

**Fall 2023 Courses****AMHI 672 The Lives of the Enslaved with Daina Ramey Berry | University of California, Santa Barbara**

This course is a study of enslaved people. It is a course about the ways human beings coped with captivity. It is also a course that listens to their voices through audio files, diaries, letters, actions, and silences. Centering the people of slavery rather than viewing them as objects shifts the focus to their commentary on slavery. In addition to listening to enslaved people, students will have the opportunity to engage with some of the most cutting-edge scholarship on the subject. Although the early literature objectified enslaved people and hardly paid attention to their experiences, work published since the Civil Rights Movement and into the twenty-first century offers rich accounts of enslaved life. By approaching the institution of slavery in the United States from the enslaved perspective through firsthand accounts of their experiences, students will have the opportunity to engage a variety of sources including narratives, plantation records, podcasts, short films, and other media. Some of the specific themes addressed include gender, sexuality, region, labor, resistance, pleasure, love, family, and community among the enslaved.

**AMHI 606 Warfare in North America: 1624–1812 with Timothy Shannon | Gettysburg College**

One of the most enduring symbols of early American history is the colonial militiaman, who supposedly used his experience fighting Indians to defeat British redcoats and win independence. Historians have challenged that popular image by presenting a much more complex narrative about the clash between Native and colonial peoples in early America. In this course, we will explore the evolution of warfare in North America from the earliest contacts between Native Americans and Europeans through the early nineteenth century. Our focus will be on the cultural values and gender roles that shaped armed violence in various forms, including Indian wars, rebellions, and international conflicts. We will trace the development of an American way of war that influenced the formation of national identity and left important legacies for modern Americans.

**AMHI 619 The American Enlightenment: Intellectual History to 1787 with Caroline Winterer | Stanford University**

The Enlightenment is often associated with Europe, but in this course, we will explore how the specific conditions of eighteenth-century North America—slavery, the presence of large numbers of indigenous peoples, a colonial political context, and even local animals, rocks, and plants—also shaped the major questions and conversations of the time. We will examine how Enlightenment ideas directly influenced the American Revolution's commitment to liberty, natural rights, separation of powers, and the pursuit of happiness—and how those ideas crept into almost every other area of American life as well.

### **AMHI 668 LGBTQ+ History of the US with Professor Stephen Vider | Cornell University**

This course traces the history of LGBTQ+ identities, relationships, communities, and politics in the United States from the late eighteenth century to the present, with a primary focus on the twentieth century. We will consider, in particular, the changing meanings and terminologies of sexual and gender variance; shifting forms of queer and trans romantic relationships, home, and family; the emergence and policing of queer and trans communities, as shaped especially by class and race; and the evolution of LGBTQ+ activism and its intersections with broader movements for social and economic justice. The course will consider more broadly how bringing a queer and trans lens to US social and political history shifts our attention to everyday intimate life as a site of oppression and resistance. Students will read and analyze a range of historical scholarship, as well as primary texts in the history of gender and sexuality including memoirs and letters, periodicals, photographs, and political manifestos.

### **AMHI 680 American Immigration History with Madeline Hsu | University of Texas at Austin**

Widely considered a wellspring for US greatness, immigration has also been an abiding site of our deepest conflicts. The republican foundations of the United States with its promises of democracy and equality for all seem to strain against high numbers of immigrants from parts of the world barely conceived of by the Founding Fathers, much less as sources of new citizens. What is the breaking point for the assimilating powers of US democracy, and how much does national vitality rely upon continued influxes of a diversity of immigrants with their strenuous ambitions and resourcefulness? Today we remain embattled by competing beliefs about how immigration shapes our nation's well-being and to what ends we should constrain whom we admit, whom we exclude, and who can become citizens and in what numbers. This course guides students to better understand the terms by which immigration functions as a core aspect of US national identity and its contested history into our present quandaries.

### **AMHI 662 The Kennedy Era with Barbara Perry | University of Virginia**

This course examines John F. Kennedy's biography, career, rhetoric, and policies, and uses political symbols and the media to contextualize the Cold War, the Bay of Pigs, the Cuban Missile Crisis, Vietnam, the Peace Corps, civil rights, the space race, and the arts, to gain both knowledge of and perspective on the 35th president and his family's legacy as carried on by Robert and Edward Kennedy. Followed by Lyndon Johnson's Great Society and Richard Nixon's Southern Strategy, the fraught era concluded with the unprecedented resignation of a US president, which continues to resonate in today's polarized politics.

**AMHI 698 Historiography and Historical Methods with Professor Andrew Robertson | Lehman College and CUNY Graduate Center (Required Course)**

Historiography is the study of historical writing. Students enrolled in this course will journey through American history guided by Professor Andrew Robertson and seven other professors (Zara Anishanslin, University of Delaware; Ned Blackhawk, Yale University; Kristopher Burrell, Hostos Community College; Sarah King, SUNY Geneseo; Lauren Santangelo, Princeton University; Nora Slonimsky, Iona College and the Institute for Thomas Paine Studies; and Wendy Wall, Binghamton University). Students will read and discuss historical interpretations of the American past as they have changed over time in specific chronological periods: colonial/Revolutionary history, the early nineteenth century to Reconstruction, the Gilded Age to the Cold War, and the 1960s to the present. This course will also present lectures on the evolving historiographies of African American history, Native American history, and women's history by scholars specializing in those fields. The historical methods portion of the course will teach students to interrogate primary sources and to read secondary sources with a critical eye.

**AMHI 699 Capstone in American History (Required Course)**

The course is the capstone seminar for students completing their MA in American History and its sole focus is the production of either a substantial original research paper or of a capstone project of comparable significance as determined by the MA program director and faculty.

***The views expressed in the course descriptions and lectures are those of the lead scholars.***