What is history? What is the difference between popular history and professional history? What skills and resources do historians need to do their work? This class is intended to introduce students to the basic goals of historical study and to the fundamental skills necessary for historical research, analysis, and writing. Work over the semester will be divided into two parts. Half of the class hours will focus on a specific historical theme. During the remaining course hours you will develop the practical skills necessary for succeeding in other history classes, completing the major, and conducting historical research.

HIS3942 The French Revolution  
MWF 6, FLI 119  
Instr.: Dr. Sheryl Kroen  
From the moment it began in 1789, the French Revolution has defined the way we think about history and historiography. In this course we will read several competing interpretations of the Revolution across the centuries (Thomas Paine, Mary Wollstonecraft, Edmond Burke, Hegel, de Tocqueville, Karl Marx). We will analyze lots of primary sources: laws, pamphlets, images, symbols, festivals, the centennial and bicentennial commemorations of the original event; we will discuss the different angles from which professional historians have considered the French Revolution: as an ideological founding event, and a culmination of the Enlightenment; as a political event marking the birth of modern political culture and the modern nation; as a struggle against patriarchy; as the first stage of a socialist revolution. Following the most recent wave of historiography, we'll also consider what happens when we re-situate the French Revolution inside an Atlantic, or global frame.

HIS3942 The Colonial Era in Africa  
T 8-9 R 9, FLI 111  
Instr.: Dr. Susan O’Brien  
This class examines the colonial era in Africa (~1870-1960), a period of dynamic change and conflict on the continent. We will explore the political and economic dimensions of European over-rule, but focus especially on transformations in religion; popular culture (including fashion, music, film, and sports); and gender relations and roles.

HIS3942 Brown v. Mississippi: A Case Study  
MWF 3, FLI 105  
Instr.: Dr. Elizabeth Dale  
In 1936, the Supreme Court of the United States decided Brown v. Mississippi, a case that declared that law enforcement officers violated the Fourteenth Amendment to the US Constitution when they used torture to extort confessions from criminal suspects. This practicum uses the history of that case to introduce students to historical research and analysis.