



# History Newsletter

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## *Congratulations to*

Ruth Fasoldt	Freling H. Smith Prize
Justin Silvestri	Doty Prize
Michael Zaplin	Hans Pasch Memorial Prize
Michael Zaplin	Hans Haineback Memorial

## *Petition Courses for Fall 2006*

**HST 331: US History in Film**  
**HST 340: Renaissance and Pop. Culture**  
**HST 362: Black Britain**



**Phi Alpha Theta** will have its ceremony Thursday, May 25. We have a record number of initiates this year, 31. They join 17 current members from previous years. To find out about honor cords for commencement this year, senior PAT members should email Professor Foroughi, [forougha@union.edu](mailto:forougha@union.edu).

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## *Chair's Corner*

This issue's Chair's Corner highlights several changes to the department and our curriculum.

First, I will be stepping down as Chair at the end of my second term on June 30. The new Chair will be Professor Teresa Meade, who was chosen by

Dean Borst in consultation with the department faculty. Please join me in welcoming Teresa to this important position!

Second, the department has hired a new African historian, Brian Peterson, who will offer a new course on Africa to 1800 this Fall. Brian received his Ph.D. from Yale University, where he won a prize for his doctoral dissertation on French-speaking West Africa. His expertise also includes the history of Islam in West Africa, and he will teach a junior seminar on that topic next Winter. In addition, he will offer courses on modern African history and the slave trade.

Third, Professor Denis Brennan, who returned to the department this Spring, will be teaching a new course on the History of Sports in America next Fall. In addition, he will supervise senior theses and teach a Sophomore Research Seminar in Spring.

Fourth, a new adjunct Professor, Patrick Singy, will offer two new courses: History of Sexuality in Fall and History of Psychology in Winter.

Fifth, please take note of the following important changes to the history curriculum.

Last year the department voted to require two 300-level courses for the major, and the wording in the catalogue was changed to reflect that decision. But this change was only meant to apply to new first-year students, i.e. the class of 2009 and later. Our current sophomores, juniors, and seniors, i.e. the classes of 2008, 2007, and 2006, are governed by the old rules, which only required one colloquium or one 300-level course.

This year the department voted to add a prerequisite of one 100-level or 200-level course (or permission of the instructor) for all 300-level courses. This rule goes into effect this Spring and will govern registration for next Fall's courses.

The department also voted to require the completion of a junior seminar **before** a student **starts** the senior thesis. This means that, in the future, if a student has not taken his or her junior seminar by Spring term of junior year, he or she will have to take a junior seminar in the Fall of his or her senior year and write a Winter-Spring thesis.

To facilitate this change, the department will offer a junior seminar every Fall. Next year, 2006-07, will be a transition year, in which the department will make accommodation for affected students. The rule will go into effect with full force during the 2007-08 academic year. Thus current sophomore majors must make sure they take a seminar during their junior year if they expect to write a Fall-Winter thesis. Four seminars will be offered next year: two in Winter term and two in Spring.

Finally, let me say that it has been a pleasure to serve as Chair for the last six years. I wish all of you the best of luck in your future careers.

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## *Faculty News*

**David Baum:** I am heading to Italy this Summer on an RSA/INSR grant to research material on my book, *Fascism and the Italian Renaissance*. I also have an article coming out with the *Quaderni D'Italianistica* entitled, "A Catholic Fascist Renaissance: Giovanni Papini and *La Rinascita*." I've also written a review of Paul Grendler's book, *The European Renaissance in the American Imagination* for the *Renaissance Quarterly*, and will use the book as a text in this Fall's class, *The Renaissance and Popular Culture*. I've just returned from Jamaica, where I've discovered an old Jewish cemetery from the 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> centuries, and have made initial arrangements to have the Jamaica mini-term students work on restoring it and the one we found last year, come December. In late October I'll deliver a talk at the University of Haifa on Renaissance historiography and anti-semitism under Italian Fascism. All of this pre-supposes that I survive teaching my daughter to drive this Spring.

**Andrew Feffer:** This year I've been working on the history of film, preparing for the course on Hollywood film I'm teaching this Spring. As part of that project, I finished an article on how the Bush

administration mines Hollywood film for "visual rhetoric" (as film theorists call it) that excludes women from democratic life, while justifying aggressive and authoritarian foreign and domestic policy. The article will be published in a collection of essays due out next Spring from Duke University Press, *W Stands for Women*, edited by Lori Marso and Michael Fergusen. In the meantime, I've kept my hand in urban history by writing the entry on "gentrification" for the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of Urban History* ed. by David Goldstein (Sage Press). This summer I'm planning to finish my article on Kenneth Burke's critique of John Dewey - it's been on the back burner for the last year -- and do some additional research on a related book on American social theory and philosophy critical of the pragmatist tradition.

**Andrea Foroughi:** I'm looking forward to working with junior history major Meaghan Heisinger, who will be doing summer research with me on the American Civil War, which will supplement my new Sophomore Research Seminar in the Fall. She'll be digging through historical documents about American Indian and western women's involvement in the Civil War in particular. She'll also build on research that junior history major Mary Berkery skillfully conducted last summer on the Abenaki and Iroquois between 1675 and 1760. My summer includes a trip to Lincoln, NE to present a paper, expanding a cartography paper into a chapter for an edited collection, and doing more research on gendered representations of A. Lincoln in Civil War illustrations and cartoons - and spending time in the sun dreaming up ways to torture my senior thesis students next year! Have a great summer!

**Joyce Madancy:** I will be on sabbatical in the Fall term, but I will be on campus to supervise theses and try to get a little research done on a new project on gender and opium. Opium consumption was a highly gendered phenomenon, especially when that consumption was perceived as excessive or recreational. Addiction and pleasure-seeking were condemned in ways that revealed a great deal about social expectations for men and women, whether viewed from a Confucian perspective or through imperialist/colonialist eyes. My project seeks to examine how opium altered or reinforced

Chinese and American/European notions of Chinese femininity and masculinity from the Qing dynasty to the early years of the People's Republic. I hope to travel to libraries and archives at Cornell and Yale Universities over the summer and begin to flesh out this project.

**Mark Walker:** I will be on leave Spring and Fall terms. I am researching the history of Neanderthals and their interactions with modern humans, and will spend the Fall as a guest professor at the University of Göttingen in Germany. This Spring I was named the John Bigelow Professor of History, and thanks to all of my colleagues for the support that made this possible.

**Robert Wells:** I will start the summer sailing for two weeks on the replica of Henry Hudson's 1609 vessel, the Half Moon, as part of a Union College mini-term. Depending on the weather, we expect to sail down the Hudson, out Long Island Sound to the Connecticut River, around Long Island, and down to the Delaware River, thus covering the limits of the New Netherland colony. This course will combine history, science, and psychology, including the stress and strains of voyages in the seventeenth century. I hope the stresses of this trip will not equal some I have read about in historical accounts. I will be spending part of the summer reviewing books for the Beveridge prize, given annually by the American Historical Association for the best book in American (all the Americas) history on a subject since 1492. In September I will travel to Washington, DC to meet with the other members of the committee to decide the prize. This is my second year of three on the committee. I am pleased to be working with Mary Berkery on a summer research project involving accounts of funeral and death customs among the Indians familiar to Jesuit missionaries in the seventeenth century. This is part of my on-going interest in the history of death in America, and may well show up in my course on the topic, which I am offering this coming Fall.

## *New Courses* *Fall 2006*

**HST 107:** Africa to 1800 (Fall; Peterson). This course explores the history of Africa from the beginnings of humanity through the period of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. In it, we will examine political, social, economic and cultural changes in Africa, with particular focus on the relationships between local communities and the political elites who sought to rule them. This perspective will enable us to focus on the social dynamics of African communities and the daily activities of ordinary Africans, as well as on the political intrigues and roles of kings, chiefs, and merchants. CDAA  
MWF 10:30 am – 11:55 am

**HST 129:** History of Sports in America (Fall; Brennan). This course will survey the development and influence of sports in American society from the colonial era to the present, with particular emphasis on the interconnections between the world of sports and the social, economic, political, and cultural forces at play within American society. Course material and independent student research will require student use of traditional historical resources to analyze sport's relationship to politics, economy, gender, race, culture, and foreign policy.  
T,Th 10:55 am -12:40 pm

**HST 168:** History of Sexuality (Fall; Singy) Today sexuality is everywhere. Popular magazines tell women what to do to please men sexually, and they provide men with a map of women's erogenous zones; the media reports the sexual misconduct of presidents, sometimes implying that national security depends on matrimonial morality; and psychoanalysis claims that our true self can be discovered in the depths of our repressed sexual desires. The long and complex history behind our modern attitude towards sex is the topic of this course. We will begin with Greek and Roman sex, but we will mostly focus on the three different experiences that followed: the Christian experience of the flesh, the eighteenth-century experience of sex, and our modern psychological experience of sexuality. For each of these experiences we will look at the role of concepts like pleasure, desire, drive, the will, bodily need, sin, etc. One of the

main goals of the course is to reveal the historical complexity of what could be perceived as a purely natural phenomenon.

T,Th 10:55 am – 12:40 pm

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## *Fall 2006*

### *Course Offerings*

#### UNITED STATES

**HST 114:** The American Revolution (Fall; Wells)  
MWF 1:50 pm – 2:55 pm

**HST 126:** US History, 1974-2000 (Fall; Feffer)  
MW 3:05 pm – 4:45 pm

*new*

**HST 129:** History of Sports in America (Fall; Brennan). See new course listing for details.  
T,Th 10:55 am – 12:40 am

**HST 131:** African-American History I (Fall; Lawson). AMC, CDAA  
MW 9:15 am – 10:20 am

**HST 211:** American Indian History (Fall; Foroughi). AMC  
MW 3:05 pm – 4:45 pm

**HST 218:** Death in America (Fall; Wells)  
MWF 8:00 am – 9:05 am

**HST 331:** US History in Film (Fall; Feffer)  
MW 7:00 pm – 8:40 pm

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#### EUROPE

**HST 141:** Medieval Europe (Fall; Sargent)  
MWF 9:15 am – 10:20 am

*new*

**HST 168:** History of Sexuality (Fall; Singy)  
See new course listing for details.  
T,Th 10:55 am – 12:40 pm

**HST 261:** Tudors & Stuarts, 1450-1603 (Fall; Cramsie)

T,Th 1:55pm – 3:40 pm

**HST 340:** Spec. Topic: Ren. Pop Culture (Fall; Baum)

MWF 10:30 am – 11:55 am

**HST 362:** Black Britain (Fall; Cramsie)  
MW 3:05 pm – 4:45 pm

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#### LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES

**HST 271:** History of Mexico (Fall; Meade)  
CD-LA

T,Th 1:55 pm – 3:40 pm

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#### AFRICA

*new*

**HST 107:** Africa to 1800 (Fall; Peterson)  
CDAA. See new course listing for details.  
MWF 10:30 am – 11:55 am

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#### SPECIAL TOPICS

**HST 490-493:** Independent Study (Fall, Winter, Spring)

**HST 498-499:** Senior Project in History (Fall, Winter, Spring)