancient empires, as that of Ancient China studied by Walter Scheidel.

All readings will be in English.

Questions? Contact Dr. Salzman ext. 1991 - Office: 6603 Humanities - [michele.salzman@ucr.edu](mailto:michele.salzman@ucr.edu)

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**CRN:** 28018

**HIST** 251A

**Catalog Title:** GENERAL RESEARCH SEMINAR IN HISTORY

**Taught by:** Dr. Lehmann

The primary goal of this two-quarter graduate seminar is to guide you in the process of preparing and writing a major research paper. In the first quarter, we will discuss readings on different methodological approaches, research strategies, and source interpretation. You will also start to define and develop a manageable research project. The second quarter will be devoted primarily to written and oral presentations of your research and peer reviews of your fellow students' work.

Questions? Contact Dr. Lehmann – [philipp.lehmann@ucr.edu](mailto:philipp.lehmann@ucr.edu)

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**CRN:** 27433

**HIST** 276A

**Catalog Title:** RESEARCH SEMINAR IN NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY

**Taught by:** Dr. Trafzer

History 276 A and B provides graduate students an opportunity to research primary and secondary sources focused on Native American History and write a research paper prepared to be submitted to a scholarly journal. The professor works one on one with every student to conceive, research, assess, interpreted, organize, and edit a research paper of high quality. Students select their research topics in consultation with the professor to ensure the paper can be researched, written, edited, and completed in two quarters. Students interested in learning how to research and write historical works for publication will benefit from this seminar.

Questions? Contact Dr. Trafzer – [clifford.trafzer@ucr.edu](mailto:clifford.trafzer@ucr.edu)

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