

# THE OBSERVATOR

The Department of History's E-Newsletter

Volume 3, issue 2 (November 2003)

for Undergraduate History Majors, Minors & Friends

*Edited by Professor Melinda S. Zook*  
*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*

Welcome once again to the Department of History's undergraduate e-newsletter, *The Observator*. In this issue you will find information about the Department's spring course offerings, Study Abroad, and internship programs. Be sure to check out the Department's new program of *Specializations*. These are designed specifically to help our majors and minors receive pre-professional training in areas such as journalism, the entertainment industry, intelligence services, foreign affairs, science; law, and public policy. The *Specializations* will be reported on your transcripts and can help make you more attractive to law schools, graduate programs and future employers.

## I. Notes From the Head

The Department of History is known across campus for good teaching. This fall three faculty members gained further reputation for themselves and the Department of History for their excellence in the classroom. Professors **Michael Morrison**, **Nicholas Rauh**, and **Randy Roberts** have been recognized by Purdue University as master teachers, and their names have been recorded in the Book of Great Teachers. The Book of Great Teachers recognizes them not only for their knowledge of their fields but it also marks their mastery of the art of teaching. Nominations for the Book of Great Teachers occur only every five years. Students and peers select the faculty for this recognition of teaching excellence. This is the highest teaching award bestowed by Purdue University.

Faculty and students know that good teaching is difficult and great teaching is exceptional. Professors Morrison, Rauh, and Roberts rank among the most skilled and extraordinary teachers at Purdue University. The Department of History, history majors, and students at Purdue, who have taken or will take their classes, are fortunate to have such excellent teachers in the classroom.

I encourage you to enroll in their courses and enjoy the pleasure and work of learning from these master teachers.

Doug Hurt  
Head

## II. Course Offerings for Spring 2004

### A. History 104I: Introduction to the Modern World (Professor Gordon Mork)

This class meets Thursdays from 12:00-1:15 in UNIV 301.

History 104I (Introduction to the Modern World) will meet once a week during spring semester at Purdue, **with an intensive week in Munich over spring break**. The Munich area provides an excellent venue to experience first hand the history that students are studying in West Lafayette. Included on the itinerary will be Gothic churches, Baroque palaces, museums of fine art and of science and technology, the Dachau concentration camp, Oberammergau (home of the Passion Play since 1634), and the popular culture of Munich itself. Cost will be moderate since this pilot program is being partially subsidized by a grant from Purdue International Programs. Professor Gordon Mork will be in Munich in September working out the details. The program is limited to thirty students.

### B. History 302N: Environmental History of the United States (Professor John Larson)

This class meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:30-11:20 in UNIV 119.

This survey introduces the unique perspective of environmental history as applied to the history of the United States. Environmental historians differ from most others by taking notice of environmental features and forces in active interplay with human beings and their institutions. Nature appears not just as backdrop or landscape but as an actor in the story, sometimes hidden to be sure, but always relevant to the shape and outcome of human purposeful action. In this survey we will look the environmental impact of human societies in North America from about 1600 to the present; we also will notice the cultural formulations with which native and immigrant people explained (or explained away) the force of nature and their experience of it. Relatively contemporary environmental questions will come up, but our focus will be less on present policy dilemmas and more on understanding the long-term relationship between people, their cultural traditions, and the environment around them.

Expect lectures and discussion, a few short papers, and a final term project. No prerequisites (History 151, 152 or equivalent helpful).

Possible readings include:

John Opie, *Nature's Nation: An Environmental History of the United States*  
William Cronon, *Changes in the Land*  
Ted Steinberg, *Down to Earth: Nature's Role in American History*  
Lawrence Svobida, *Farming the Dust Bowl: A First-Hand Account from Kansas*

### C. History 302F: Transatlantic Revolutions, 1689-1804 (Professor Frank Lambert)

This class meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:30-10:20 in UNIV 119.

The eighteenth century was a time of great revolution. Men and women throughout the Atlantic World challenged old patterns of power and privilege. Far from isolated affairs, the revolutions were interconnected, with each providing grievances, ideas, and institutions that influenced the next. The first upheaval was a bloodless affair, the Glorious Revolution of 1689, when England's Parliament forced James II into exile and imposed limits on the monarchy. In 1776, revolution crossed to the western side of the Atlantic. Some of the same Enlightenment arguments leveled against James' tyranny found new expression in America as colonists revolted against George III in the War of Independence. The triumph of natural rights in the New World reverberated in Old World courts. By emptying the French treasury in aiding the Americans, Louis XVI had no choice but to seek funds from subjects who, inspired by their transatlantic allies, made revolutionary demands in 1789 that toppled the monarchy and many of the ancient privileges upon which it rested. Once again, the revolutionary tide flowed toward America. On the French Caribbean Island of Haiti two years later, African slaves, echoing some of the same slogans shouted from Parisian revolutionaries, rebelled against their masters and in 1804 succeeded in winning political independence.

This course will explore the ideological, social, economic, and political causes of the Transatlantic Revolutions. It will examine how they altered the relationships between monarch and subjects, lords and peasants, church leaders and believers, slave owners, and black Africans, husbands and wives, and manufacturers/traders and consumers.

### D. History 365: Women in America (Professor Nancy Gabin)

This class meets Tuesday and Thursday from 10:30-11:45 in UNIV 317.

This course surveys the history of women in the United States from the 1600s to the present. By examining the social, political, and economic forces that have shaped that history, the course assesses the sources of change and continuity in women's lives. Attention is paid to the variety of the female experience in America. Topics to be addressed include women and the family; sexuality and reproduction; popular culture; education; employment; and social and political action. Stressing diversity as well as unity, the course emphasizes the importance not only of gender but also of race, ethnicity, and class in shaping American women's history. The course is open to all undergraduates. There are no prerequisites.

### E. History 387: History of the Space Age (Professor Michael G. Smith)

This class meets Tuesday and Thursday from 12:00-1:15 in LYNN 1136.

This course surveys the history of the space age in the 20th century. It is listed in the *History of Science and Technology Specialization*. Our topics include: the rocket pioneers, the Nazi V-2, and the development of ballistic missiles; the Sputnik crisis, the origins of human space exploration, and the revolutionary applications of satellite technology; the astronauts and cosmonauts, the Moon missions, and space disasters (Challenger and Columbia, among others); "Star Wars," the flying saucer and "alien" crazes, space shuttles and stations, astrobiology, and the future of human space exploration. The course is centered on the "cold war" in space between the USA and

USSR. We examine how their cultural values, scientific institutions, and military imperatives helped to determine the character of the "space race."

### III. Study Abroad

#### A. Maymester in Cuba!

"Experiencing Cuba," a three-hour interdisciplinary course on Cuba (including three weeks on the island) will be offered in 2004. Some scholarship assistance will be made available for the first twenty registrants. For more information, please contact Harry Targ at 494-4169 or [targ@polsci.purdue.edu](mailto:targ@polsci.purdue.edu).

#### B. Maymester – History 450: In the English Landscape (Professor John Larson)

Cross-listed with HORT 450 and LA 450. Teaching faculty: Paul Siciliano Jr, Assistant Professor of Horticulture/Landscape Architecture; Michael Dana, Professor of Horticulture/ Landscape Architecture; John Larson, Professor of History.

This intensive, four-week, study-abroad course is designed to familiarize students with the ways that human culture and natural environments intersect to create landscapes. As far back as the historical record reaches, human beings have tried to alter and control their environments to make them more "beautiful," more "orderly," more impressive of the power of the gardeners, or more reflective of the glory of their creator-gods. Environmental factors, such as climate, topography, and available flora and fauna, have always guided the labors of landscape designers and horticulturists; at the same time human aspirations or power, class, and ambition usually drove their employers. Natural science and human culture came together in history, as people in particular times and places strove to display their prowess, "improve" their surroundings, or express their appreciation for the universe of living things. These are the intersections we hope to explore in this course.

This course is expressly interdisciplinary and intended to be equally accessible to students in agricultural sciences, humanities, and the design disciplines. Consequently, individual objectives will vary considerably from student to student. The specific course objectives identified by the faculty include:

- Experiencing life in England
- Understanding how English history and culture have influenced the shaping of English gardens, parks, and landscapes
- Gaining an appreciation for a society that places very high value on the cultivation of ornamental plants and the design of beautiful landscapes as an aspect of the "everyday" environment in which people work and play
- Seeing how landscapes and gardens address the human concerns of individuals and whole communities
- Promoting awareness of a wide range of plant species and cultivars not well known in North America
- Cultivating respect for technical expertise and wisdom of traditional English gardeners and garden workers

#### C. Maymester in Turkey: History, Art, Archaeology

May 17 – June 3, 2004

Itinerary                      Highlights

Istanbul	Hagia Sophia
Nicaea	Blue Mosque
Bursa	Suleimaniyya Mosque
Gordion	Topkapi Palace
Ankara	Dolmabahce Palace
Boghazkoy	Bosphorus Cruise
Yazilikaya	Nicaean Creed Church
Alaca Huyuk	The Hittite Capital
Bodrum/Halicanassus	Monumental Sculpture
Didyma	Numerous Museums
Miletus	The Eastern Aegean Sea
Priene	Homer's Troy
Ephesus	The Gallipoli Battlefield
Bergama/Pergamum	Bazaars
Assos	Superb Mosaics
Troy	Archeological Sites
Gallipoli	Byzantine Turkey

Contact Dr Gordon Young (494-4122; 494-7965; or [gyoung@purdue.edu](mailto:gyoung@purdue.edu)) or Dr. David Parrish (494-3058 or [dparrish@purdue.edu](mailto:dparrish@purdue.edu)) for further information. Three history credits and/or three art history credits. Non-students are welcome.

#### D. Study Abroad Newsletter

If you are interested in receiving a monthly Study Abroad newsletter with updates on new programs, profiles on people and places, and other fun and/or important information, please click on the following link and submit your email address.  
<http://www.studyabroad.purdue.edu/email>.

## **IV. Purdue History Organization**

The Purdue History Organization is a new student organization that aims to help create a broad culture of history here at Purdue. We wish to make history more accessible to the student body by working closely with the history faculty and Purdue faculty in general, toward generating an informative and exciting atmosphere that goes beyond grades and into a genuine interest in the field.

We have many events scheduled for the fall semester. On November 13, Dr. Harold Tukey will come to campus to speak about his experiences traveling the world as an American academic during the Cold War. This will be held at 7 pm. in STEW 307. On December 4, Dr. Ariel de la Fuente will speak on his education and experience as a historian, giving students a perspective of the profession here and abroad.

For Spring semester 2004, we are hoping to aggressively expand, both in terms of student interaction in the Department of History and in terms of reaching out to the campus as a whole with history-related events. We intend to host round-table discussions with faculty on such subjects as getting an article published; putting together a vita; how to prepare a research paper;

and other basic needs for history students. On the more social side, we plan to host lunches with professors at the John Purdue Room where students can eat and chat with their favorite professor. We also intend to coordinate several off-campus gatherings in order for students to mix with each other away from the classroom.

We hope to count on the support of both the student body and the history faculty to achieve our goals. If anyone has any questions, please email me at [copsey@purdue.edu](mailto:copsey@purdue.edu).

Jonathan Copsey  
President, Purdue History Organization

## **V. Specializations**

The Department of History offers the following areas of specialization for its majors and minors: 1) The History of Law & Public Policy; 2) The History of Science & Technology; 3) The History of Popular Culture; 4) The History of Modernity.

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 specialization 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.

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 465 - The Civil War and Reconstruction, 1850 to 1877
- 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
- HIST 377 - History and Culture of Native
- HIST 391 - History of Russian Popular
- HIST 412 - The Cultural History of the

of Pericles

HIST 416 - Culture and Society in the Age

HIST 414 - Potters & Society in Antiquity



***The History of the Modern World:*** 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



## VI. Writing Lab

Fall 2003 Writing Lab (Heavilon Hall 226, 49-43723). Remember that the Writing Lab is always available to assist in preparing your history papers. Their hours are:

Tutorial hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 – 6:00  
Friday 9:00 – 1:00

Conversation groups: Monday 11:30 – 12:30  
Tuesday 3:30 – 4:30  
Wednesday 2:30 – 3:30  
Thursday 1:00 – 2:00

Or log on to <http://owl/english.purdue.edu>

## VII. Competition, Fellowship, Scholarship, and Conference Information

### A) 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

Phone: 317-776-6000 ext. 379

13400 Allisonville Road  
Fishers IN 46038

Fax: 317-776-6014

## **B) Purdue University B'nai B'rith Barzillai Lodge 111 Prize in Jewish Studies**

Competition is now underway and open to all undergraduates at Purdue. A prize of \$150 will be awarded for the outstanding original essay, research paper, or similar creative project in the general area of Jewish Studies produced in the academic year 2003-04. The deadline for entries for the prize is Monday, April 19, 2004. For more information, contact the Jewish Studies Program office at 49-47965 or via email at [jewishstudies@purdue.edu](mailto:jewishstudies@purdue.edu).

## **C) Internships at the Smithsonian Institution (Washington D.C.)**

Because of the diversity of its work, the National Museum of American History at the Smithsonian is able to offer a wide variety of internship opportunities: Popular Culture Researcher, African American Cultural History Researcher, American Popular Music Researcher, Asian Pacific American Initiative Intern, Textiles Researcher, Domestic Life Research Intern, and History of Jazz Researcher, to name a few. Interns will have an educational experience that will allow them to work with and learn from professionals and scholars in the museum field. Regardless of which internship you choose, interns at NMAH will gain a better appreciation of intricacies of museum work and a broader appreciation of Washington itself. For further information, visit the museum's website at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/interns/>. If you have any questions, please contact the NMAH at [nmahintern@si.edu](mailto:nmahintern@si.edu).

## **D) Medieval Studies Conference and Call for Papers**

The Medieval Studies Conference at Purdue University on March 6, 2004 is pleased to announce a call for papers by graduate and undergraduate students dealing with any aspect of medieval culture or Medievalism. Topics include, but are not limited to: art, literature, history, politics, science and technology, philosophy, religion, theory, language, or modern representations of the Middle Ages such as Tolkien's fiction, nineteenth century medievalism, etc. Papers should be twenty minutes (about ten pages) in length.

The deadline for submission is Thursday, December 4, 2003. Papers or proposals (300 words or less) may be dropped off or mailed to:

Comitatus  
c/o Mica Gould  
Purdue University Department of English  
500 Oval Drive  
West Lafayette IN 47907-2308  
Or email attachments to: Alex Kaufman at [kaufmaal@purdue.edu](mailto:kaufmaal@purdue.edu).

Please include on a separate sheet your name, local address and phone number, email and indicate whether you are an undergraduate or graduate student. For more information, please contact conference organizers Alex Kaufman or Mica Gould ([mica1313@hotmail.com](mailto:mica1313@hotmail.com))

## **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](http://www.twc.edu) to make an on-line request for more information.

## IX. The Historian's Calendar

### *On this day in history:*

November 11	1954	Armistice Day was designated as Veteran's Day to honor veterans of all United States wars.
November 19	1863	President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address.
December 1	1955	Rosa Parks was arrested for disobeying an Alabama law requiring blacks to relinquish bus seats to whites.
December 7	1941	The day that lives in infamy...the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor.
December 15	1791	The new United States of America confirmed the fundamental rights of its citizens by adopting the Bill of Rights.
	2003	Finals week begins at Purdue University.
January 5	1949	President Harry Truman promises a "fair deal" for all Americans.
January 12	2004	Classes resume for Purdue's second semester.
January 18	1896	University of Iowa played University of Chicago in the first college basketball game with five players on each side.