

Royal Holloway, Department of History

Courses for Students from other London Colleges 2020-21

PLEASE ONLY APPLY FOR A PLACE ON ANY OF THESE MODULES THROUGH YOUR HOME INSTITUTION

Further Subjects (one unit)

Please note that our Further Subjects are taught either on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons: we cannot confirm the definite schedule until the timetable for 2020-21 is published later in the year

- HS2248 The Pursuit of Power: the Russian Empire in the Age of Reform and Revolution
- HS2264 Bloodlands: Violence, Democracy and Authoritarianism in Eastern Europe, 1912-1945
- HS2304 Justice, Power and Religion in the Muslim World: The History of Shari‘a Law
- HS2313 “Dragon Ladies”? Society, Politics and Gender in Modern China
- HS2329 Medicine in the Ancient, Medieval and Islamic World

Special Subjects (these courses are two units, including a compulsory dissertation element)

All Special Subjects are taught on Monday afternoons

- HS3322/23 Colonial Missions in the Age of the British Empire
- HS3380/81 Villa, Domus and Palace: Domestic Space and Social Identity in the Roman World
- HS3382/83 A Nation Torn Asunder: Civil War America

MODULE DESCRIPTIONS

Further Subjects

HS2248 The Pursuit of Power: the Russian Empire in the Age of Reform and Revolution

Dr Daniel Beer

The module will examine the intellectual and cultural history of Russia in the turbulent years from the Great Reforms of the 1850s and 1860s to the 1917 Revolution. During this period, the Russian society experienced industrialisation, urbanisation, secularisation and the erosion of traditional values and social distinctions. The spread of literacy, the rise of popular culture, and mass politics all

contrived to change the nature and the values of Russian society. In the absence of any established system of political freedom until the 1905 Revolution, Russian literature was a barometer of popular sentiment and a forum in which the great moral and political issues of the day were debated. The tension between reformism and revolution dominated the period. For many, the obduracy of the autocracy precluded the possibility of seeking a gradual reform of the state. Others struggled to reform the Empire whilst staving off violent revolution. The 1905 Revolution was a seminal moment in Russian history in this period. It heralded the explosion of mass movements onto the political stage confirmed for many observers their worst fears of the anarchy and violence that would accompany social revolution. The emphasis throughout will be on the dynamism of Russia in this period as all sections of society struggled to cope with change on an enormous scale at dizzying speeds.

HS2264 Bloodlands: Violence, Democracy and Authoritarianism in Eastern Europe, 1912-1945

Dr Paris Chronakis

In the first four decades of the twentieth century, the lands of Eastern Europe experienced a violent transformation, unlike any other the world had ever seen. The age-old Habsburg and Ottoman Empires collapsed during the war decade of 1912-1923 giving way to fragile nation-states marred by a multitude of problems throughout the interwar period. This module will dissect the causes of imperial collapse and highlight its deep-felt consequences for the successor states of Greece, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Austria, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary to explain the unprecedented violence that turned these former borderlands into the bloodlands of World War Two. Using a wide range of sources, (including texts, images, and music), the module will examine in turn: multi-ethnic coexistence in the imperial lands; turn-of-the-century nationalist awakenings; ethnic cleansing and population displacement during World War One; the difficulties of nation-building in the region's multi-ethnic states of the interwar period; the dismal fate of ethnic minorities and the growth of virulent antisemitism; the failure of parliamentary government and the ensuing militarisation of politics; the appeal of fascism, communism and authoritarianism; and, finally, the mass atrocities committed by erstwhile neighbours in World War Two. Throughout this tumultuous period, Eastern Europe became the testing ground for modern political ideologies from imperialism and democracy to Nazism and Communism. The premise of this module is therefore simple: we cannot understand the dynamics of the modern world without understanding the story of Eastern Europe in the early twentieth century.

HS2304 Justice, Power and Religion in the Muslim World: The History of Shari‘a Law

Dr James Baldwin

Shari‘a law (Islamic law) is an important but widely misunderstood phenomenon that is central to several contemporary political controversies, including democratization in the Muslim world, political Islam and radical Islamism, and the status of the Muslim diaspora in the west. This module will help students understand shari‘a law as an evolving legal tradition, by introducing them to the intellectual structure of the law and then tracing how shari‘a has been manifested in a variety of historical contexts from the late Middle Ages until the 21st century, including the Ottoman Empire, the modern Middle East and modern Britain. The module explores various areas of law, including criminal law, constitutional law, property & trusts, and slavery, but it has a particular focus on family law – marriage, divorce and child-rearing – and its impact on gender in Muslim societies. The module uses these case studies to address the fundamental question of the relationship between shari‘a law and political power: is shari‘a law a constraint on government, or a tool government can use? How can a Muslim government adhering to shari‘a law legislate? Can shari‘a law be reconciled with democratic government? The module is accessible to all: previous knowledge of Islamic or Middle Eastern history is not required.

HS2313 "Dragon Ladies"? Society, Politics and Gender in Modern China

Dr Weipin Tsai

Chinese women found their voice at the dawn of the modern era. Silent no longer, their roles in society changed fundamentally, taking on a complexity never seen before in Chinese history. This module brings these women into life, examining the impact they made not at the margins, but as main actors with their own narratives. Set against the broad sweep of modern Chinese political and social history from the 19th century to the late twentieth century, the module is structured in two parts. In the first term, there is an examination of the lives and impact of three powerful women: Empress Dowager Cixi; Soong Mei-ling (the wife of Chiang Kai-shek); and Jiang Qing (Madam Mao). The actions of these three figures not only shook up the existing political and social order in their country, but also had a huge impact globally. In the second term, the exploration shifts to a more thematic approach, in order to allow us to appreciate these women in historical context. The main concept to be addressed is Confucianism, and from this follows investigation of the impact of a changing China on several important sets of relationships including mother and daughter, and husband and wife. The module will also address several roles associated with Chinese women, such as writers, revolutionaries, housewives,

factory workers, and prostitutes. The module uses a wide range of materials, including translated documents, filmed drama, newspapers, documentaries and biographies.

HS2329 Medicine in the Ancient, Medieval and Islamic World

Dr Barbara Zipser

Ancient medicine was a very highly developed discipline, which had a holistic view of the patient, their life style, occupation and diet. Key to health was a perfect balance of four humours in the human body, which corresponded to the four qualities of hot, cold, wet and dry found in food, drink and the environment. Mental and physical health problems were thought to be an imbalance in these humours or qualities - our phrase "common cold" is for instance a remnant of this theory. This module will provide an introduction to the development of ancient medicine from Hippocrates to Galen, and its reception and development in the Medieval and Islamic world. It will also cover topics that are still being debated today, for instance FGM and gender reassignment surgery. A particular highlight in the session on illuminated herbals. The module also includes an employability session, in which we will explore the job market in the field of medical humanities and other associated disciplines, and also potential PG opportunities and funding.

Special Subjects

HS3322/23 Colonial Missions in the Age of the British Empire

Dr Emily Manktelow

'At the height of the imperial age church people liked to argue that religion and the British empire were inseparable – that the visible, commercial and political empire was woven into the fabric of another, invisible country – a spiritual empire.' [Hilary M Carey, *Empires of Religion*]. This module will critically interrogate that assertion, asking and answering the question of how far empire was interested in the spiritual mission, and how far missionaries can be considered agents of imperialism. In so doing it will interact with issues of how we define imperialism, how useful the idea of cultural imperialism can be to the modern historian, and how we might talk meaningfully about 'the colonising project'. Students will be introduced to the history of British cultural engagement and encounter with indigenous peoples within and outside of the empire; will analyse and discuss the socio-economic, cultural and religious impact of Christian mission in the 'age of expansion'; and will tease out issues of cultural encounters, indigenous agency and resistance, race, racism and cultural chauvinism, and the impact of mission literature and experience on the British public's own imaginative engagement with non-western peoples.

Students will emerge with a complex understanding of colonialism, in all its variegated forms, and how it has shaped (and continues to shape) the modern world.

HS3380/81 Villa, Domus and Palace: Domestic Space and Social Identity in the Roman World

Dr Hannah Platts

“At last I can live like a human being!” For many ancient Romans, these words from the Emperor Nero after the completion of his vast Golden House in Rome were evidence of his megalomania. Throughout Roman literature, stories and descriptions such as this regarding the Roman domestic realm abound. Whether emphasising a residence’s opulence, its productivity or the depraved life led by those inside, these discussions are crucial for understanding how the domestic sphere was used to construct notions of belonging and status in the Roman world. As such, they present key evidence for investigation in this module. In addition to studying how the home was represented in texts, such as the letters of Cicero and Pliny the Younger, the poetry of Horace and the architectural treatise of Vitruvius, we will also examine the archaeological remains of residences. By exploring the houses of Pompeii and Herculaneum, the multiple-occupancy apartments at Ostia and Rome, and Imperial Palaces such as Nero’s infamous Domus Aurea, Caligula’s pleasure boats on Lake Nemi and Hadrian’s sprawling villa at Tivoli, we will examine how and why owners sought to control the bodily experience of visitors to their homes, including the sounds, smells and sights to be had. The diversity of these sources highlights the evolution of the Roman home and its role as a vehicle for expressing social and political values, giving dissertation opportunities to students with interests ranging from social, cultural or political history to art and archaeological studies from across Rome’s history and beyond.

HS3382/83 A Nation Torn Asunder: Civil War America

Dr Patrick Doyle

The American Civil War was the defining moment in the history of the United States. The American populace, north and south, white and black, found themselves grappling with two issues – what would be the nature of the political union that formed the backbone of the American nation state, and what would be the status of African Americans within that nation. Ostensibly, these matters were resolved as the bloody conflict resulted in the abolition of slavery and the settling of political debates about the relationship between states and the federal government. But were these contentious issues of politics and race truly resolved? America’s post-

Civil War history certainly suggests not. Moreover, a cursory glance at modern America points to a continued schismatic discourse about the power of the federal government and the issue of race. Put simply, if one is to understand the nation's more recent history and politics they must get to grips with the Civil War, the crucible in which the modern American nation was forged. This module will take a chronological approach to the period from 1848 to 1877. Starting with the sectional divisions over slavery in the 1850s and ending with the tumultuous conclusion of the Reconstruction period, this module will explore the key causes, consequences, events, personalities, interpretations and legacies of the American Civil War. It approaches these important questions and themes from a range of historical standpoints, including military, social, political and cultural perspectives.