

LREI History Department 2011-12

Eleventh Grade Required Course

Gotham (Offered all three Trimesters)

Though youthful by historic standards, New York is in a sense the “oldest” city in the world - in the modern world, that is. This is because New York City was the laboratory where the modern world was conceived. This class will explore how the modern world was invented in New York City. First, we will study its history - starting with the small Dutch trading post established in the early 17th century through the early years of the American Republic. Then we will look at the urban revolution - the take-off - that occurred in the first half of the 19th century. There are regular field trips. Students conduct interviews, and visit museums and historic sites. The second focus of the course is each student’s own experience - and expertise - as a New Yorker. Students become urban journalists and “walkers in the City,” a venerable tradition.

The Provisional Junior and Senior Year Electives (Some courses will rotate and not be available every year.)

During junior and senior year students will choose *four* history electives. They must choose one course from the three categories listed below. The fourth course can be from any of the categories.

American Studies

- American Government and Politics
- American Culture and Ideas in the Twentieth Century
- Introduction to Law
- Global City: Continuity and Change in Twentieth Century New York
- Modern Art in America
- New York: City of Immigrants
- The 1960's: Promise and Upheaval

Area Studies

- 20th Century Europe
- East Asia
- Caribbean and Latin America
- Middle East and Africa

Global Studies

- Comparative Religion
- Human Rights and Social Justice in the 21st Century
- The Global War on Terror: American Foreign Policy since 9/11
- Morality and Ideology
- New York: City of Immigrants

Trimester One

American

American Culture and Ideas in the Twentieth Century

Explore American film, music, high and low culture in each decade of the twentieth century. What was innovative and new in the arts in the twenties, the thirties, the forties, the fifties and so on. Who were the innovators, the tastemakers, who brought us new sounds in music, new colors, designs and structures in the arts, new images in photography, new subjects and themes both in films and on television? Explore the innovative and creative interaction between technology and culture in the twentieth century. Relive in books and magazines, in films and photography, in music and dance, in painting and poetry what was in our society “in vogue,” “hot” in each decade of the tempestuous twentieth century

Introduction to Law

The course begins with a introduction to the sources of law in our legal system, the concept of federalism with focus on the roles of both state and federal courts, the selection of judges in both systems and a basic legal vocabulary. We examine the nature of judicial review in the Supreme Court, seeking to understand the basis for both judicial activism and judicial restraint, using significant court rulings as illustrations of both. We focus on three topics for the remainder of the term: rights of criminal suspects, including capital punishment, civil liberties and the First Amendment, and civil rights with cases related to race, gender and sexual orientation. There are two class debates as well as a visit to state and federal courts.

Area

East Asia: Japan, China, Korea

Explore Asian cultures in history, literature, poetry, art and religion. Read short stories about life and politics in Asian societies in both the classical and modern era. Read classic texts on Buddhism, Confucianism, and Daoism. Visit Urasenke – an authentic Japanese teahouse in Manhattan - and experience with a Japanese tea master the classic Japanese tea ceremony. Read about and examine the cultural and historical importance of the Silk Road – the centuries old passageway between East and Central Asia and the Middle East and Europe. Read about and experience Kabuki Theater in Japan and Peking Opera in China. View both classic and modern arts in Asia at the Asian Society, the China Institute, Japan Society and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Investigate and write essays and research reports on topics in Asian Studies.

Global

Global War on Terror: American Foreign Policy Since 9/11

The attacks of September 11th 2001 changed America’s view of the world. The Global War on Terror (or The Long War) became the central feature of American foreign policy. Today we are still at war in Afghanistan and Iraq, and even after the death of Bin laden Al Qaeda remains a threat. This course will examine the roots of the conflict, trace how it evolved under presidents Bush and Obama. We will try to assess the impact of the uprisings in the Middle East on America's struggle against extremism. For the course students will be expected to keep up with daily readings, maintain a grasp of current events, and complete a policy brief and paper on a central issue in the Global War on Terror.

New York: City of Immigrants:

New York has been a City of Immigrants since its beginnings as a 17th century Dutch colony that hosted more languages, religious groups and cultures than any other place in the world. This process accelerated in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and it has never been a more prominent feature of New York than it is today. This class will combine literature, history and politics to tell the story of the last century of immigration history. We will examine the impact arrivals to New York have had, and continue to have, on our city by focusing on two distinct phases of New York immigration history: the “New Immigration ” of the early late nineteenth and early twentieth century – primarily Eastern European Jews, Greeks, Syrians, Southern Italians and Sicilians; and the “New, New immigration” of the last thirty years, including people from West Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America, South and East Asia, the Middle East and the Soviet Union. This, of course, is a very partial list. There are currently people from over 162 countries living in New York. Immigrants have driven the population increases of the last few decades as well as New York’s drive, spirit, politics and economic development. We will learn about them not only from the books we read, but also from each other and from the family history each student conducts and shares with the class.

Trimester Two

American

Modern Art in America

Explore the turning points in 19th and 20th centuries European and American modernism: Monet, Manet and the Impressionists and Cezanne, Van Gogh, Gauguin and the Post-Impressionists; Picasso, Braque and the Cubists and Matisse, Kirchner, Marc etc. and the French and German Expressionists; Marinetti, Boccioni and the Futurists and Tristan Tzara, Marcel Duchamp, Andre Breton etc. and the Dadaists and Surrealists; Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko etc. and the American Abstract Expressionists and Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein and the Pop artists; Daniel Flavin, Donald Judd and the Minimalists and Bill Viola and video art. Read about, talk about, write about and experience in New York’s finest museums and galleries the works of these artists (and more) in this challenging course on the history of aesthetic modernism in western European and American culture.

Area

20th Century Europe

At the dawn of the twentieth century, political leaders throughout much of Europe predicted that the ensuing hundred years would be years of peace, prosperity and progress. By mid-century, such optimists were a rarity with historians suggesting that the Age of Ideology or of Controversy or of Despair would be a more appropriate statement. The first half of the trimester focuses on World War II the Treaty of Versailles, the Russian Revolution and Stalin’s rule. In the second half of the trimester, the course focuses on the rise of fascism in Italy and Germany and on the aggressive moves made by the Axis Powers culminating in World War II. We will do some readings on the Holocaust. Finally there is an extensive study of the Cold War, its origins, manifestations, failed efforts in Eastern Europe to challenge Soviet domination and the ultimate downfall of both the Soviet Union and Communism in Eastern Europe.

Middle East and Africa

Middle East - Read about modern life in the Middle East. Explore the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in literature, history, poetry and film. Compare and contrast the primary texts of the three great monotheisms: Judaism in the Old Testament, Christianity in the New Testament and Islam in the Koran. Learn about Sufi religious visions and read the classic poetry of Rumi – the greatest of the Sufi poets and mystics. Africa – Read about the native cultures and traditions of tribal Africa. Examine both historical and literary texts that describe the transition from European colonial domination of Africa in the late 19th and 20th centuries to the era of African nationalism and independence in the 1950's and '60's. Watch, listen to and study the principles of traditional African music and dance. Investigate and write essays and research reports on topics in Middle Eastern and African studies.

Global

Comparative Religions

This course will give students a better understanding of the way that religion functions in our world and its role in history. Students will begin by exploring the basis for the creation of world religions and understanding theories of religion. Next, students will develop the skills of religious scholarship when they examine the religious texts and commentaries of Islam, Judaism, and Hinduism. The trimester will finish with an examination of the role of cults and fundamentalist religion in our current society. Students will be expected to do a great deal of reading, as this course will be discussion heavy and require a significant amount of writing.

Economics and Society

Students will develop an understanding of how economic principles and analysis can be used to study social issues. We will focus on questions that highlight fundamental concepts. Throughout the course economic choices and policies decisions will be examined in light of their impact on society and in the context of social policy in the United States and the world. Central to the course is an exploration of the causes and the fallout from the Financial Crisis of 2008. Students will also work on their own financial literacy in order to help them make informed decisions about their own financial futures. For the course students will be expected to keep up with daily readings, maintain a grasp of current events, and complete a policy brief and paper on a major economic issue.

Trimester Three

Area

Latin American & Caribbean Studies

This class is an overview of the history, the literature and the cultures of both pre-Columbian and post-Columbian Latin American societies. Mostly, in this class, the students read both literary and historic accounts of the varied and different Latin American and Caribbean societies. Students also choose specific cultures and produce both a written and oral report highlighting both major historical and contemporary events.

American

The 1960s: Promise and Upheaval

Seldom has there been a decade in U.S. History that was marked by such political activism, sparked in this instance by the civil rights movement, the Vietnam War, environmentalism and feminism and by such drama with the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Berlin Wall, the escalation of the conflict in Vietnam, the Freedom Riders and the March on Washington. There was tragedy with the assassinations of the Kennedys, Martin Luther King, Malcolm X and the murders of other civil rights advocates and more violence with riots at home and confrontation in and over Vietnam. There was also creativity and exuberance with the counter culture, Woodstock, and challenge with Betty Friedan / The Feminine Mystique and the Sierra Club, committed to saving Planet Earth. How much of this can we address in one trimester?

Global

Ism and Social Movements

This course is a comparative analysis of the causes, stages, and accomplishments of the most important ideologies (isms) and social movements of modern times. Students will analyze the rise and fall of fascism, the spread and then collapse of communism, the power of nonviolent protest and its role in the Indian Independence and the American Civil Rights Movement, and finally the rise of Global Jihadism. Students will compare previous upheavals to present day trends and will examine the role ideologies and social movements play in the transformation of a society. For the course students will be expected to keep up with daily readings, maintain a grasp of current events, and complete a paper and presentation on a revolution or social movement.

History Electives by Trimester for 2011-12

Trimester One

Gotham

American Culture and Ideas in the Twentieth Century - **American**

East Asia: Japan, China, Korea – **Area**

Global War on Terror: American Foreign Policy Since 9/11 – **Global**

Introduction to Law - **American**

New York: City of Immigrants - **Global**

Trimester Two

Gotham

20th Century Europe - **Area**

Comparative Religion - **Global**

Economics and Society- **Global**

Modern Art in America - **American**

Middle East and Africa - **Area**

Trimester Three

Gotham

The 1960s: Promise and Upheaval - **American**

Latin American & Caribbean Studies - **Area**

Ism and Social Movements- **Global**