

**Spring 2010  
Senior Seminars**

**In fall 2005 the history department instituted a new policy for senior seminars. A student will only have one opportunity to complete this course successfully. Only in extraordinary circumstances will this policy be waived and only with the permission of the undergraduate coordinator.**

**AFH 4930 Religion in Africa**  
**Instructor: Dr. Susan O'Brien**

**FLI 113**  
**TR 8-9/9**

Between 200 and 300 million Muslims live on the African continent, representing about 20% of the entire Muslim world, and Africans were practicing Islam in parts of North Africa and Ethiopia almost immediately after the religion's emergence in the seventh century AD. This course is intended as an introduction to the history of these Muslim societies in Africa that will enable students to better understand the contemporary situation of African Muslims from Senegal to South Africa. The course will focus on the spread of Islam in Africa and its impact on trade, state formation, legal systems, and cultural attitudes about race, gender, and slavery. We will pay particular attention to how European colonial rule and Islamic reform movements transformed Islamic traditions in Africa in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and emphasize the diversity of Islamic practice on the continent and the intensity of current debates about what it means to be a good 'orthodox' Muslim. Course readings include primary source materials, in the form of travel accounts by medieval North African travelers, a first-hand description and critique of Napoleon's invasion and occupation of Egypt, oral traditions, colonial archival documents, and the writings of African jurists and jihadists; novels; and ethnographic and historical studies of Muslim African societies. We will also examine popular culture, in the form of visual art and music, as important historical sources.

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**AMH 4930 American Civil War**  
**Instructor: Dr. Sean Adams**

**FLI 119**  
**W 4-6**

The readings and research in this seminar will span three turbulent decades of American history from 1848 to 1877. We will examine the growing rift between the American North and South in the 1850s, the various military, social, and political facets of the Civil War, and both the great promise and the great failure of the Reconstruction years.

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**AMH4930 Slave Narratives**  
**Instructor: Dr. Jon Sensbach**

**FLI 115**  
**M 7-9**

This seminar offers an introduction to slavery and freedom in American history through a study of slave narratives, those autobiographies, memoirs and other testimonies by enslaved and freed African Americans between the eighteenth and twentieth centuries. By focusing on the firsthand experience of slavery from the perspective of the narrators, the course will explore how they understood, responded to and resisted enslavement, and the strategies they use to shape their own stories of slavery and freedom.

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**AMH 4930 American Religion Since 1890**  
**Instructor: Dr. Alan Petigny**

**FLI 115**  
**W 7-9**

The seminar (American Religion Since 1890) will focus on the American Religious experience from the 1890s to the Present. Among the topics that will be addressed are the Social Gospel, Pentecostalism, the thought of Reinhold Niebuhr, the secularization debate, Religion in the fifties, the intersection between the Black Church and the modern Civil Rights Movement, the modern concept of Civil Religion the process of liberalization that has taken place within the Roman Catholic Church, Black Liberation Theology and the rise of Conservative Evangelicals. In addition to two book reviews, students will be expected to write a 15 to 18 page research paper.

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**EUH 4930 "Converting" the Mediterranean World**  
**Instructor: Dr. Andrea Sterk**

**FLI 113**  
**W 6-8**

This seminar will examine the religious and cultural history of the Mediterranean world in late antiquity (from around 150 to 550) focussing on questions of conversion and Christianization that have remained a subject of lively debate among historians. How did early Christianity relate to Judaism and Greco-Roman paganism? Why were Christians persecuted? How did Christianity become the dominant religion of the Roman Empire? What did "conversion" mean for men and women of different classes, both before and after the conversion of the Roman emperor Constantine? Did

paganism completely disappear or did it survive in altered forms? How did “Christianization” affect law, society, and the state as the classical world evolved into the civilizations of early medieval Europe and Byzantium? These are some of the questions we will consider as we examine varieties of religious experience, patterns of religious conflict, and examples of cultural continuity and change in late antiquity. This class will introduce students to serious historical research in both primary and secondary sources involving two shorter writing assignments as well as active participation in discussions. The seminar will culminate in a class presentation and substantial research paper (15-20 pages) on a topic of the student’s choice.

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**EUH 4930 Terrorism and Political Violence in Post-War Europe, 1946-2001** **FLI 115**  
**Instructor: Dr. George Esenwein** **T 7-9**

Terrorism is one of the most highly publicized forms of political violence. But while it is generally viewed today as an expression of religious fanaticism, the fact is that the history of terrorism in Europe goes back a long time. Partly because it has been ill-served by historians, terrorism is also one of the least understood political problems of the modern era. This course aims to shed light on this complex and controversial subject by providing a multi-country survey of the role terrorism and violence has played in European affairs in the post-war era.

Historical dimension:

One part of the course will be concerned with exploring the place terrorism and political violence has held in modern European history. An overview of how the concepts, techniques, and the organizational forms of terrorist movements have evolved since the late 19th century will be provided in this section. Another part of the course offers a case-specific discussion of the growth and variety of political and social movements in Europe in the post-war period. The ideological significance of terrorism as well as the impact of terrorist practices employed by national liberation and politically extremist groups in France (FLN in Algeria and Direct Action in France), Germany (Red Army Faction), Italy (Red Brigades and neo-fascists), Ireland (Provisional IRA), Great Britain (Angry Brigade), and Spain (ETA, Basque separatists) will be examined here. In addition to emphasizing the historical circumstances which gave rise to terrorism, it will also be important to explain how its overall political motives and social objectives were rooted in cultural patterns which developed during transitional periods, such as the protest era of the 1960s.

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**HIS 4930 NEWTON - DARWIN - FREUD** **FLI 117**  
**Instructor: Dr. Robert A. Hatch** **T 7-9**

In this course we focus on what has been called the 'emergence of the modern mind' from the perspective of three Traditional Heroes of Modern Western Culture. Beginning biographically, we examine assumptions about the Great Man, Genius, Heroes, Prophets, and Myth Makers. We analyze rationality, creativity, change, and discipline formation. We also examine the role and relations of argument and evidence -- power and seduction too -- as they relate to science, logic, language, and to related concerns of classification and genealogy, as well as theory/practice. In approaching genius through biography and history, we find perspectives on scientism, sexism, and racism and problems with binary oppositions. The class is structured as a readings and discussion course with informal lectures.

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**LAH 4930 Slavery in the Atlantic World** **FLI 113**  
**Instructor: Dr. David Geggus** **M 9-11**

Enslaved Africans made up the great majority of transatlantic migrants (and the overwhelming majority of female migrants) who came to the Americas from Columbus’s time to the early nineteenth century. Large areas of Africa were reorganized around the supply of this labor force. Slavery flourished in colonies from Canada to Argentina and formed the foundation of society in most tropical and subtropical lowland regions. The wealth generated by slave labor tied together four continents in new networks of global trade that involved not just slaveowners and traders but farmers, manufacturers, and shipbuilders from New England to India. Historians study slave societies, because they represent an extreme form of power relations, because of the multicultural complexity they created, and because they played an important role in the making of the modern world.

In this course we will be sampling a mixture of contemporary sources and classic historiography relating to the history of slavery in the Atlantic world between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries. As one of the History department’s junior colloquia, the course gives students an opportunity to engage in discussion in a seminar format and to work on their analytic and writing skills.