

History is Everywhere

Spring 2025



Edited by Daniel Wiltse



Welcome from our Chair



Dr. Holly Barcus

Happy Spring from the Chair's Office in the Macalester History Department! As we are very rapidly approaching the end of the academic year, it is a wonderful time to reflect on the achievements of our students and thank our faculty for a truly successful year.

First, thank you to all of our visiting faculty and scholars for their hard work in engaging students in new and diverse courses, activities, outings and discussions. Specifically thank you to Niharika Yadav (Berg Postdoctoral Fellow), Tara Hollies (Visiting Assistant Professor), Ethan Besser Fredrick (Visiting Instructor), and James Coplin (Visiting Instructor).

We congratulate Dr. Niharika Yadav on her new position at Seton Hall University in South Asian History. We've deeply enjoyed Professor Yadav's energy and expertise in the Macalester History Department and all of her contributions to our scholarly lives. Congratulations Professor Yadav! We wish you a fond farewell and best wishes in your new position.

Congratulations to all of our 2025 History Majors and Minors who are graduating in a few short weeks! This year we have 10 History Majors and 11 History Minors graduating. Additionally, we are proud to announce that Talia Ostacher has successfully completed a History Honors Project titled "A Vanguard of All Progressive Humanity: Youth Culture, Mobilization, and the New Soviet (Young) Person in the Post-Stalin USSR". End-of-year celebrations are upon us and we are looking forward to celebrating with all of our History Department students at the end-of-year picnic, department receptions and, of course, graduation ceremonies!

Looking ahead to Fall 2025, we are anticipating several new History Department events. We'll be announcing these events and dates in the weeks to come so stay tuned for more information!

In closing, I want to thank the members of the History Department for another successful academic year and all of our students for their dedication and hard work. Thank you and have a wonderful summer!

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Topics Courses and Classroom Fun



Religion and Law in Africa with Professor Tara Hollies

Religion and Law in Africa is an intermediate cross-listed history and religion course designed to teach students how to think like historians and assess how the legal systems of indigenous African societies have been shaped by their respective religions and cosmologies. This course also explores how Arab migration and European colonization in different parts of Africa imposed new legal systems that were influenced by either Islam or Christianity. The major themes of this class include African agency, indigenous African forms of knowledge and periodization, the interconnectedness of religious, legislative, and judicial facets of African societies, and diversity among African regions, societies, ethnic groups, religions, and languages. It counts toward the Legal Studies and African Studies concentrations. For history, it meets either the pre-1800 or post-1800 requirement and can count towards the “Law & Social Justice,” or “Race and Indigeneity,” or “Africa & Atlantic World” fields.



Empire of Nations: Nations and Nationalism in the USSR with Professor Alan Barenberg

The USSR was a peculiar type of state: an empire that promoted selective forms of national expression and some national groups. Through case studies, this course will examine how the Soviet Union was shaped by seemingly contradictory policies and practices, including the establishment of ethnic homelands, the forced deportations of "enemy" ethnic groups, labor migration, and inter-ethnic conflicts.



Contemporary India, 1940-present with Professor Niharika Yadav

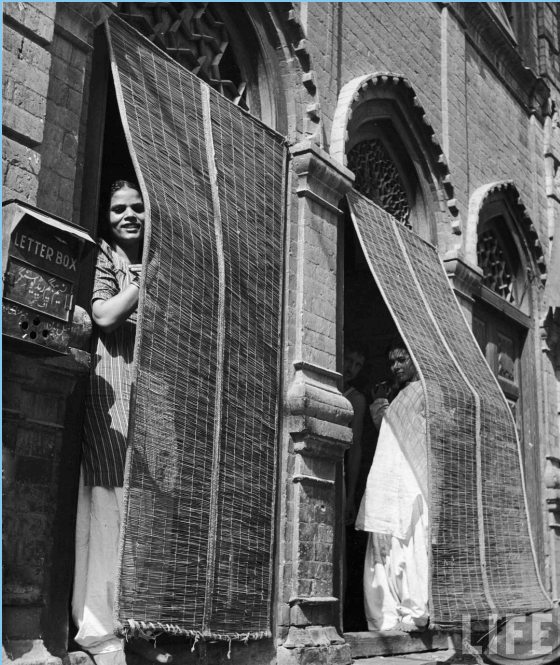
In 1947, India embarked upon one of the world's most ambitious experiments in postcolonial democracy. This course surveys the history of the Indian state and society in the decades following the formal end of colonial rule, as the country sought to rebuild its economy, institute a new political system, and usher in large-scale social change. Given India's immense cultural and social diversity, this was no easy task. It required answering a range of questions: How would the state ensure the rights of the country's minorities? How would the country's model of economic growth address wide-ranging demands for social equality? Which of India's many languages would be designated its official language? Underlying all these questions were the debates concerning the history, present, and future of Indian society.



Terror and the Gulag with Professor Alan Barenberg

This class will examine the origins, nature, and legacies of mass terror and the Gulag in the Soviet Union. We will examine the everyday experiences of victims, perpetrators, and bystanders in prisons, camps, and exile settlements. We will also consider how the Gulag fits into the global histories of concentration camps and mass incarceration.

Sexual Economies of South Asia with Professor Niharika Yadav



Taking inspiration from a volume of pathbreaking feminist essays from South Asia, this course asks: can there be a history of sexuality in India that does not start with the Sanskrit treatise *kamāsūtrā* (400-200 BCE) and end with the modern day *kamasutra* (India's preferred condom brand)? Instead, we will investigate how new regimes of sexuality are produced, policed, and challenged in colonial and postcolonial South Asia. We will explore how laws, leisure, and sexual “deviance” shape our understandings and experiences of sexuality. How have social and political movements challenged existing ideas about licit and illicit sexuality? We will explore the production of sexuality across multiple sites—fields, factories, temples, theater, fiction, Hindi films and more. We will also engage with the worlds and work of social actors who have countered existing regimes of sexuality to produce new understandings of the relationship between the ethical, material, and affective dimensions of gender and sexuality. This course will not only introduce you to the history of sexuality in colonial and contemporary South Asia, but it will also animate debates about gender and sexuality in our current moment.



Decolonization with Professor Jess Pearson

Professor Pearson's decolonization class analyzed colonization and decolonization by playing *Catan*. First, the students played *Catan*, a classic game which models the colonization of an island. Then they used what their knowledge from the class to make board games which modeled decolonization instead.

Professor Greason's Endowed Lecture

This Spring, Professor Walter Greason delivered his endowed chair lecture titled “Peace in the Twenty Second Century, an Afrofuturist History” to an audience of Macalester students, faculty, staff as well as many community members. Professor Greason introduced Afrofuturist history as historical research influenced by the West African concept of Sankofa, which means simultaneously looking forward and backward in time to determine where you hope to go and where you have been. This means diligently studying African American history and taking lessons from it to imagine and inform the future.

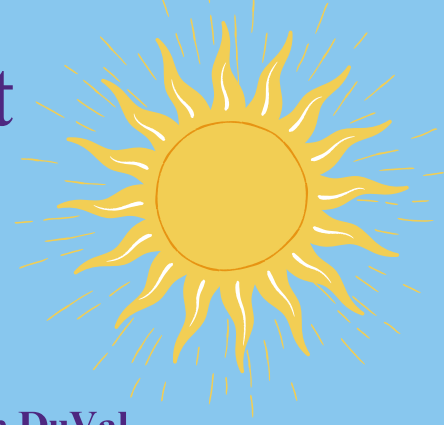
Professor Greason showed how traditional historical methodology sometimes fails to properly realize African American history due to its inability to work with events where evidence of the event was intentionally suppressed. An example of evidence suppression is the destruction of Black Wall Street in Tulsa.

Professor Greason concluded his lecture by discussing his major projects and how they combine thorough historical research with pop culture in a way that makes it easily accessible to a nonacademic audience. His first experience with adapting academic research for a general audience was posting about it on Twitter. Professor Greason also worked extensively on the world building for Black Panther, developing the concept of the Djalia, which was inspired by traditional African religion. Most recently Professor Greason has worked on historical graphic novels, most notably *The Graphic History of Hip Hop*.





Summer Reading List Recommendations



Professor Phillips

- *Native Nations: A Millennium in North America* by **Kathleen DuVal**
- *Indigenous Archival Activism: Mohican Interventions in Public History and Memory*, by **Rose Miron**
- *American Indians and the American Dream: Policies, Place, and Property in Minnesota*, by **Kasey Keeler**
- *The Small and the Mighty: Twelve Unsung Americans Who Changed the Course of History, from the Founding to the Civil Rights Movement*, by **Sharon McMahon**
- *Native Nations: A Millennium in North America*, by **Kathleen DuVal**

Professor Vélez

- *They Called Us Enemy* (graphic novel), by **George Takei**
- *How to Survive History: How to Outrun a Tyrannosaurus, Escape Pompeii, Get Off the Titanic, and Survive the Rest of History's Deadliest Catastrophes*, by **Cody Cassidy**
- *Facing History and Ourselves: Holocaust and Human Behavior*, by **Margot Stern Strom**
- *Four Lost Cities: A Secret History of the Urban Age*, by **Annalee Newitz**

Professor Pearson

- *The Safekeep*, by **Yael van der Wouden**

Professor Greason

- *The Plunder of Black America*, by **Calvin Schermerhorn**
- *The Black Reparations Project*, by **William Darity**
- *Dismantling the Master's Clock*, by **Rasheedah Philips**
- *Lies My Teacher Told Me* (graphic novel), by **James Loewen and Nate Powell**

Departmental Awards

The Yahya Armajani Prize in Global History:

Maya Saidel

Yahya Armajani Endowed Prize (International Student):

Manas Kapoor

The J. Huntley Dupre Prize in European History:

Mihailo Vučetić

The Kenneth L. & Martha S. Holmes Prize in History of the Americas:

Fátima Ortega Barba

Case Prize in American Western History:

Georgia Gayle Kretz

Kathleen Rock Hauser Prize in Women's and Gender History:

Antara Bhattacharyay and Alma Angantyr

Ernest R. Sandeen Memorial Prize:

Talia Ostacher and Leah Long

Teresita Martinez Vergne Memorial Prize:

Wesley Hearne

Phi Alpha Theta Inductees



Lois Alberts '25

Mersen Bekele '26

David Christenfield '27

Milo Clarkson '26

Catherine Driver '25

Ike Hatlevig '25

Samira Hussein '26

Rinnie Jardini '27

Owen King '27

Jordan Kleinman '26

Logan Leybold 25'

Cayden Mayer 26'

Rabi Michael-Crushson 26'

Nicolas Moiseyev 25'

Dylan Paulsen '25

Alex Sonnabend '27

Mihailo Vučetić '27

Sydney Weschcke '26

Daniel Wiltse '27

Interviews with Majors

Mihailo Vučetić



Mihailo is a History and Political Science double major from Belgrade Serbia. He is also the newsletter editor for the Latin American studies department and is currently in Professor Pearson's Post War Europe class with me (the editor).

Daniel: So my first question is, what is your favorite historical topic? Well, I kind of already know that it's Latin America, but I'm curious as to why.

Mihailo: Because you can make some comparisons between Europe and Latin America, especially Eastern Europe, and I was taking a lot of classes related to both. I took a class with Professor Capello, Introduction to Latin America, and I really loved it. Especially how I connect it with what was happening in Eastern Europe, because I see a lot of similarities and comparative moments within our class (Postwar Europe) and Europe in the Era of World War with Professor Pearson. In both of these, I did some comparative analysis between the history of Latin America with that of Europe. I wrote a paper about Disney, Charles De Gaulle, and the French resistance movement in Argentina. I was comparing how Latin America was involved in the war in a way that's mostly hidden from the European perspective. So I really enjoy it. My favorite moments are either the interwar period or the immediate postwar period after 1940. So for me, that's a very interesting period where you can see a lot of policies and moments that were happening.

Daniel: Oh, wow, yeah, I mean, one of my questions was, how do your two majors tie into each other, but you just answered it. And then also, how does being an International student influence your experience at Macalester and with the history department?

Mihailo: The professors are just incredible, I mean, I could just go on about all of them. Walter Greason is my advisor, and he gives me opportunities all the time. I can see how I'm not only searching for opportunities for myself, but also the professors in this department are making it easy to find the best ways to explore different ideas. And you know, execute them into real work and real-world projects. With Professor Greason, I presented at a UC Berkeley Conference. I'm also working on publishing two papers from Professor Pearson's class and Professor Capello's class. So, the department helps international students to not only adapt to the place, but make them really feel like they're part of the department itself.

Daniel: Yeah, obviously, in our postwar Europe class, you have a very different perspective being from Europe. Do you think that being from Serbia changes your perspective on US history or South American history?

Mihailo: Probably to some extent, but one thing that I definitely like is how the history department views Europe, not just as Europe. It's one thing, but we also differentiate a lot between Eastern and Western Europe, the Balkans, and on the national level as well. Even with American history, we always focus on specific regions or countries. In the case of Latin America. I think that gets lost within different topics or different talks. But I do think I have some different perspectives, obviously because I live through these issues and I've heard about them from personal accounts: my parents, grandparents, neighbors, and really anyone back home. I was also learning history in Serbia, so I have a different perspective on somewhat subjective issues. For example, I was going against Tony Judt's (the author of our post-war Europe textbook) argument that student movements and student protests were mostly useless. But I argued differently, maybe because I've been involved in student protests back in Serbia. Where I'm from, in the Balkans, I see a lot of things with some issues that many Westerners see differently. Tony Judt was in the UK and America, and he may not have seen the benefits of the student protests, but if you were to live in a country like mine, which was under communism, under oppression, high hyperinflation, and war... then student protests really do bring some good.

Daniel: 100%, I mean, that's one of the reasons I chose to come to Macalester as opposed to another university. There are so many people with totally unique perspectives. One thing I didn't realize is that even my friends who lived in other states in the US have a totally different perspective on a lot of things. And it's a much bigger difference when we're talking about the whole world.

Mihailo: Especially with history, a few of my friends from back home are doing history, which is very undermined in Serbia. Here I can see the future of doing something in history. I'm not lying if I say that I'm contemplating doing something with history in graduate school. And in my studyway program in Northern Ireland, I got accepted into Queen's University, I'm doing a class about Northern Irish history, in the 19th century. At Mac, I think that I'm learning how to tie together events that might not be obviously connected. For example, Northern Ireland. I can connect the movements there to ones here, such as Black Lives Matter, or with movements that are happening in Serbia. I would never have thought about Ireland before, but in our class, we talked about Ireland at least a million times, not only the IRA but even connecting the potato famine to the food shortages in Post War Europe. I never thought of studying Latin America before Macalester, but then I happened to have a lot of friends who are from the region, who are studying this, and I realized I didn't know a lot about it, and it prompted me to do so. And now I'm considering taking a class at Queens that's about African and Irish relations in the Americas. It's about how African and Irish people interacted in Latin America. I'm really looking forward to seeing how what I've learned in my classes at Macalester ties back to this one class.

Fall 2025 Schedule				
Number	Name	Days	Time	Instructor
HIST 113-01	Time Travelers:Tourism in Global History	T R	1:20-2:50 pm	Jess Pearson
HIST 121-01	The Greek World	M W F	2:20-3:30 pm	Brian Lush
HIST 137-01	From Confederation to Confederacy: US History from Independence to Civil War	M W F	2:20-3:20 pm	Linda Sturtz
HIST 170-01	History of Childhood	T R	1:20-2:50 pm	Amy Sullivan
HIST-194-01	Wakanda Forever	M W F	10:50- 11:50 am	Walter Greason
HIST 194-02	Black Music, Black History	M W F	9:40-10:40 am	Walter Greason
HIST 194-F1	Responding to Revolutionary Haiti: Art, Literature and Politics (FYC)	M W F	9:40- 10:40 am	Linda Sturtz
HIST 194-F2	Disasters in World History (FYC)	M W F	9:40-10:40 am	Karin Vélez
HIST 211-01	History of Africa to 1800	M W F	10:50-11:50 am	Tara Hollies
HIST 225-01	Native History to 1871	T R	1:20-2:50 pm	Katrina Phillips
HIST 234-F1	U.S. Enviromental History (FYC)	M W F	2:20-3:20 pm	Chris Wells
HIST 256-01	Transatlantic Slave Trade	M W F	12:00-1:00 am	Linda Sturtz
HIST 260-01	Rise/Fall of Tsarist Russia	M W F	10:50-11:50 am	Maria Fedorova
HIST 261-F1	Making History: Russian Cinema as Testimony, Propaganda and Art (FYC)	T R	1:20-2:50 pm	Julia Chadaga
HIST 271-01	Uses and Abuses: Drugs, Addiction and Recovery	T R	3:00-4:30 pm	Amy Sullivan
HIST 282-01	Latin America: Art and Nation	T R	3:00-4:30 pm	Ernesto Capello
HIST 290-01	History: Then and Now	M	7:00-10 :00	Ernesto Capello

Number	Name	Days	Time	Instructor
HIST 294-01	Baseball: History and Literature	T R	1:20-2:50 pm	Matt Burgess and Ernesto Capello
HIST 294-02	Indigenizing Ordway: Reclaiming (Hi)stories, Narratives, and Knowledge	T R	9:40 - 11:10 am	Katrina Phillips and Marianne Milligan
HIST 294-03	The Maghreb: History and Cultures of North Africa from Hannibal to 1492	T R	1:20-2:50 pm	Andrew Overman
HIST 294-04	Culture and Science in the Cold War	M W F	1:10-2:10 pm	Maria Fedorova
HIST 294-05	Food History	W	7:00-10:00	Maria Fedorova
HIST 294-06	Dance in the United States: A Cultural History	M W F	1:10-2:10 pm	TBD
HIST 343-01	Imperial Nature: The United States and the Global Environment	M W F	9:40-10:40 am	TBD
HIST 394-01	The Qing Dynasty: Empire, Race, and Opium, and the World	T R	3:00-4:30 pm	James Coplin
HIST 394-02	Sex, Love, and Gender in Modern Europe	W	7:00-10:00	Jess Pearson
HIST 490-01	Senior Seminar	M	7:00-10:00	Jess Pearson

