Senior Research Seminars
Spring 2017

AMH 4930 African American and Latina/o Histories
Instr.: Dr. Paul Ortiz

In this research seminar we will undertake a comparative study of African American and Latina/o histories, cultures, and politics. Major themes include slavery, colonialism, revolutions, social movements and racial formation in the modern era. Special emphasis will be placed on overlapping as well as distinctive histories and struggles for citizenship and human rights from the Mexican War of Independence to the present. Course will include analyses of African American and Latina/o oral traditions, literature, music and expressive cultures.

AMH4930 Civil War Memory
Instr.: Dr. Sean Adams

The American Civil War lasted four years, claimed the lives of over 700,000 soldiers, ended racial slavery, and changed the course of the American nation. The ways in which diverse groups of Americans—northern and southern, white and black, men and women—remembered the conflict provokes nearly as much controversy as the Civil War itself. This seminar will explore the ways in which various memorials, battlefield parks, commemorations, and reenactments all look back at the Civil War, while injecting contemporary political, cultural, and racial conflicts into those memories.

EUH4930 Modern Anti-Semitism
Instr.: Dr. Mitchell Hart

This seminar will explore the history of anti-Jewish discourse from antiquity into the modern period. We will begin with the ancient Greeks and Romans, then focus on the importance of the rise of Christianity, move to medieval Europe, and then look at modern Europe and North America. We will read primary and secondary sources.

EUH4930 Biography as Cultural History
Instr.: Dr. Sheryll Kroen

Recently biography has enjoyed a renaissance, but it is not the biography of the old days. Subjects are often unknown men and women; stylistically biographies take many forms, from a straight monograph to a memoir, journal, or a novel. In this seminar we will read many examples of such new-fangled biographies, discuss together the methodological opportunities and consequences of this renewed genre, and then students will pursue their own research using biography of one form or another.

LAH4930 Conflict and Rebellion in Mexico
Instr.: Dr. Ida Altman

Mexico is a diverse country with a history that has been marked by episodes of conflict and violence since Europeans first arrived there in 1519. Conquest, indigenous rebellions, and revolts of African-descended peoples marked the colonial period, and wars for independence, conflict with the French and the United States, and struggles between conservatives and liberals helped define Mexico as a nation in the nineteenth century. The legacy of the Mexican Revolution in the early twentieth century continues to challenge and define Mexico to the present day although it did not put an end to conflict and protest. During the semester we will study key episodes of conflict in Mexican history. Students will research and write a paper focusing on a specific historical event or topic relating to this theme using primary source records.