

THE OBSERVATOR

Purdue University

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The Department of History's E-Newsletter
for Undergraduate History Majors, Minors & Friends

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Director of Undergraduate Studies*

*“The historical sense involves a perception, not only of the pastness of the
past,
but of its presence.”*

T.S. Eliot

Hello and welcome to Volume 2, issue 4 of **The Observator**, the Department of History's e-newsletter for undergraduates currently registered in history courses.

In Jane Austin's novel, Northanger Abbey (1817) Catherine proclaims her distaste for reading history:

“Real solemn history I cannot be interested in. The quarrels of popes and kings, with wars or pestilences, in every page; the men all so good for nothing, and hardly any women at all – it is very tiresome; and yet I think it very odd that it should be so dull, for a great deal of it must be invention...[which] is what delights me in other books.”

This rich and intriguing passage tells us both something about the genre of history writing in the early nineteenth century as well as how much history as a profession has changed in the last two hundred years. The course offerings in our department reflect the very latest in topics, methods, and an analysis in the discipline of history. We not only teach courses in which a few men were ‘good for something’ (such as the Founding Fathers in Professor John Larson's *Creation of the American Legal Culture*; the Mercury Seven in Professor Michael Smith's *History of the Space Age*; and the Dave Clark Five in Professor Michael Morrison's *Society, Culture and Rock and Roll*) but we now offer six different courses on women's history (including Professor Nancy Gabin's *Women in America* and two new courses, Professor Karol Weaver's *Gender and Science* and Professor Sally Hastings' *Gender in East Asia*). I like this quote as well because Catherine, for all her professed dislike of history, understands the discipline quite well when she asserts that it must be “a great deal of invention.” While historians cannot simply invent the past, history can never be a simple compilation of facts which by themselves are meaningless. The historian is the interpreter of data. We can only understand the past through the ways in which the students of history tell the stories of the men and women in former times. That weight is on our shoulders.

If you are interested in getting a little sun on your shoulders, why not study abroad this summer? Professors Gordon Young and David Parish are offering *"Greece and Turkey 2003: An Aegean Odyssey - History, Art and Archaeology"* from May 16 to June 6, 2003. The course will take students to Greece and western Turkey, where they will study the historical, artistic, geographical and cultural understanding of an important region of the Eastern Mediterranean: the Aegean Basin from its beginnings in antiquity through the Byzantine era. This region has contributed heavily to the foundations of western civilization and what has evolved into the modern state, complete with political philosophy, values, and artistic and literary traditions. Its art and architecture have had a lasting effect upon the modern world. Students will be immersed completely in the lands, sites, and monuments of antiquity, as well as among the people and builders of two modern nations. Anyone interested should contact **Dr. Gordon Young** at gyoung@purdue.edu or **Dr. David Parrish** at dparrish@purdue.edu.

II) Bravo!

Congratulations to **Alexa VanDeGrift**, the Department of History's **Outstanding Senior for 2003**. Congrats as well go out to **Eduardo Moralez**, the winner of the **Kneale Award** competition for undergraduate historical writing.

III) Career Services Events

1) April "Job Talk" will feature Ms. Andrea Candler, Account Executive, S&S Public Relations. Andrea will be providing an information session for **ALL** Liberal Arts students. She will discuss opportunities available at her company. She is actively recruiting our students and wants to network with as many LA students as possible. **BRNG B268, 4-6pm, April 8.**

2) GS 415, Senior Job Search Seminar, is a brand new course. It is for **Liberal Arts graduating seniors**, is very intensive and fast paced and is meant to get our seniors thoroughly prepared to begin searching for jobs. The course is offered both fall and spring semesters during the first eight weeks. Assignments include resume/cover letter, references, networking package, writing samples, weekly job applications, three mock interviews, professional presentation, salary requirement/salary history and a portfolio. This is a very comprehensive and productive job search course! If you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Liz Dexter-Wilson at 494-3670.

IV) Maymester and Summer Semester 2003 Course Offerings:

Maymester 2003 (May 19 – June 13, 2003)

3:10	HIST 102K: Introduction to the Ancient World	M-F	1:00-
10:50	HIST 104K: Introduction to the Modern World	M-F	8:40-
12:00	HIST 151K: American History to 1877	M-F	1:00-3:10
	HIST 152K: United States since 1877	M-F	9:50-
	HIST 345K: Modernization of the Middle East	M-F	1:00-3:10

HIST 377K:	History and Culture of Native America	M-F	8:40-10:50
Module 2 (June 16 – July 11, 2003)			
HIST 151A:	American History to 1877	M-F	9:50-12:00
Modules 2 and 3 (June 16 – August 5, 2003)			
HIST 102:	Introduction to the Ancient World	M-F	9:50-10:50
HIST 103:	Introduction to the Medieval World	M-F	11:00-12:00
HIST 104:	Introduction to the Modern World	M-F	1:00-2:00
HIST 105:	Survey of Global History	M-F	8:40-9:40
HIST 152:	United States since 1877	M-F	8:40-9:40
HIST 376:	History of Indiana	M-F	9:50-10:50

V) Fall Semester 2003 Course Offerings:

The Observer would like to draw your attention to several exciting courses offered next fall. For the most current information check our website at <http://www.sla.purdue.edu/academic/history>.

History 195B – History, the Movies, and the Historian's Craft (MWF 1:30-2:20, Professor Zook). This course is designed to introduce students to the historian's craft by examining the various kinds of history (social, political, military, gender, and cultural) and by having students research the historical basis of a film of their choosing. If you are interested in the "truth" behind a film like Braveheart, then this is the class for you! This course is particularly recommended for history majors and minors.

History 383 – Recent American Constitutional History (MWF 8:30-9:20, Professor Haberer). This is an extensive study of constitutional questions and Supreme Court decisions from 1937 to the present. The course will emphasize personal and civil rights and liberties.

History 304 – America in the 1960s (TTH 12:00-1:15, Professor Gabin). This course surveys the political, social, and cultural history of 1960s America. The 1960s continue to be the subject of a passionate debate and political controversy in the United States. The times they were a-changin', but why, how, and to what end? In exploring this turbulent decade, the course examines what did and what did not change in the 1960s. Topics include: the presidencies of John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Richard M. Nixon; the triumph and breakdown of postwar liberalism; the resurgence of conservatism; the many insurgent political and social movements of the decade, including the civil rights and black power movements, the new left, environmentalism, the chicano and red power movements, feminism, and the gay liberation movement; the counterculture; the sexual revolution; rock'n'roll; and the Vietnam war. Students will investigate these and other issues in a mix of printed, visual, audio, and multimedia sources such as speeches, correspondence, newspapers and magazines, autobiographies and oral histories, photographs, television, movies, and music. This course is open to all undergraduates. There are no prerequisites.

History 399 – A History of Medicine in America (MW 12:30-1:20 [plus discussion section], Professor Weaver). This course analyzes the development of American medicine from the colonial period to today. In addition to studying mainstream medical practice, the class investigates the following topics: Native American medicine; enslaved healers; sectarian medicine; gender; mental health; race; disease and class. Class members use both primary and secondary sources to analyze several important questions: What is medicine? What is disease? How did race, gender, and class affect American medical care and medical practice? What is unique about American medicine?

History 407 – The Road to World War I: Europe 1870-1919 (TTH 3:00-4:15, Professor Walton). This course is a social and cultural history of Europe in the decades prior to World War I and during the war itself. Some unifying themes and issues include the following: modernism; gender and sexuality; race and empire; class and revolution; the nature and extent of war as rupture with the past; experiences of war by civilians and combatants. Students will read and discuss primary and secondary sources, write short papers, view and discuss visual media, and write a focused research paper.

History 492S – Cold War in Outer Space (TTH 10:30-11:45, Professor Smith). This course offers a study of American and Russian competition in outer space from Sputnik to “Star Wars” (the Strategic Defense Initiative). We will explore the German V-2 program, competing missile designs of the 1950s, the “races” to space and to the moon, space disasters and science fiction, the Cuban Missile Crisis, rival space shuttles and stations, and the militarization of space through missiles and satellites. As a readings seminar with class discussions, this course is limited to twenty persons.

History 492H – Lincoln and the Civil War Era (Honors Only, MW 5:30-6:45, Professor May). This course will examine the causes and conduct of the American Civil War by using Abraham Lincoln as its central focus. Each week will be divided into two parts: first, an analysis of an important issue (eg. The political party system and the causes of the war; slavery and war causation; territorial expansion and the coming of the war; the Fort Sumter crisis; military strategy; wartime diplomacy; the Emancipation Proclamation; the anti-war movement; Reconstruction; etc.); second, an analysis of Lincoln’s role in or handling of the problem under consideration (eg. Lincoln as a Whig politician, Lincoln’s racial views and his reaction to abolitionism, Lincoln’s conduct of diplomacy, Lincoln’s use of presidential power to quash dissent, Lincoln’s “ten percent” Reconstruction plan, etc.). Throughout the course we will pay attention to how historians have interpreted Lincoln, Lincoln’s personal characteristics and how they affected his leadership abilities, and the issue of Lincoln, myth, and American memory. The course will function “seminar style;” that is, there will be no lectures. Everything will hinge on class discussion of assigned readings, and the course will culminate in a written project.

History 585 – American Labor History (TTH 9:00-10:15, Professor Gabin). This course examines the history of work and working people in the United States from the colonial period to the present. It looks at the history of the organized labor movement and the larger processes of social and economic change as these have affected work and workers. The course emphasizes the diversity of American work experiences, encompassing for example the lives of enslaved people on plantations and women at home as well as new or relatively unorganized groups such as department store employees, nurses, and migrant farm laborers. And while the work experience

receives central attention, the course gives at least equal consideration to the dimensions of cultural identity, politics and governmental policy, and the structure of the labor market. The history of labor encompasses more than trade unions, labor leaders, notable strikes, and politics. Its domain includes class and culture, ethnicity, race and sex, family and community, and technology and work. Open to advanced undergraduates and to graduate students, this class has no prerequisites.

VI) History Specializations

In the Fall 2002 semester, the Department of History introduced a new **Specialization** program for its majors and minors. This program is completely optional. Students wishing to specialize need only take three courses (nine credit hours) in one area, although a grade of "C" or better must be earned to fulfill the requirement. The **Specialization** will be recorded on the student's transcript. Further, these courses can be "double counted" to fulfill other requirements, including the history major and minor.

The **Specialization** areas and their course options are:

The History of Law & Public Policy: This **Specialization** is designed for students applying to law school and to assist those pursuing careers in paralegal services, policy research, public administration, public office, and planning agencies.

- HIST 382 - American Constitutional History
- HIST 383 - Recent American Constitutional History
- HIST 332 - English Constitutional History
- HIST 345 - The Modernization of the Middle East
- HIST 463 - Creation of American Legal Culture
- HIST 358 - The American Business System
- HIST 386 - History of American Foreign Relations
- HIST 385 - American Political History
- HIST 585 - American Labor History
- HIST 469 - Black Civil Rights Movement
- HIST 596 - The American City

The History of Science & Technology: This **Specialization** is designed to assist students pursuing careers or advanced training in technological, medical, nursing, scientific, military services, and technical writing and editing.

- HIST 352 - A History of Biology
- HIST 353 - A History of Medicine
- HIST 399 - A History of Medicine in America
- HIST 387 - History of the Space Age
- HIST 334 - Science and Technology in Western Civilization II
- HIST 350 - Science and Technology in the Twentieth Century World
- HIST 494 - Science and Technology in American Civilization
- HIST 497 - Special Topics in Biology and Medicine
- HIST 409 - Gender and Science

The History of Popular Culture: This **Specialization** is designed to assist students pursuing careers or advanced training in communications, journalism, the entertainment industry, market research and advertising, publishing, and public relations.

HIST 326 - Popular Culture in Preindustrial Europe (1400-1800)

HIST 371 - Society, Culture, and Rock and Roll

HIST 377 – History and Culture of Native America

HIST 391 - History of Russian Popular Entertainment

HIST 412 - The Cultural History of the Middle Ages

HIST 416 - Culture and Society in the Age of Pericles

HIST 414 - Potters & Society in Antiquity

The History of Modernity: This **Specialization** is designed to assist students pursuing careers or advanced training in communications, journalism, media coverage, international business, foreign service, intelligence agencies, and military service.

HIST 324 - Modern France

HIST 327 - The Habsburg Legacy: Central Europe, 1500-2000

HIST 340 - Modern China

HIST 344 - History of Modern Japan

HIST 330 - History of the British Empire and Commonwealth, 1783 to 1960

HIST 337 - Europe in the Age of the Cold War

HIST 359 - Gender in East Asian History

HIST 440 - History of Tsarist and Soviet Russia since 1861

HIST 408 - History of Europe since 1920

HIST 441 - Africa in the Twentieth Century

HIST 472 - History of Mexico

HIST 545 - The Middle East in the Twentieth Century

HIST 577 - Contemporary Latin America History

HIST 587 - United States Foreign Affairs: World War I to Present

VII) Fellowship and Scholarship Information

A) Foundation for the Defense of Democracies

The Foundation for the Defense of Democracies is seeking undergraduate applicants to participate in a fellowship program entitled "Defending Democracy, Defeating Terrorism." **FDD Fellows will be provided with all room, board, and travel expenses.**

Sixty students will be selected for a year long fellowship that is tentatively planned to commence early August with an intensive two week program in Tel Aviv. The program will allow participants to interact with academics, diplomats and military officials from India, Israel, Jordan, Turkey, and the United States.

The curriculum will include courses such as: "Current threats to the United States," "Terrorism in Kashmir: The Indo-Pakistani Conflict," "Roots of Islamic Fundamentalist Terrorism," "Terrorists and Weapons of Mass Direction," "The Israeli Counter-Terrorism Strategy," "Turkey's Struggle against Kurdish Terror," and "Narco-Terrorism in South America."

Academic credit is available. For more information visit www.defenddemocracy.org and click on "Undergrad Fellows" in the left column.

Applications are currently being accepted. The deadline has been extended to **April 7, 2003**. Please send your questions to fellows@defenddemocracy.org or call Travis Clark at 202-207-0190.

B) American Heritage Fellowships

Connor Prairie is providing two undergraduate fellowships with the support of the Lumina Foundation for Education. These twelve-month fellowships will be designed for first-generation college students. Recipients will receive hands-on training as well as a stipend award and academic credit. Students will choose between a focus in Historic Trades OR Agriculture and Rural Life. For further information, please contact:

Cinda Baldwin

Grants Manager

Conner Prairie

13400 Allisonville Road

Fishers IN 46038

Phone: 317-776-6000 ext. 379

Fax: 317-776-6014

C) The James Madison Foundation Fellowship

The **James Madison Foundation Junior Fellowship** is offered to seniors preparing to become secondary school teachers of history, government, and social studies. Fellows may receive up to \$24,000 in financial support. For further information, please contact Professor Michael Morrison (mmorrison@sla.purdue.edu) at the Department of History.

VIII) Internships

A) Internships in Washington DC

The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars offers opportunities to gain internship experience within the environment of our capital's politics, policies, places, and people. Components of the internship program include: 4 to 4½ days per week internship, academic courses, Congressional Breakfast Series, Presidential Lecture Series, Embassy Visit Program, small group discussions and workshops, and internship portfolio. Listed among the possible placement sites are Amnesty International, CNN, The Environmental Protection Agency, Walter Reed Hospital, offices of US representatives and senators, and the NAACP. Visit the website at www.twc.edu to make an on-line request for more information.

B) Internships in Indianapolis

One method of earning credit hours and professional training at the same time is through internships. The Indiana House of Representatives and the Senate are always looking for smart undergraduates, and they are especially fond (quite naturally!) of Purdue History majors.

1) The Indiana House of Representatives Republican Caucus Staff is seeking undergraduate interns for the Spring 2004 semester. This is a paid internship, \$275 per week; however it was designed with an educational intent. If you are interested in finding out more, contact Ms. Angie Bixler at 317-232-9648 or 1-800-382-9841.

2) The Indiana House Democrat Internship Program offers full-time paid internships for juniors, seniors, graduate students or "recent graduates." Interns are paid \$250 per week. Participants will be eligible for a \$2,500 cash scholarship from

Verizon, to be awarded to the most outstanding intern. For more information, see their website: http://www.state.in.us/legislative/house_democrats/intern.html.

3) Republican Caucus of the Indiana Senate is seeking interns for the Spring 2004 semester. Interns will receive \$275 per week. These internships provide valuable experience in journalism, media relations, law and finance. Appointments will be announced in early November. Call Kathleen Hursh at 317-232-9519 or 800-482-9467.

4) The Democratic Caucus of the Indiana Senate is looking for qualified applicants for their Legislative Internship Program. The program begins in January and will last through May 6, 2004. This is a paid internship for which students earn collage credit. If interested, please contact Tricia Stratam at 317-232-9496 or 1-800-382-9467.