

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

New Course Offerings for

Fall 2019 Semester

HIST 109 U.S. History Since 1970

This survey course will explore the past fifty years of U.S. history with a focus on major political, economic, and cultural trends and events. A surge of crises hit the U.S. during the decade of the 1970s as people faced the collapse of the Vietnam War, Watergate, oil embargoes, economic shocks, and environmental contamination. The 1980s and 1990s saw the reconfiguration of both major parties along with the stagnation of wages even as U.S. financialization and global presence increased. Special interest activism grew across the spectrum, from political evangelicals and the NRA to women's reproductive rights and ecosystem advocates. Consumerism exploded, yet class-based and union activism contracted after the 1970s. The end of the Cold War realigned U.S. foreign policy but did not dismantle the lines of global power as the U.S. faced authoritarian competitors as well as terrorist agents. At the same time, acceleration of digital technology sped up social activity while exacerbating gaps in resources and wealth. The course ends with analysis of the "neoliberal turn" and what it has meant for the U.S. domestically and in the world.

Will be taught by Aimee Loiselle Mon-Fri 10:25-11:40

HIST 204 Seminar: Gender and Women Workers Since 1945

This seminar will examine the history of gender and women's paid work in the context of the U.S. and its global reach since 1945. In this perspective, "U.S." does not denote only the bordered mainland United States, but also a political, economic, and cultural hub for currents of labor and capital. While women have always worked, ideas about "woman's work" shift across race, class, region, and citizenship as well as time. Readings will include histories of women laboring for U.S. businesses from home piecework and agriculture to care work and IT. We will discuss influential theories in the field of women's labor studies, gender, and the body and how they apply to such history. All students interested in gender as a category of historical analysis as well as history majors will benefit from the seminar. Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors only.

Will be taught by Aimee Loiselle Friday 1:25-4:25

HIST 216 Puerto Rico and the U.S.

People often call Puerto Rico "the oldest colony" because the U.S. occupied the islands in 1898 and have governed them for over a century. This intermediate course studies the island and its dynamics as an "unincorporated possession" of the United States. Rather than a simple U.S./Puerto Rico binary, readings track intersecting lines of power, which include the U.S. military but also insular criollos, various independistas and political activists, and international investors. Puerto Rico celebrates a rich history and cultural heritage, and it has a modern role in the economic, military, and demographic developments of the U.S. Narratives of its backwardness or marginality have obscured this vital role. Primary sources and literature as well as secondary articles will also explore experiences of the Puerto Rican diaspora and consistencies and changes over time, like the recent shift of migration from the Northeast to the South and the "braindrain" caused by the 2014-2015 fiscal crisis and 2017 Hurricane Maria.

Will be taught by Aimee Loiselle Mon-Fri 9:00-10:15