Baruch History Department

Fall 2021 Catalog

- Studying and teaching about the past. Helping our students prepare for the future.
- Offering a diverse set of upper-level classes that range from the history of ancient Egypt to digital history.
- Delivering classes from an award-winning faculty with a focus on developing analytical skills and critical thinking.

Want to know more about studying history at Baruch? Considering becoming a history major or minor? Want to receive news of events in the department?

- View our website: www.baruch.cuny.edu/wsas/academics/history/index.htm
- Follow us on Twitter: @HistoryBaruch
- Follow us on Facebook: @BaruchHistoryDepartment

Studying history in historic times – a note on COVID 19 and a return to in-person instruction

Our department’s ability to return to in-person instruction, like all classes at Baruch, is in flux and will likely change as the Fall 2021 semester approaches. For now, here is how to interpret course descriptions and our planned method of instruction.

**Online, asynchronous:** This class will definitely meet online and be delivered in an asynchronous format and schedule.

**Online, synchronous:** This class will definitely meet online, but all or parts of it will be delivered in a synchronous format.

**In-person:** This class, or at least some elements of this class, are planned to feature in-person instruction. Instructors may likely offer the class or parts of the class in an online or hybrid format as needed with changes in COVID 19 and public health guidelines.

No matter what, the History Department is committed to creating an environment where students are actively learning, but also confident of their safety. For questions about how your class will meet and learn, we recommend contacting the instructor for more details.
HIS 3012 – The Ancient World: Rome

3 hours; 3 credits - This course will survey the history of Rome from its beginnings to the fourth century CE. It will consider the political, economic, religious, social, and cultural developments of the Romans in the context of Rome's growth from a small settlement in central Italy to the dominant power in the Mediterranean world. Special attention will be given to such topics as urbanism, imperialism, the development of Roman law, and the influence of Greek culture. The course will introduce different types of sources: literary, epigraphically, archaeological, etc. and students will learn how to use them as historical documents.

Online asynchronous

Class number: 29831 
Section: NETA

Instructor: Elizabeth Warkentin

Prerequisites: One 1000-level history course

HIS 3071 – History of Colonial Latin America

3 hours; 3 credits - This course examines Latin America during the Colonial Era between 1400 and 1830 when American, African, and European societies collided in the Western Hemisphere. The course investigates the creation of complex civilizations in Mexico and the Andes. We examine how and why growing Iberian empires were able to conquer these civilizations and establish new colonial governments. We look at the rise of an Atlantic economy and the different labor systems that were drawn into this complex system. We look at how everyday colonial subjects negotiated their place in empire. Finally, we examine how these colonial subjects successfully established new, ethnically diverse independent nation states and how legacies of colonialism continued to structure Latin American life.

In person

Class number: 49303 
Section: BTRA

Days & Times: TuTh 9:05am-10:20am

Instructor: Mark Rice

Perquisites: ENG 2150 and one 1000-level history course; or instructor permission

The first meeting in 1532 of Francisco Pizarro and Inca leader Atahualpa. Ink drawing by Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala, circa 1600

HIS 3086 - The Modern Middle East and North Africa

3 hours; 3 credits - A study of the region in the 20th century, this course will focus on the creation of and conflict between nation-states, especially between Israel and the Arab countries. This course is cross-listed as POL 3086. Credit cannot be received for both HIS 3086 and POL 3086.

Online synchronous

Class number: 34174 
Section: BRA

Days & Times: Th 9:05am-10:20am

Prerequisites: One 1000-level history course
HIS 3100 - Jesus - A Historical and Critical Approach

3 hours; 3 credits - This course tries to find out what it is possible to know of the life of Jesus and of his time and place. It considers the nature of the New Testament documents and of the communities and individuals that produced them. It looks at the varying interpretations of Jesus in the first few centuries after his death and at twentieth-century historical interpretations. Same as Religion 3100. Credit cannot be received for both HIS 3100 and REL 3100.

In Person

Class Number: 29833 Section: CMWA
Days & Times: 10:45am-12:00pm Instructor: Randolph Trumbach
Prerequisites: One 1000-level History Course, or instructor permission

Arrest of Launay at Bastile by an unknown artist. Circa 1789-91

HIS 3360 – Topics in European History – Seeking a Democratic Republic

3 hours; 3 credits - The English, American and French Revolutions continue to impact aspirations for political freedom today. Citizens sought freedom from autocratic authority, the opportunity to participate in governance, and other touchstones of liberty. We will explore the historical context of these three impactful revolutions, the ideas that inspired them, and the events and circumstances leading up to, during, and in the aftermath of the revolutions. Their divergent outcomes also will preoccupy us.

In Person

Class Number: 29834 Section: PTRA
Days & Times: TuTh 5:50pm-7:05pm Instructor: Deborah B. Charnoff
Prerequisites: One 1000-level History course, or instructor permission.
HIS 3456 – American Intellectual History – Police, Prisons, & Repression

3 hours; 3 credits - This class explores the rise and role of prisons, police and repression and their concentrated expansion during Slavery, Reconstruction, the Second Industrial Revolution, WWI, the Cold War and after the Sixties.

In Person

Class Number: 29852  Section: FMWA
Days & Times: MoWe, 4:10pm-5:25pm  Instructor: Johanna Fernández
Perquisites: One 1000-level history course, or instructor permission

Learning from teachers who are active researchers matters.

In the past five years alone, the Baruch History faculty have published:

- 10 books
- 3 edited volumes
- 24 journal articles
- 29 book chapters

HIS 3842 - The Making of Modern India

3 hours; 3 credits - This course is designed to explore the dynamics of British colonialism and the making of the contemporary Indian nation-state (from the seventeenth to the twentieth century). It will examine the role of the entrepreneurs of the English East India Company in pioneering the building of an empire and the numerous strategies and institutions that sustained British power in the subcontinent for more than two centuries. The profound transformations of the economy and society and the forms of collaboration and resistance generated by the British Raj will be charted along with the formation of Hindu and Muslim political identities and the eventual emergence of India as a modern democracy and Pakistan as an Islamic dictatorship. The readings for this course will include original sources and interpretive writings by Indian and Western scholars, novels, and films. This course is cross listed as AAS and POL 3842. Students may receive credit for only one of these courses.

Online asynchronous

Class Number: 50180  Section: NETA
Instructor: Hill Krishnan
Prerequisite: One 1000-level History Course, or instructor permission
HIS 3854 - China in Revolution

3 hours; 3 credits - This course examines the tumultuous history of China from 1800 to the present. Topics covered include the decline of the Qing dynasty, the impact of Western imperialism, the rise of Chinese nationalism, changing cultural forms, the republican and communist revolutions, and the Mao and post-Mao eras. The course also explores the way the Chinese Communist Party uses this history to legitimize its rule. This course is cross-listed as AAS 3854. Students will receive credit for HIS 3854 or AAS 3854, not both. These courses may not substitute for each other in the F-replacement policy.

In person

Class Number: 29853  
Section: PTRA

Days & Times: TuTh 5:50pm-7:05pm  
Instructor: Charlotte Brooks

Prerequisite: One 1000-level History Course, or instructor permission

HIS 3781 – History of Modern Southeast Asia

3 hours; 3 credits - Southeast Asia is remarkable for its linguistic, cultural, social, and religious diversity, and is often called the crossroads of the world. This course introduces students to the key historical themes in the history of Southeast Asia as a region from the eighteenth century to the present, while exploring the national political narratives of its largest countries: Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines, and Burma. Particular attention will be paid to the following topics: the coherence of Southeast Asia as a discrete historical region; European imperialism and the growth of colonial capitalism; the emergence of anti-colonial movements including nationalism and communism; World War II and Japanese occupation; the Vietnam War and other wars of independence and decolonization; the impact of the Cold War and the rise of authoritarian/military regimes; and finally, globalization and the geopolitical and economic organization of these countries into the bloc called ASEAN. Cross listed with AAS 3781

Online synchronous  
Section: CMWA

Days & Times: MW 10:45-12:00  
Instructor: Martina Nguyen
HIS 3860 – Topics in African, Asian, or Latin American History – Ancient Egypt

3 hours; 3 credits - This class explores the ancient Egyptian world using a wide range of source materials. Students will gain familiarity with the historical trajectory, geographic expanse, and material culture of the ancient Egyptian world.

Online synchronous

Class Number 29854
Days & Times: 2:30pm-3:45pm
Instructor: Anna Boozer

Prerequisite: One 1000-level History Course, or instructor permission

HIS 3950 - Special Topics in Global History – World War, Mass Death, and the Holocaust

3 hours; 3 credits - This advanced research seminar examines the era of mass violence that erupted across Eurasia during World War II and the Holocaust. Focused on the period from 1937 to 1948, we examine the attempted mass murder of European Jewry in granular detail against the backdrop of global war. Along the way, we’ll consider: the local and geo-political dynamics that fueled conflict and mass murder; microhistories of the ‘Holocaust by bullets’ on the Eastern Front; the mechanics of statist, industrialized killing; and the big business of mass murder. While our emphasis will be on the Destruction of European Jewry, we will also consider comparative episodes of ethnic, political, and social violence during the war and the modern era. This is a discussion class; class participation will count for a quarter of your final grade; all students will be required to write a substantive research paper on a topic related to the class.

In person

Class Number: 29856
Days & Times: Fr 11:10AM - 2:05PM
Instructors: Andrew Sloin & Thomas Heinrich

Prerequisites: One of the following courses: HIS 1000, HIS 1005, HIS 1001, or HIS 1003.
HIS 3950 – Special Topics in Global History – Introduction to Digital History

3 hours; 3 credits - This class offers students an introduction to the tools and methods of digital history. Drawing on recent scholarship on the early modern Atlantic world and its emphasis on subaltern studies, the class explores how digital technologies and resources can be used to “decolonize” the archive to recover the lives and experiences of ordinary individuals frequently omitted or marginalized in accounts of the past. No programming or special computing skills are required, though students should be prepared to engage critically with questions of gender, race, sexuality, violence, and imperial power.

Online asynchronous

Class Number: 29855 Section: NETA
Instructor: Elizabeth Heath
Prerequisites: One of the following courses: HIS 1000, HIS 1005, HIS 1001, or HIS 1003

HIS 3950 – Special Topics in Global History – The Israel Palestinian Conflict

3 hours; 3 credits - This class focuses on the intertwined histories of Israel and Palestine during the late 19th and 20th centuries. The first part examines the region as a crossroads of empires, focusing on the political, economic, and social contexts that shaped Jewish and Palestinian nationalist movements in the region. The remainder of the class examines the intertwined history of these populations in the period following 1948. Topics include: 19th c. imperialism in the Middle East; antisemitism and the emergence of Zionism; Ottoman and British Palestine; Israeli and Palestinian societies under war and conflict, the peace processes; and the return of “religious” war.

In person

Class Number: 29857 Section: MTA
Days & Times: Tu 11:10am-2:05am
Instructor: Andrew Sloin
Prerequisite: One of the following courses: HIS 1000, HIS 1005, HIS 1001, or HIS 1003

HIS 4900 – Capstone – Debt in Global History

3 hours; 3 credits – Ever since human societies began leaving written records, they have left records of debt. Today, nearly everyone takes on debt (student loans, credit cards, mortgages, car payments), while corporations and even nation-states rely on credit and debt to get by. While the scale of our indebtedness is new, the underlying dynamics of trust, reputation, exploitation, and inequality extend far back in time and across the globe. This course will examine debt as it relates to labor and capital, gender relations and the family, prisons and surveillance, colonization and decolonization, neoliberalism and financial crises. Students will complete an original research paper.

In person

Class Number: 29859 Section: DMWA
Days & Times: MoWe 12:50pm-2:05pm Instructor: Zoe Griffith
Prerequisites: Two upper-level (3000 or above) courses in History.
HIS 4900 - CAPSTONE COURSE – THE WORLD IN CHINA

3 hours; 3 credits - After Britain defeated China in the First Opium War, Western nations and eventually Japan used unequal treaties and military power to force China to open to foreign trade, influence, and religion. Thousands of foreigners settled in foreign-controlled spaces and zones of influence along China’s coast and in its major cities. In this seminar, students will examine and do primary source research (in English) about various aspects of the Western and Japanese presence in China between the 1840s and World War II. No previous knowledge of Chinese history or language is required to register for the class.

Note there are two opportunities to enroll in this class:

In Person Code 29860 Section ETRA
Days & Times: TuTh, 2:30pm-3:45pm Instructor: Charlotte Brooks
Prerequisites: Two upper-level (3000 or above) courses in History
or

In Person Code 29861 Section FTRA
Days & Times: TuTh, 4:10pm-5:25pm Instructor: Charlotte Brooks
Prerequisites: Two upper-level (3000 or above) courses in History

HIS 4900 – Capstone – Women and Gender in the Cold War

This course will examine the role of women and gender in the global Cold War from the end of World War II to the 1990s. It will consider the way the politics of bipolar conflict between capitalism and communism affected women and ideologies of gender. Readings will examine women and gender in both communist and capitalist countries as well as non-aligned nations in Africa and Asia undergoing decolonization. Students will complete a research paper.

Online synchronous
Class Number: 29858 Section: RTRA
Days & Times: TuTh 9:00pm-10:15pm Instructor: Katherine Pence
Prerequisites: Two upper-level (3000 or above) courses in History