**HISTORY DEPARTMENT ADVISEMENT NEWSLETTER**

**Fall 2015**

**Members of the History Club travelled together with professors Roland Clark and Dominic DeBrincat to attend the fall 2014 conference of the New England Historical Association at Franklin Pierce University in New Hampshire**

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**Fall 2015 Courses for Majors:**

HIS 241 The American Frontier - Balcerski  
HIS 275 Intro to East Asian History - Davis  
HIS 302 Colonial America - Tucker  
HIS 321 African American History to 1877 - Balcerski  
HIS 362 The Crusades - Ostwald  
HIS 362 Britain at War 1930-1945 - Higginbotham  
HIS 365 Lived Religion in Russia and Eastern Europe - Clark  
HIS 373 Mao's China - Davis  
HIS 378 Early Northern Europe - Frye  
HIS 384 Immigration & Am. Society since 1924 - Kirchmann  
HIS 400 Americans and Terrorism History - Carenen  
HIS 407 Latin America through Travelers' Eyes - Meznar

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**Advisement Starts March 2nd (Seniors), March 9th (Juniors), March 23rd (Sophomores), and April 6th (Freshmen):** Be sure to make an appointment with your advisor before your registration date. The department does not provide advisement codes by e-mail and the office staff will not give out advisement codes; so you need to see your advisor.

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**History Department Website:**  
[http://www1.easternct.edu/history/](http://www1.easternct.edu/history/)  
The “History” blog contains information on all the recent departmental developments and student achievements.

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**Register on-time!:** We cannot guarantee seats in classes for students who register late. If you have holds on your account, check with the Bursar’s office about getting a temporary pass so that you can register.

**Registration Start Dates:**

- Seniors-March 9: 90.00 and higher
- Juniors-March 23: 60.00-89.99
- Sophomore-March 30: 30.00-59.99
- Freshmen-April 13: 0.00-29.99

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**FAQ: Which history major is best for me?**

There is no requirement that you choose any particular history major for any of your career choices. However, if you plan on getting a teaching certification in secondary education, you should probably consider History and Social Science major.

If you plan on getting into Early Childhood or Elementary education, a History or History/American Studies major would serve you best.

If you plan to use your history degree as a springboard for graduate school or as a foundation of career in any area, a History or History/American Studies major would make the best choice.

Transfer students may want to discuss an appropriate choice of major with their advisors.

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**Summer Session 2015**

HIS 116 Intro to Modern World History-Davis  
HIS 230 Western Civ Before 1500-Frye  
HIS 253 U.S. Environmental History-Eves

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Please note that in order to register for a seminar, you need to have successfully completed HIS 200 and have 18 credits in history, including at least three courses on the 3xx level or higher.

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**History Club:** The History Club is an active, student-led society interested in anything and everything to do with History. It meets every Thursday at 6:00 pm in Student Center #107. Come and join the fun! For details, contact historyclub@my.easternct.edu
**Fall 2015 Seminars**

**HIS 400 Americans & Terrorism History- Carenen**
Were there Patriots -terrorists? The British thought so. The word “terrorism” is powerful term that invokes different meanings depending on the audience and time period. Since 9/11 the “War on Terrorism” has invoked yet another understanding of the term. But historians need to be cautious about how we think and write and speak about terrorism. This seminar will offer a historical perspective on the term and how its meanings have changed over the course of American history. This seminar will examine case studies of terrorism in America from the Revolutionary War to 9/11 as we learn about the context of terrorism, its evolving definitions, motivations, and consequences to domestic and foreign policy. The course will culminate in an original research paper that addresses some aspect of the history of terrorism in the United States.

**HIS 407 Latin America through Travelers’ Eyes- Meznar**
From the earliest days of European presence in the Caribbean, travelers have written about their experiences in the New World. Their accounts provide invaluable material for students of history in that they illuminate facets of Latin American society otherwise hidden from outsiders. They also reveal European and North American culture and values, giving insight into why outsiders became interested in the region and how they responded to what they encountered. In this research-intensive seminar students may choose to focus on particular Latin American nations, particular time periods, particular topics, or particular individuals, yet all will use travel accounts as important sources for their final papers.

**NEW COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**HIS 362 The Crusades**
God wills it! This course examines the phenomenon of the European Crusades: from their origins in the 10th century, through the Frankish conquest of the Holy Land, to the collapse of Crusader States in the 13th century and beyond. We will examine the causes, conduct and consequences of these wars, and explore the experience of conflict and coexistence between Christians, Muslims, Jews, and heretics. We will also trace the legacy that the Crusades left well into the early modern period.

**HIS 365 Lived Religion in Russia and Eastern Europe**
Through a detailed examination of primary sources, this course explores the religious beliefs and practices of peasants, workers, monks, and rabbis from the Balkans to the Ural Mountains over the past two hundred years. In the process we will grapple with a range of theoretical questions of interest to scholars of religion, including how broad structural changes to societies in the region altered lived religion, how orthodoxy was reinforced and challenged, what role religion played in forging group identities, and how people related to the divine through a range of different religious traditions.

**Spring 2016 SEMINARS:**
**HIS 400: American History-Kirchmann**
**HIS 406: European History-Frye**

**American Studies**

The History major with a concentration in American Studies provides options to diversify the study of American society and culture by choosing a variety of courses in U.S. history, literature, art, political science, sociology, and other disciplines that study the United States in its broadest aspects. Please see the History Department website for the requirements, a list of electives, and other information about American Studies.

**HIS 251: Intro to American Society** is a required course for History/American Studies majors. Any history major can also use HIS 251 for their American History elective.

**Department News**

- If you are interested in an internship, please check out the information on the History Department website and see Dr. Carenen or Dr. Kirchmann (Windham Textile and History Museum only) for more details.
- Ms. Ann Cheverie, a long-time administrative assistant in the Department of History is retiring on April 1, 2015.
- Dr. Thomas Balcerski will be joining the Department of History in the Fall semester 2015. Dr. Balcerski received his Ph.D. from Cornell University and will teach courses on early American history and African American history.
- On Monday, March 9, 3-4 pm, the Department of History will host Jody Bahkenship, the Executive Director of the Connecticut Historical Society as the next speaker in the “Careers in History” series. Mr. Blankeship will speak on the role of public history, jobs and internships in the field and his vision for the future. The event is free and refreshments will be provided.
- On March 27, three history students (Ryan Blejewski, Sobreena Croteau, and Margaret Kurnyk) and three faculty members (Dr. Clark, Dr. DeBrincat, and Dr. Kirchman) will present their research at “Making History: CSU Conference,” the first joint conference of the four CSU history departments. The conference will be held at Southern Connecticut State University.

**Congratulations History Majors!**

- History major Melissa Zablonski’s research paper on the Revolutionary War pensions for widows (faculty mentor Dr. Barbara Tucker) has been accepted to the program of the conference organized annually by the International Journal of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University, and to the program of the New England Historical Association.
- History major Ryan Blejewski’ research paper titled “A Massacre in Jedwabne: A Psycho-Historical Perspective in Trying to Understand the Events of July 10, 1941” (faculty mentor Dr. Roland Clark) has been accepted to the program of the British Council for Undergraduate Research Conference, as well as to the program of the National Conference for Undergraduate Research.
- History major Kelsey Tuller’s research paper “From Mystery to Methodism: Untangling Legends of a Cult in Connecticut” (Faculty mentor Dr. Barbara Tucker) has been accepted to the program of the National Conference for Undergraduate Research.