

THE OBSERVATOR

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

Purdue University

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"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 the Observer, the Department of History's e-newsletter for undergraduate majors and minors. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you abreast of the activities and services of the Department of History.

The Observer takes its name from one of very first newspapers in the modern world. The first Observer appeared in late seventeenth-century London and was renowned for its wit, sarcasm, and pro-royalist sentiment. While we may not be able to compete with original Observer for humor (and royal families are no longer the fashion) yet we do intend to sing the praises of the Department of History and more generally, the historical profession.

I. Mark Your Calendars!

The Department of History is holding its annual Undergraduate Reception and Open House on Tuesday, September 25 from 5:00 to 7:00 in University Hall 201. Come and chat with your professors in an informal atmosphere; learn about our Spring Course offerings, internship opportunities, and Study Abroad Programs; and sample our delightful array of pizza, cookies, candy and soda!

II. The Sears Lecture Series

This fall the Department of History is sponsoring the **Sears Lecture Series** on **US-Iran Relations: At the Dawn of a New Century** under the direction of **Professor Janet Afary**. As the tragic events of recent days have once more proven, it is

imperative that we as Americans and as students of history seek to gain a better understanding of the Middle East. This series, through films and lectures by experts in Iranian history and culture, allows us an avenue through which we may begin to grasp the some of the complexities of that region. What follows is the lecture and film schedule:

- Wednesday, October 3, at 7:30, Fowler Hall, Professor Gary Sick, "Iran and the United States: The Politics of Hostility.

- Wednesday, October 24, at 7:30, Fowler Hall, Professor Mehrnaz Saeed-Vafa, "Iranian Films & American Audiences."

- Monday, November 5 at 7:30, Fowler Hall, Ms. Elaine Sciolino, "Persian Mirrors: The Elusive Face of Iran."

- Tuesday, November 6 at 3:00, Stewart Center, 310, "Iranians and the Internet: History, Modern Literature, and the Arts"

- Monday, November 12 at 7:30, Fowler Hall, Ms. Mehrangiz Kar, "Women's Rights, Human Rights" and Professor Vaentine Moghadam, "Islamic Feminism and Its Discontents."

The Films (Saturdays, 7:00pm in Stanley Coulter, room 239)

Sept.22 **The Need**

Sept 29 **The White Balloon**

Oct. 6 **Leila**

Oct. 13 **Gabbeh**

Oct. 20 **The Tajik Woman & Good Girls**

Oct. 27 **Taste of Cherry**

Nov. 3 **The Sealed Soil**

Nov. 10 **The Peddler**

Nov. 17 **The Cyclist**

Nov. 24 **The Legend of a Sigh**

Dec. 1 **Nargess**

Dec. 8 **Sara**

Dec. 15 **The Color of Paradise**

III. Our Fall 2002 Course Schedule

The Department of History will be offering a wide variety of courses next spring including several new and recent additions to our curriculum. They include:

History 351 - **The Second World War** - Professor Randy Roberts

This course is an in-depth look at the World War II, from its origins to its conclusion and legacy. It is also about how we -- the historians, journalists, novelists, film-makers, and readers -- make sense out of the war and give it meaning.

History 371 - **Society, Culture and Rock & Roll** - Professor Michael Morrison

This class will survey the social and cultural fabric of post-World War II United States through the prism of music - rock and roll music. This class seeks to empower students to use a medium with which they are familiar (popular music) to examine less well-known (to them) issues and historical forces that are central to the American postwar experience.

History 302 - **Historical Topics: The Place of Religion in American History** - Professor Frank Lambert

From early English settlement, Americans have made two bold claims about their religious heritage: America is a haven of religious freedom and America is a Christian nation. This class examines the tension between these claims through an analysis of the place of religion in America from the colonial era to today.

History 302 - **Historical Topics: Politics & Culture of the 1960s** - Professor Nancy Gabin

This course surveys the political, social, and cultural history of 1960s America. Topics include: the presidencies of Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon; the civil rights and black power movements; the New Left; the resurgence of conservatism; environmentalism; the sexual revolution; feminism; counterculture; rock and roll and the Vietnam war.

Also of note:

Hist 241 - East Asia in the Modern World (Professor Nedostup)

Hist 353 - A History of Medicine in America (Professor Weaver)

Hist 376 - The History of Indiana (Professor Akers)

IV. Study Abroad News

Professors Young and VanLandingham will be teaching a study abroad class this coming May on the history of the central Mediterranean region. Students will visit sites in Rome, Naples, Capri, Pompei, Sicily, and Malta, among others, learning all the while. Those interested can contact either of these professors or Joann Chaney at 494-3894 (jjchaney@purdue.edu), or see future editions of this e-newsletter for more information.

V. The Observator's Top Five

In this column, we will ask members of our faculty to list the best history books written or films directed about a particular topic. For this issue, we asked Professor Randy Roberts to name the best films about World War II and Professor Robert May to name the best books about the American Civil War and Lincoln. Here's what they said:

World War II (Roberts/films)

1. Mrs. Miniver
2. Saving Private Ryan
3. In Harm's Way
4. Das Boot
5. A Bridge Too Far

The Civil War (May/books)

1. David Potter, The Impending Crisis
2. James McPherson, Battle Cry of Freedom
3. David Donald, Lincoln
4. Wm Cooper, Jefferson Davis, American
5. P. Paludan, The Presidency of Lincoln

VI. The Historian's Calendar for September & October

September 25 Undergraduate Reception (5:00-7:00, Univ 201)

October 8-9 October Break - No Classes (Hurray!)

October 10 Spring 2002 Registration Begins

October 13-14 The Feast of the Hunters' Moon (at Fort
Quiatenon)

October 19 1781, General Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown

October 22 1962, The Cuban Missile Crisis (Kennedy's address
to the nation)

October 24 Absolute Last Day to Drop or Add a Course

October 25 1415, The Battle of Agincourt (Henry V's famous
victory over the French)