



History Newsletter

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Chair's Corner

— Mark Walker
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All senior history majors should consider applying for a grant from the **Potts Fund**. Established by Dr. Neil Kramer '70 in honor of Union College history professor, David Potts, this award supports independent research in history, generally as a part of the senior project. Awards range between \$500 and \$1,000, and may be used to travel, conduct interviews, purchase materials and support research. Students interested in obtaining funds should write a one-page application, including a half page describing the research proposal and half a page of budget stating how the funds will be utilized, and email it to me. I will consult with the thesis advisor and determine which applications can be funded and the size of the grant.

The History Department is searching for a visiting professor in Asian history, and will bring three candidates to campus for interviews. It is especially important that we get input from our majors, either by going to lunch with the candidates, or listening to their presentations. Any history major interested in participating in the job search, please contact me.

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History

Application deadline: February 15, 2011
College Sophomores and Juniors:
Gilder Lehrman History Scholars Program
Open for Applications

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History invites college sophomores and juniors with a passion for American history, and academic excellence in the field, to apply for the Gilder Lehrman History Scholars Program in New York City, which includes:

- 10 Gilder Lehrman History Scholarships to a five-week research program from Sun., June 26 to Sat., July 30, 2011.
- Up to 30 awards for One-Week Scholars to attend our program from Sat., June 18 to Sat., June 25, 2011.

History Scholars conduct primary-source research, meet with eminent scholars in American history, and explore archives and museums. One-Week Scholars will attend lectures by leading historians, discussions with professionals about careers for history majors visit select New York City archives and museums. All applicants will automatically be considered for both programs.

Application Deadline: February 15, 2011
Notification Deadline: March 16, 2011

To apply, visit:
Gilder Lehrman History Scholars
If you have questions about the History Scholars program, e-mail scholars@gilderlehrman.org.

Public History Program

Public History News

We are gearing up for the second run of the Civil Rights Public History Mini-term, a three week (full credit) tour of the sites of major Civil Rights actions in the South. The mini-term will begin in Charleston, S.C. Touring Charleston's historic sites, among them a slave mart and slave cabins, will allow us the opportunity to discuss the first three centuries of African American history and the early emergence of resistance. The next two weeks will be spent traveling to the sites of major Civil Rights actions, including Martin Luther King's birth home in Atlanta, the Pettus Bridge in Selma, AL, and the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, TN. Along the way we will hear from a number of the men and women who made the movement possible, including both major leaders and grassroots activists. We will end our tour in New Orleans, celebrating African-American culture while we consider the enormous successes and persistent limits of the heroic struggles of the Civil Rights Movement. **We will be holding information sessions in February, so keep your eye out for signs announcing the sessions. Some scholarships for this term are available; sign-ups will be in the early part of the spring term.**



Here are some testimonies from students who went on last year's trip:

The Civil Rights mini term was a life changing experience for me. As excited as I was for the trip,

nothing I could have predicted would have come close to what my classmates and I experienced. ... This was more than just a learning experience; it was a living experience: I was "living in the presence of the past." Actually going to the places I've read about and meeting people I've read about or have seen on television- it was almost mind boggling. This trip instilled a faith in me, a faith in the common people as I realized during this trip that it was the common people who gave life to the movement. – Aaron Ray, '10

This was definitely an opportunity of a life time for me. I have decided that my life's work will revolve around providing access to opportunities of upward mobility to persons from underrepresented backgrounds. I have seen the work that has been done and the struggle that lies ahead for me and my generation. Not only did this experience make me proud to be an African-American, but it also gave me hope and courage to test the waters and speak out against injustice. – Sarayfah Bolling, '11

The Civil Rights Public History mini-term opened my eyes to so many new things. The trip went above and beyond my expectations providing me with opportunities to discover new cities, listen to and interact with several influential amazing and inspirational people, and force me to step outside of my comfort zone. – Marissa Gaines, '10

Over winter break, Professor Brennan led a Public History mini term to South Africa, where students explored a number of historical and natural sites,



among them Kruger National Park, Robben Island Prison, where Nelson Mandela spent 18 of his 27 years in prison, and Soweto Township. The South African Public History mini term will be offered again over Winter Break, 2012.

Professor Teresa Meade coordinates The Minerva Course: “Oil: A World in Short Supply” IDM 107

(Spring term, 7:00-8:45 PM, Mon. and Wed., Olin Auditorium 115)

This spring term I will be coordinating the interdisciplinary Minerva Course on the topic “Oil”. The course will cover the varied facets of petroleum exploration, production, and consumption from an interdisciplinary perspective, drawing on the expertise of many faculty members and guest speakers. The course is open to all students at Union College and has no prerequisites.

Past years this course has focused on food, the elections, globalization and other topics. I decided to focus on oil because, like everyone, I know that the projected exhaustion of all fossil fuel reserves will affect all of us, but especially my children, my students here at Union College, and, definitely, future generations. **I was especially struck by an interview with a physics professor and the Provost of the California Institute of Technology who remarked that one of his graduate students (a man in his early 20s) asked him if his grandchildren would ever ride in an airplane? The Cal Tech physicist replied, “I don’t think so.” When I heard that, I sat up and took notice! This was not the wild projection of a doomsayer, it was the Provost of Cal Tech, one of the most prestigious science universities in the world!**

The phenomenon, referred to as “peak oil” has already begun, according to many experts. **This means that we have reached, or will in a year or two, the maximum rate of global petroleum extraction and are now entering a terminal decline. Some policymakers and scientists do not agree that the situation is so dire, but that is something we need to find out, and it is why I have organized this course.** Moreover, as a historian, I know that we never say “never”, so I’m looking at the options.

Taught by a range of faculty, from engineering, geology, history, political science, economics, and environmental studies, the class will present students with a different aspect of petroleum each week. Topics include American history and the automobile, the environmental and economic costs and hazards of petroleum extraction, our historical dependence on single commodities as the cause of empire-building and wars, the politics of creating a sustainable source of fuel, among others.

Although the class will enroll at least 60 students (and possibly more depending on the demand), and several professors will take part, I will coordinate the course, determine the requirements, and evaluate the work. In addition **the course will feature five prominent guest speakers. All guest speakers, as well as any films or other activities, will present during the regular class time of 7:00-8:45 Monday and Wednesday evenings.**

The following list of Minerva Series Guest Speakers, provides a link to their websites for more information, and gives the topic of each talk. The speaker series is open to the entire campus community and the public. **In addition, each speaker will be hosted at a Minerva House for dinner with students and other invited guests before the talk.** If you have any questions about the class, please contact me at meadet@union.edu or my student assistant, Erin Delman delmane@garnet.union.edu. Yiran Zhang zhangy@garnet.union.edu will post and monitor a website devoted to the course and has already formed a Facebook group.

**Minerva Course Speaker Series,
Spring 2011**

7:00-8:45 PM

(Locations vary, see below)

April 11:

Robin Blackburn, Professor of Sociology at Essex University, UK and Distinguished Visiting Professor of Historical Studies at The New School, NYC. ([Olin Auditorium 115](#))

Title: "Sweet Power: Global Powers and the Premium Commodity from Sugar to Oil"
<http://www.robinblackburn.org>

May 4:

Riki Ott, PhD, Marine Toxicologist with a specialty in oil pollution. (Nott Memorial)

Title: "Exxon Valdez to Gulf Disaster: Changing the Endgame" <http://www.rikiott.com>

May 11:

Michael Klare, Five Colleges Professor of Peace and World Security Studies, Hampshire College. (Olin Auditorium 115)

Title: "The Perils of Extreme Oil: Extractive Strategies in the Twilight Era of Petroleum"
<http://pawss.hampshire.edu/klare/biography.html>

May 16

Tariq Ali, Writer, filmmaker, political analyst and historian, London, UK. (Nott Memorial)

Title: "The Oil Wars and World Politics"
<http://tariqali.org>

May 25:

Mia Birk, Portland State University, Adviser to the Post Carbon Institute, and Former Transportation Program Manager, International Institute for Energy Conservation, Washington, D.C. (Nott Memorial)

Requirements for the Major:

Twelve courses including a five-course core; at least one course on the period before 1700; at least one course each in US and European history; at least one course from the following areas: Africa/Middle East, Asia, Latin America; two-300 level courses, a seminar, and a two-term senior project.

Students will choose a five-course core in Africa/Middle East, Asia, Europe, Latin America, or US, or in a thematic concentration. Examples of thematic concentrations include "Africana,"

"Women and Gender," "Revolution," "Empires," etc. In close cooperation with their advisors, history majors will select the courses for a thematic concentration and submit their proposal to the Department Chair for *written* approval no later than the start of Winter Term of the Junior year.

Students may also choose a five course Public History core, consisting of HST 224; a department-approved Public History internship; HST 265, HST 331, or an approved Public History miniterm; and two other relevant history courses chosen in cooperation with Professor Lawson.

Seminars are normally limited to 15 students and are designed to teach research skills. The 300-level courses are specifically designed for history majors and include bibliographical and historiographical components. Seminars and 300-level courses may be used to meet the core requirements.

Senior projects normally must pertain to a topic in the core, but cannot count toward courses in the core. Students must complete a seminar before beginning the thesis. Classics 121 and 125 may be counted toward the history major, but not toward a core.

Requirements for the Interdepartmental Major: Eight courses, including the core requirement or thematic concentration for majors, the seminar, one 300-level course, and the senior thesis. Students must complete a seminar before beginning the thesis. Interdepartmental majors may count one term of the senior thesis toward the field requirements.

Requirements for the Minor: Six history courses, including at least one 300-level course; at least three of the six must belong to one of the following core areas: Africa/Middle East, Asia, Europe, Latin America, or US.

Requirements for the Public History Minor: Seven courses, including at least one 300-level course; HST 224; a department-approved Public History internship; HST 265, HST 331, or an approved Public History miniterm; and either an additional course drawn from the previous list or one course drawn from the following: Art History 101,102 or 103, 250T, 260, 263,294,390; Anthropology 111, 115, 188; Studio Fine Arts 262, Computer Science 055; Modern Language in Translation 263, Political Science 247, 260.

For information about approved public history internships, contact Professor Lawson at X8041 or lawsonm@union.edu.



Phi Alpha Theta

The Union College chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honor society, will induct new members in May 2011. History majors and minors who become members of Phi Alpha Theta have completed at least six courses in history with a grade point average of 3.3 or higher (which also applies to the overall GPA). Those who meet these requirements will receive a letter in April inviting them to join Phi Alpha Theta. If you have questions about the honor society, please contact Professor Brennan brennand@union.edu.

Faculty News

Angela Ellis: In August, I received my PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a dissertation titled “Life on the Margins: Early Modern Catholics Negotiating Gender, National Identity, and Religious Loyalties in the Southern Anglo-Welsh Borderlands.” In October, I presented a paper titled “Popery along the Southern Anglo-Welsh Border: John Broughton as Catholic Priest and Crown Official during the Personal Rule” at the 2010 Sixteenth Century Society and Conference held in Montreal.

Teresa Meade: I traveled to Berkeley, California over the winter break to conduct interviews with members of the East Bay Sanctuary Movement, as a part of a new book project I am beginning. The book examines the North Americans who became involved in political movements to support liberation and human rights’ movements in Latin America from the 1960s to the present. Many US cities provided asylum, or “sanctuary”, to refugees from Latin America,

especially Central America, during the 1970 and 80s. The first sanctuaries were in San Francisco and Berkeley, thus people involved in the movement in those locales are important subjects of my book. I had a fascinating several day long interview with a 90 year old woman in Berkeley who was herself a refugee from Poland in 1940. Throughout her life in the US she has been active in working for asylum for refugees from all over the world, including Latin America and Africa. As for teaching, I’m looking forward to teaching the junior seminar in the Spring term and coordinating a course on “Oil: A World in Short Supply”, which is pretty timely given events in Egypt and the Middle East as I write! (See the description in another part of this newsletter).

Andrew Morris: I'm looking forward to teaching my "Disasters in American History" seminar this term, as it dovetails nicely with my new book project on the history of disaster relief in the mid-to-late twentieth century. I had a productive research trip to Mississippi over winter break to pursue research on this topic, on the aftermath of Hurricane Camille in 1969, and I'm looking forward to continuing this research this summer. I've also been commissioned to write a chapter for the forthcoming *A Companion to the Presidency of Dwight D. Eisenhower*, to be published by Wiley-Blackwell; my chapter will focus on “Eisenhower and Social Welfare.” In April, I’ll be presenting a paper at the Economic History Society’s conference in Cambridge, England, drawing material from my first book, *The Limits of Voluntarism*, to talk about some of the implications of the British Conservative Party’s “Big Society” program. I was also gratified to receive, in November, the Virginia Hodgkinson Book Prize for that book, from the Association for Research in Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA).

Mark Walker: I just published an edited collection of essays with a German colleague on “*Fremde*” *Wissenschaftler im Dritten Reich. Die Debye-Affäre im Kontext* ["Foreign" Scientists in the Third Reich: The Debye Affair in Context]. This book examines foreign nationals who stayed in Germany, Jewish scientists who did not leave, or did not leave right away, and researchers who

worked for the German occupiers in their home countries during the war.

Robert Wells: This spring I will be teaching my courses on the American Revolution and American Folk Songs and American History. I will be on sabbatical leave next year so these courses will not be offered again until 2012-2013. I will not teach the American Revolution again but Ken Aslakson will be picking it up sometime in the future.

In April I will be going to North Carolina State University to participate in a conference on "Dying, Mourning, and Memory in the American South." I will be commenting on a set of three papers.

Petition Courses for Spring 2011

HST 302: Comparing Muslim Cultures
HST 353: Modern European Ideas
HST 362: Black Britain
HST 431: Sem: Disasters in American History
HST 471: Sem: Individual in Latin America

New Courses Spring 2011

HST 226: A Novel View of US History (Spring; Brennan). This course will examine the broad scope of American history from colonial times to the present as it has been revealed in American literature and novels. Employing principally primary source literature, the course will introduce students not only to American history but to an understanding of important events and developments as comprehended by those who experienced those events or who were contemporary interpreters of those events. Supplemented by lectures on the facts of historical events, primary source works will be used to re-introduce personality and complexity to the historical context in order to stimulate student understanding of the American experience. Students will be encouraged to analyze and examine the variety of outlooks that propel history, while also learning an appreciation for the value and

potential of personal scrutiny, insight, and perspective. Primarily driven by readings and discussion, lectures will be used to supplement and place the readings in historical context; however, the focus will be on reading, analysis, comprehension, and communication.

MWF 8:00 am – 9:05 am

HST 147: Revolutionary History (Spring Berk). This course will survey major themes in modern European history, including: the Enlightenment and the Industrial Revolution; the French Revolution; the Russian Revolution and Soviet Communism; and the National Socialist Revolution, World War II, and the Holocaust.

MWF 9:15 am – 10:20 am

HST 152: The Great War (Spring; Berk). This course will cover World War I, at the time called the "Great War," beginning before 1914 with the run-up to war and ending after the war, including the postwar settlement, the early period of the Russian Revolution, and the origins of fascism in Italy and Germany. This is an international history, including the conflict on the western and eastern fronts as well as conditions on the home fronts of the various countries. The course lectures and readings will be accompanied by several films.

MWF 1:50 pm – 2:55 pm

IDM 107: "Oil: A World in Short Supply" (Spring; Meade). This course will cover the many varied facets of petroleum exploration, production, and consumption from an interdisciplinary perspective. Taught by a range of faculty, including experts in engineering, art, geology, history, literature, political science, economics and music, the class will present students with a different aspect of petroleum each week. Topics will range from our love affair with the automobile to dependency on the gasoline engine, from the environmental cost of petroleum extraction to the politics of creating a sustainable source of fuel, from the effects of historical dependence on single commodities as the cause of empire-building and wars, to the search for sustainable transportation systems today. One professor will coordinate the course, determine the requirements, and evaluate the work; however, guest professors and guest lecturers will provide content each week. Because

the course meets in the evening, all guest lectures, films, or other activities will take place during the class time.

MW 7:00 pm – 8:45 pm

Spring 2011 Course Offerings

AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN

HST 302: Comparing Muslim Cultures

(Spring; Peterson)

T,Th 1:55 pm – 3:40 pm

EUROPE

HST 145: Early Modern Europe (Spring; Ellis).

T,Th 9:00 am – 10:45 am

new

HST 147: Revolutionary History (Spring; Berk). See new course listing for details.

MWF 9:15 am – 10:20 am

new

HST 152: The Great War (Spring; Berk).

See new course listing for details.

MWF 1:50 pm – 2:55 pm

HST 158: The Holocaust (Spring; Berk)

MWF 11:45 am – 12:50 pm

HST 241: Mystics, Magic & Witchcraft

(Spring; Sargent).

T,Th 1:55 pm – 3:40 pm

HST 353: Modern European Ideas (Spring; Walker).

T,Th 10:55 am – 12:40 pm

HST 362: Black Britain (Spring; Cramsie)

MW 3:05 pm – 4:45 pm

LATIN AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN HISTORY

HST 471: Sem: Individual in Latin America (Spring; Meade).

MW 3:05 pm – 4:45 pm

UNITED STATES

HST 114: American Revolution (Spring; Wells).

T,Th 1:55 pm – 3:40 pm

HST 126: Since Yesterday (Spring; Feffer).

T,Th 10:55 am – 12:40 pm

HST 212: Women in Colonial I& Victorian America (Spring; Foroughi).

T,Th 9:00 am – 10:45 am

HST 217: American Folk Music (Spring; Wells).

T,Th 9:00 am – 10:45 am

HST 222: Other Voices (Spring; Feffer).

T,Th 1:55 pm – 3:40 pm

new

HST 226: A Novel View of US History (Spring; Brennan). See new course listing for details

MWF 8:00 am – 9:05 am

HST 413: Sem: Disasters in American History (Spring; Morris).

T,Th 10:55 am – 12:40 pm

SPECIAL TOPICS

new

IDM 107: Oil (Spring; Meade). See new course listing for details.

MW 7:00 pm – 8:45 pm

HST 193: Science, Medicine & Technology
(Spring; Richmond).
T,Th 9:00 am – 10:45 am

**HST 203/REL 203: Judaism, Christianity,
Islam** (Spring; Bedford).
MWF 10:30 am – 11:35 am

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

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

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