

History is Everywhere







Table of Contents

Events

A Welcome from our Chair	1-2
History Lunch	3-4
Halloween	5-6
FYC Field Trip	7-8
History Club	9-10

Faculty News

Department Brightening	11-12
Prof. Sullivan's Project	13
Professor Wells' projects	14
Professor Phillips' event	14
Prof. Greason's Conference	15
Prof. Fedorova's Podcasts	16
Upcoming	17
Capstone Panels	18-24

Spring Plans

Course Spotlights	25
Spring Courses	26
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Welcome from the Chair

Dear Students, Colleagues, and Friends of the History Department,



This year marks a period of profound transition for the History Department. We began the summer mourning the passing of **Professor Jim Stewart**, who served the department with distinction for 43 years and shaped generations of Macalester historians. We also celebrated moments of renewal: **Professor Masha Fedorova** earned tenure, a milestone that affirms her innovative scholarship and deep commitment to our students; and after more than a decade of devoted service, **Professor Linda Sturtz** retired, leaving behind a foundation of thoughtful leadership that will guide us into our next chapter. Stepping into the role of Chair at such a meaningful moment is an honor and a privilege.

It has been equally meaningful to witness how our community has begun the academic year with energy, connection, and joy. We launched the fall semester with a “Welcome Back” pizza luncheon on the lawn—a sunny September afternoon spent reconnecting with familiar faces and greeting the newest members of our department. We were also delighted to welcome back Professor Amy Sullivan following her visiting appointment at Johns Hopkins University; her return has already enriched both our classrooms and our conversations.

October brought an advising season with flair: our Halloween-themed “Pick Your Classes” costume party blended creativity with course planning and reaffirmed the warmth and playfulness of this department. In November, the History Club hosted a movie night that offered students a chance to gather informally and reflect on history in the community. We were especially proud to witness 17 capstone presentations this fall, guided with great skill and care by **Professor Jess Pearson**. Our seniors demonstrated remarkable rigor, creativity, and intellectual independence—an inspiring testament to the strength of our students and our curriculum.

As we close the semester, we invite the community to visit Professor Ernie Capello’s History Then and Now exhibit, now on display outside the library archives—a visual and conceptual exploration of how historical understanding evolves over time.

Welcome from the Chair

Our faculty have also been extraordinarily productive this year. I want to recognize:

- **Professor James Coplin**, whose leadership has been essential in archiving the papers of Professor Emeritus Yue-Him Tam, ensuring that this important intellectual legacy will be preserved for future generations.

- **Professor Gray Sage (formerly known as Walter Greason)**, who presented eight panels at the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) meeting in Atlanta. His talks included: Slavery and English Law, Black Studies and Afrofuturism, The Enslavement of Black Colonies, The Reparations Council, Black Labor, Black Townships, The Graphic History of Hip Hop, Black Erasure, and Preserving Black Communities.

- **Professor Katie Phillips**, who collaborated with Professor Marianne Milligan on a new course, *Indigenizing Ordway*, which acknowledges that Macalester College sits on the homeland of the Dakota people. Their course amplifies silenced voices by guiding students through the past, present, and future uses of the Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area and illuminating Indigenous histories of Minnesota and Indigenous ways of knowing the natural world.

- **Professor Karin Vélez**, who was invited to give a history and context lecture to museum curators in Boston connecting two new exhibits—one on a sixteenth-century Black glass Madonna, and another featuring work by Bostonian African-American artist Allan Rohan Crite, whose paintings of Black Madonnas on the Boston subway are among his most evocative contributions.

- **Professor Tara Hollies**, who was named “Best Editing & Writing Tutoring Provider 2025 – USA” by AI Global Media and Corporate Vision Magazine. I also want to thank Professor Hollies for the compassion she showed to the family of **Binta Maina '26**, who tragically passed away in November. Binta—who was from California—took five courses with Professor Hollies. We often said that she majored in neuroscience and minored in Tara. She was a bright, generous student, and she is deeply missed.

Finally, I want to thank our work-study students—**Senia Stasiukevich, Alex Sonnabend, Sydney Weschcke, Aurora Shen, Maria Vander Vort, and Vincent Beltaos**—and our fearless Department Coordinator, **Carla Zelada**, for welcoming me to the third floor of Old Main with good humor, patience, and practical wisdom. Carla’s support has made this transition immeasurably smoother.

Wishing everyone health, rest, and cheer as we conclude 2025.

Here’s to 2026!

Duchess Harris, J.D., Ph.D.
Chair, History Department
Macalester College



FALL
HISTORY
LUNCH

EAT PIZZA

THURSDAY SEPT. 25

MEET FRIENDS

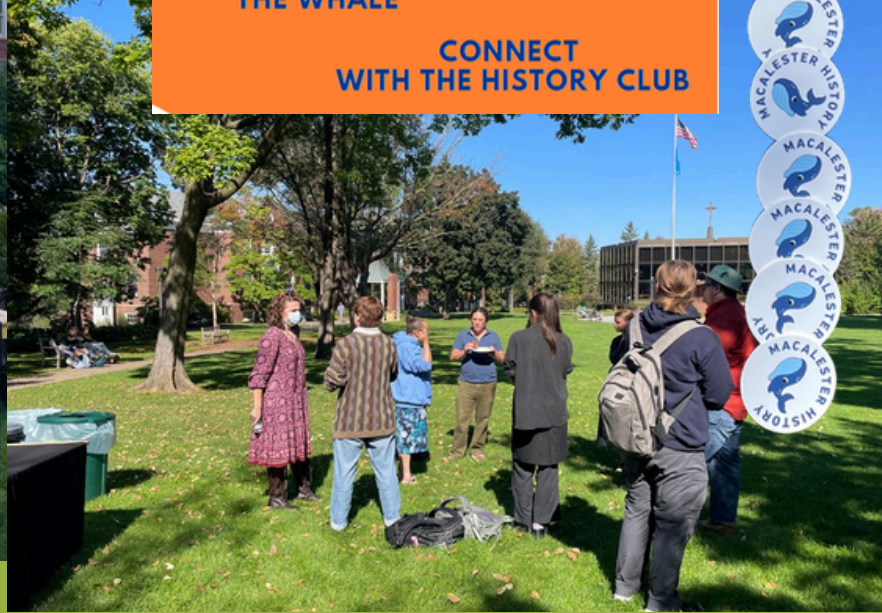
TALK TO PROFS

ASK ABOUT THE WHALE

CONNECT WITH THE HISTORY CLUB

GREAT LAWN 11:30

MACALESTER HISTORY



First Event of the Year in the History Department

History Lunch

On a bright and sunny September day, the History Department hosted its first event of the year. The lawn in front of Old Main was filled with people enjoying conversations and laughter, and the pleasant smell and taste of pizza. The vibrant energy of the event was too much for onlookers to resist looking! Some even joined the lunch!

The professors were delighted to meet new people and chat with familiar students. Stories about lectures, courses and adventures were shared, and some valuable connections were made. Apart from that, students were able to get some great History Department merch: key rings with colourful whales on them and stickers. Most importantly, people finally found the answer to a nagging question: why the whale? The History lunch was a great start to the new semester and set the tone for the year ahead.



HISTORY HALLOWEEN



How can you combine business with pleasure? The History Department has the perfect solution! What could be better than discussing different historical periods while enjoying delicious sweets?

On Halloween Eve, Macalester students had the opportunity to visit the third floor of Old Main to chat with our brilliant professors and find out about the history courses for the spring semester.

Whether you wanted to discover magic and myth, the pluralism of African cultures, Russian expansion, or American Indian history, there was something for everyone. Professors engaged in lively conversations with interested students and presented their courses. Every professor had specially designed bookmarks, so students didn't leave empty-handed.

The true star of the event was Professor Harris, whose Prince costume drew all eyes!

And that was it: treats, talks, costumes and fun – History Halloween!

Curious
about
WEREWOLVES?
Come on
in

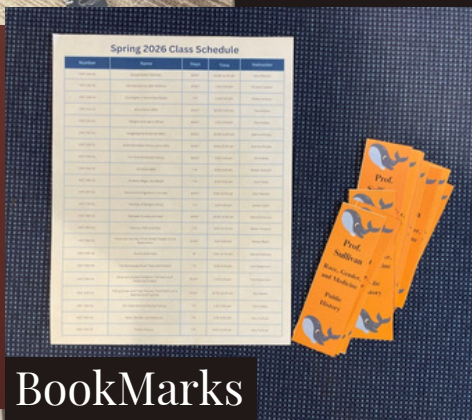
Professors



Costumes



Treats



BookMarks



Conversations





FYC FIELD TRIP





Parajanov, Sergei, director. *The Color of Pomegranates*. 1969.

On September 24, first-year students from Macalester College visited the James Ford Bell Library as part of their First Year Course, Responding to Revolutionary Haiti: Art, Literature, and Politics, organized by Professor Linda Sturtz. At the Special Collections Library at the University of Minnesota, students were able to examine original primary source texts documenting the history of Saint-Domingue and the Revolution. They also engaged with several maps of Haiti, including ones that highlighted how the island's terrain shaped historical events.

The visit followed a straightforward show-and-tell format: students were introduced to the collection, guided through selected materials with commentary, and given time to explore on their own. Anne Good, a Curator at the Library, prepared an extensive exhibition of primary source materials printed in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Most were in French, and many were illustrated.

FIELD TRIP TO THE JAMES FORD BELL LIBRARY

HISTORY CLUB



Fires and Fascism Movie Night (first showing in the US)

Meeting Topics

9/25 Silly Scandals

10/2 Music

10/9 Sneaky Spies

10/23 Righteous
Religion

10/30 Spooky Stories

Meeting Topics

11/6 Founding
Fathers/Mothers

11/8 Fascism and Fires
Screening

11/13 Wild Card Week

11/20 Economic History

12/4 Professor Hollies's
Presentation on Hot
and Ugly Politicians



INTERVIEW WITH HISTORY CLUB ORGANIZERS VINCENT AND DYLAN

Where do you find inspiration for the topics that you discuss in History Club?

Vincent: A lot of the topics come from the first day of History Club, when we get ideas for meeting topics from those who show up on day 1. We go around and take suggestions for future meeting topics, movie ideas, event ideas, and more! If you want a say in next semester's ideas, show up to the first meeting next semester!

Dylan: We tend to get our ideas for the broad topics from the club members on the first day, and often try to match a weekly topic to the general vibe of the week, such as spooky histories during the week of Halloween. As for the specific stories and anecdotes I bring in, I typically find inspiration from the classes I'm currently taking or the research projects I'm working on. It's always fun to bring something from the classroom to the club, and it's a great way to practice communication and storytelling in a relaxed environment!

What was your favourite meeting?

Vincent: Silly Scandals was fun because we got to see where everyone's interests were. After all, it was the first real week. Additionally, scandals can be from a whole host of different subareas: Sports, government and politics, social oddities, extramarital affairs, and more. Just so many different topics!

Dylan: My favorite meeting was by far our final meeting of the semester. We mixed it up a bit by bringing in Professor Tara Hollies as a guest lecturer, and she talked about hot and ugly politicians throughout history. After that, we made a bracket of historical figures to debate which one would win at Chess-Boxing. There were a lot of smiles and laughs at that meeting!

How is the atmosphere in the History Club different this year from the previous one?

Vincent: It was more energetic. A lot of first years in this year's history club brought a lot of new energy to the club. People were more sociable and really good at listening to one another's interests and at feeling comfortable sharing their own.

Dylan: I feel that it was a lot more relaxed yet engaging. We have a few more people regularly attending this semester, so there's less pressure on each person to fill the time talking and sharing. Additionally, we have a lot of new people joining us, so there are a lot more fresh ideas and perspectives. I really like the atmosphere we have this year.

What is the hardest/most interesting part of being an organizer of the history club?

Vincent: Organizing events and the planning that goes into them is probably the most difficult thing, especially with balancing it with classwork and other extracurriculars. Additionally, it appears that sending the weekly email out with the weekly topic on it is, unfortunately, inconsistent and has been difficult this semester. Hopefully it'll get easier next semester!

Dylan: I've found that I struggle the most with outreach and getting more people involved. As a pretty small club, I want to make sure the people who are attending meetings regularly are enjoying the time they commit to being there, and I'm always trying to interest more people in the club. One of the most interesting parts is meeting new people interested in history, and sharing with them the joy of learning and talking about the past!



**HISTORY DEPARTMENT
BRIGHTENING: BEFORE**



**HISTORY DEPARTMENT
BRIGHTENING: AFTER**

Prof. Amy Sullivan



Oral History Project

About the Collection

The Berman Institute is undertaking an oral history project to interview members of the founding generation of American bioethics. The resulting collection, titled Moral Histories, will serve as a unique and accessible resource for understanding the creation and formation of the field. It will become part of a group of projects designed to inform and engage the multiple publics interested in bioethics, including scholars, policy makers, health care professionals, researchers, students, and of course the public at large.



Please, describe a project that you've been working on.

During my year at Hopkins, I interviewed 18 bioethicists as part of a larger collection of oral histories documenting the origins of the field of bioethics. I conducted both in-person and remote interviews with bioethicists whose academic backgrounds included philosophy, medicine, law, religious studies, divinity schools, and anthropology. The range of scholarly viewpoints all connected to topics in bioethics that included work in government, genetics/genetic testing, public health, racial justice, reproductive care, end-of-life, children/neonatal medicine, international disputes, vaccinations, and more.

What was the most challenging/insightful/interesting part of your project?

The most challenging part of my year was moving with my husband and two cats to Baltimore and back in less than a year! The most interesting part of the project was getting to hear about the early lives and careers of so many diverse, amazing scholars who worked at the very beginning of the field of bioethics.

At the start of the semester Professor Chris Wells was one of the experts interviewed for the American Experience documentary film on PBS, *Clearing the Air: The War on Smog*.

"In July 1943, dark, smoky clouds suddenly descended over Los Angeles, causing residents to complain of burning eyes, nausea, and difficulty breathing. [...] The waves of pollution called "smog" – a combination of "smoke" and "fog" – continued and the cause remained a mystery. It was the beginning of an epic struggle for clean air involving years of scientific investigation and civic pressure, bringing together people across ideological divides in a remarkable example of bipartisanship. Their work would lead to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Clean Air Act, which have had an enduring effect on the quality of air Americans breathe."



Professor Chris Wells was featured as a guest on the first episode of the Cannonball Podcast.

"This episode dives into the political tensions that lit the fuse, his [Brock Yates] opposition to the Clean Air Act and EPA, and how a secret trial run in 1971 gave way to the very first Cannonball Run race. As the Cannonball commenced, so did the controversy—with fan letters, angry critics, and the beginning of a legend."



Last month, Professor Phillips was invited to do an author event for a local school district. Some students participated in a book club with one of her children's books, and she was asked to talk to all the students about her background and experience as an author and historian. (The best part? Her younger son's class got to participate!)



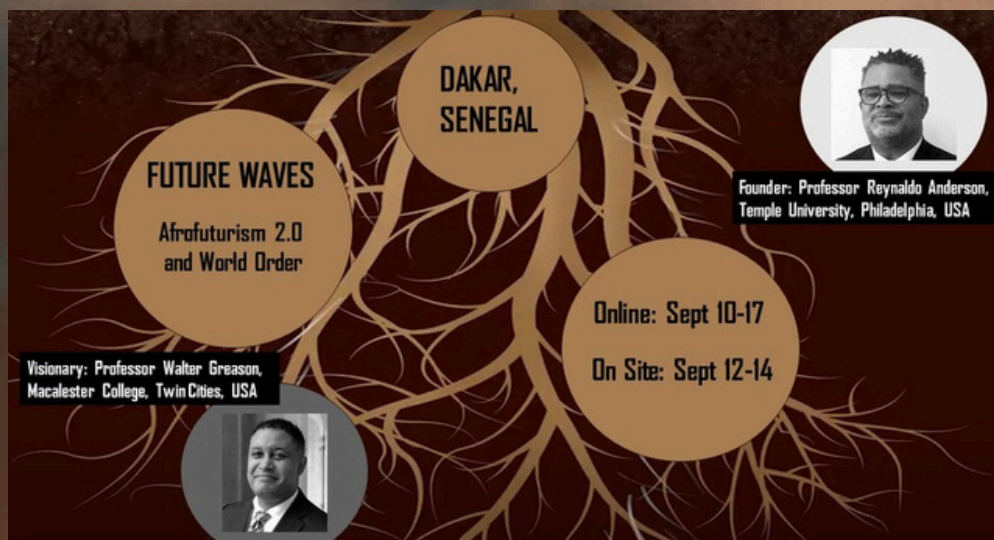
CONFERENCE ON AFROFUTURISM



Professor Walter Greason organized a major conference on Afrofuturism in Dakar, Senegal in September 2025.

FUTURE WAVES: Afrofuturism 2.0 and The World

FUTURE WAVES: Afrofuturism 2.0 and The World is a multi-week, multi-disciplinary festival and conference that brings together brilliant minds from the global south and north, and celebrates the vibrant worlds of art, music, research, commerce, and technology, all through the lens of Black creativity and speculative vision. With special guests from Senegal, Colombia, Brazil, South America, the U.S.A., Europe, and Africa.



PROF. MARIA FEDOROVA INTERVIEWS

The famine in the Volga Region in the early 1920s was a humanitarian disaster, but it kick started about a decade of agricultural cooperation between the Soviet Union and the United States. Agricultural experts from each country visited the other to teach and to learn, a series of exchanges documented by Maria Fedorova, assistant professor in the Department of Russian Studies at Macalester College in Minnesota, in a new book called *Seeds of Exchange: Soviets, Americans, and Cooperation in Agriculture, 1921–1935*. Apart from food aid and medical assistance from the US, the exchanges included material goods, like seeds and tractors, as well as information and experience, and were motivated as much by ideology and politics as by pressing humanitarian concerns.



Revolutions are Born in Breadlines

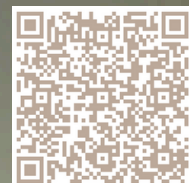
Russia & Eurasia



**Seeds of Exchange:
Soviets, Americans, and
Cooperation in
Agriculture, 1921–1935**

Seeds of Exchange: Soviets, Americans, and Cooperation in Agriculture, 1921–1935 (Northern Illinois UP, 2025) examines the US and Soviet exchange of agricultural knowledge and technology during the interwar period.

Maria Fedorova challenges the perception of the Soviet Union as a passive recipient of American technology and expertise. She reveals the circular nature of this exchange through official government bureaus, amid anxious farmers in crowded auditoriums, in cramped cars across North Dakota and Montana, and by train over the once fertile steppes of the Volga.





"EEO in Context", an exhibit curated by students in Hist 290 - History: Then & Now. The exhibit showcased the history of the Expanded Educational Opportunities Program (1968-1974) and placed it within Macalester and Global context.

Upcoming

Celebrating Jim Stewart



History Professor Emeritus Dr. James Brewer Stewart passed away on May 7, 2025.

"A towering figure in the academic community, Dr. Stewart left an indelible mark through his scholarship, teaching, and unwavering commitment to equity and justice."

The History department will honour Professor Stewart's legacy with an event in Spring of 2026. For further information, please visit the department's website (Department News) or follow the Instagram account: @macalesterhistory

CAPSTONES



Panel 1a:

First person: Individual and collective experiences of migration and rebellion

Milo Clarkson

Remembering the Sürgün: Tamirlar and Collective Memory in Crimean Tatar Oral Histories

Rose Fanuzzi

Little Italies of the Twin Cities: Stories of the First Italian Immigrants in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota in the Early 20th Century

Liam Athas

Between Memory and Method: How the biography of Günther Stache reflects the strengths and limitations of biography in academic history

Sam Fackenthal

Co-opting Collaboration : First Person Accounts of Identity and Western Influence during the Taiping Rebellion

Chair and comment: Professor Amy Sullivan (History)

CAPSTONES

**Panel 1b:
Colonization, Enslavement, and Race
Formation in the United States**

Madison Nelson

Eighteenth-Century Northern
Slavery, Urban and Rural: How Those
in Bondage Maintained Their Agency

Mackinnon Williams

Producing and Reproducing Sexual
Vulnerability: Testimonies of
Blackness in the WPA Slave
Narratives Collection

Dylan Paulsen

A Continent Behind Glass: American
Exhibitions of African Peoples,
Cultures, and Environments in the
Turn of the 20th Century

David Christenfeld

A Tale of Two Cities: How Redlining
Shaped the Racial Makeup of Boston

Chair and Comment: Professor
Duchess Harris (History
Department Chair and American
Studies)





Panel 2a:

Visual Voices: Meaning-Making and Identity Creation Through Material Culture

Audrey Milk

“No Irish Need Apply”: The
Demonization of the Irish
by British and American Media in the
19th Century

Eva Loran

“womanmade / womantouched /
womanloved”:
Textiles as Women’s History, Protection,
and Resistance in the United States

Liv Whitmore

Seeing is Believing: Starvation,
Humanitarianism, and Visual Media

Chair and Comment: Professor
Amy Elkins (English and Creative
Writing)

CAPSTONES

Panel 2b:

**Stories of Subjugation: The Dangers
of Dominating Forces within
Histories of Marginalized Places**

David Truman

Devices of Dehumanization and
Dispossession: Colonization Methods
of the British Empire in Ireland and
North America

Sydney Weschcke

The Enduring Impact of the Spanish
Inquisition on Northern Chile's Religious
Practices, from the 16th Century to Today

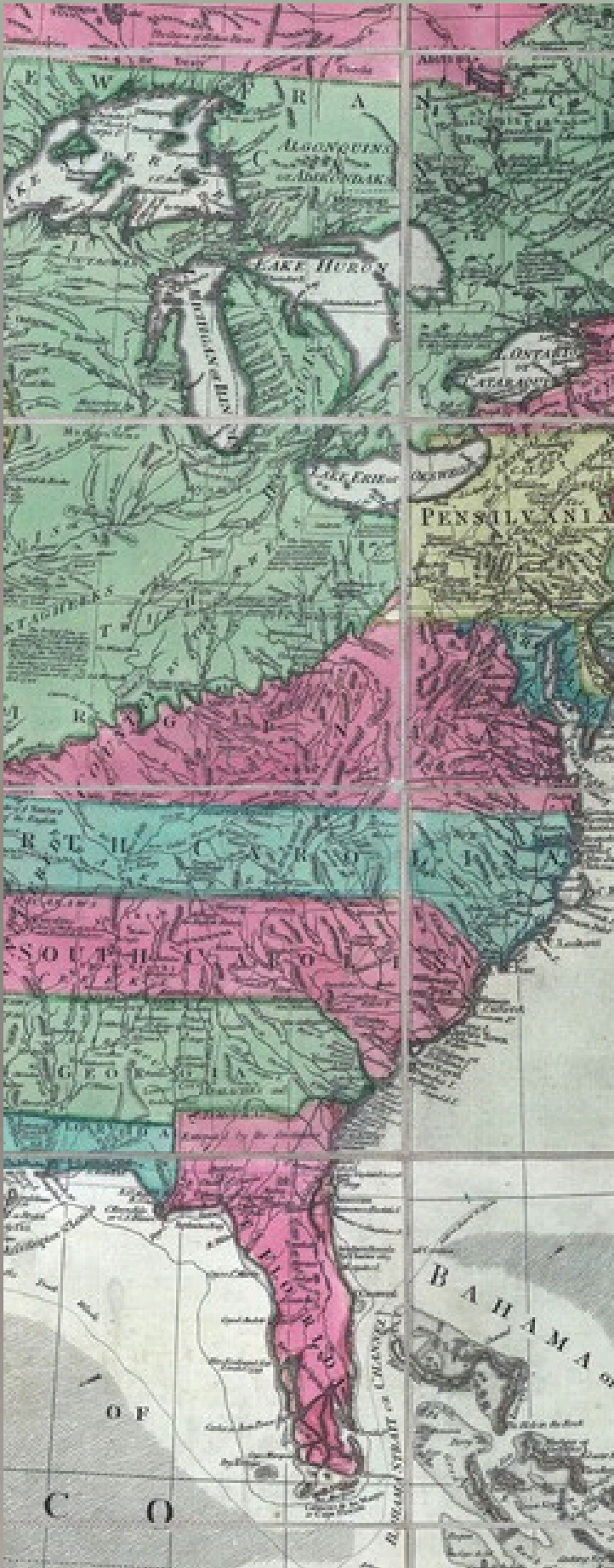
Jordan Kleinman

Podgorica: The Capital Hidden from
the World: How the Silencing of
Montenegro's History Has Shaped its
Contemporary Identity in a Global
View

Chair and Comment: Professor
Linda Sturtz (History)



CAPSTONES



Panel 2c:

The American Century: Capital, Culture, and Control

Nicole Emmerson

Whose Culture Counts? Examining Federal Strategies to Conserve Monoculturalism in the U.S. History Classroom, 1980-Present

Philomena Shuffelton-Sobe

Science and Stories: Dry Farming on the Northern Great Plains, 1900-1920

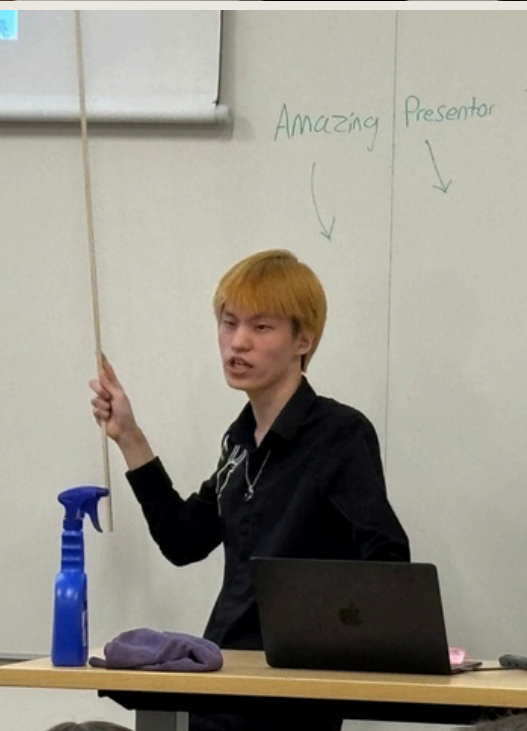
Ben Woloch

The American Sugar Family: Labor Aristocracy and Empire in the Metropolis, 1919-1962

Chair and Comment:
Professor Chris Wells
(Environmental Studies and History)

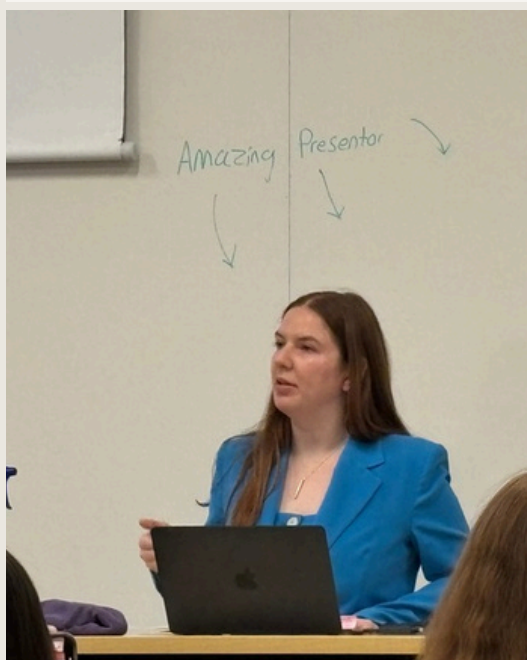


CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS



December 1

Senior History Major students successfully presented their projects to the public, captivating everyone with the spirit of history.



CAPSTONES

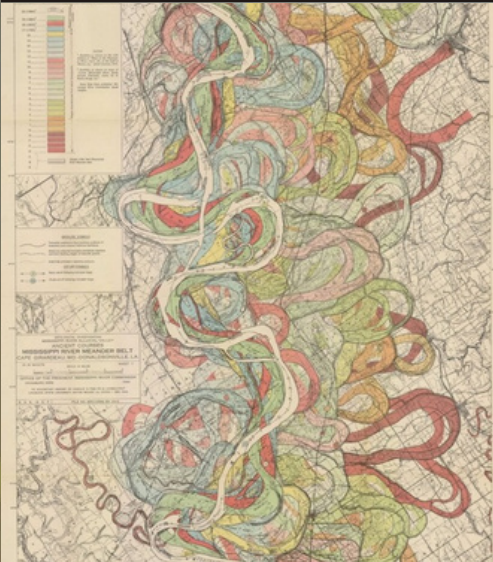


Science, Magic and Belief



How did people in the sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Atlantic world use these frameworks to make sense of the world around them? In this course we will journey back to the period of the "Scientific Revolution" to investigate how and why people began to distinguish sharply between the three systems.

The Mississippi River: Past and Present



In this environmental history course, which examines the whole length of the river but especially in Minnesota, we will dig into the geologic and geographic forces that shaped the river valley, Indigenous views of the river past and present, slavery and the commercialization and industrialization of the river, and 20th-century stories of agricultural development, pollution, flooding, dams and levees, and conservation. Lots of field trips!

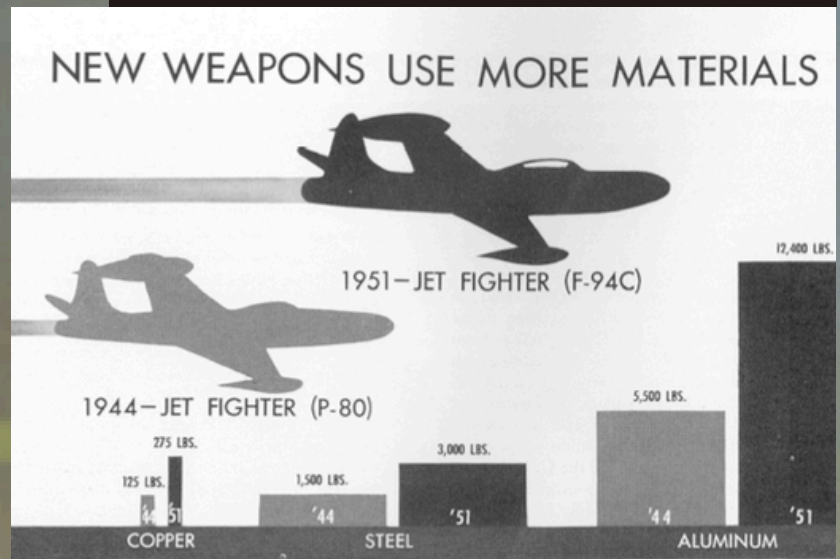
COURSE SPOTLIGHTS

Russia Goes East



Given the current shifts in the global political order, understanding the historical connections between Russia, China, Japan, and Korea is more important than ever. This course examines the complexities of these relationships, with a particular emphasis on the history of foreign policy.

America's Global Footprint: The Nature of American Empire



This course (whose nickname is "bananas and bombs") will start in the early 20th century examining U.S. consumption of bananas, coffee, and oil and centering the people and landscapes that produced those commodities, then will examine how Americans later in the 20th century shaped landscapes and communities overseas through warfare and "militarized landscapes" in places like Normandy, Hiroshima, Korea, and Vietnam – and also Hanford, Washington and Omsk in the Soviet Union.

Spring 2026 Class Schedule

Number	Name	Days	Time	Instructor
HIST 164-01	Global Health Histories	M W F	10:50-11:50 am	Jess Pearson
HIST 181-01	Introduction to Latin America	M W F	1:10-2:10 pm	Ernesto Capello
HIST 209-01	Civil Rights in the United States	T R	1:20-2:50 pm	Walter Greason
HIST 212-01	Africa Since 1800	M W F	12:00-1:00 pm	Tara Hollies
HIST 215-01	Religion and Law in Africa	M W F	1:10-2:10 pm	Tara Hollies
HIST 222-01	Imagining the American West	M W F	10:50-11:50 am	Katrina Phillips
HIST 226-01	American Indian History since 1871	M W F	9:40-10:40 am	Katrina Phillips
HIST 234-01	U.S. Environmental History	M W F	2:20-3:20 pm	Chris Wells
HIST 244-01	US Since 1945	T R	3:00-4:30 pm	Walter Greason
HIST 250-01	Science, Magic, and Belief	T R	8:00-9:30 am	Karin Vélez
HIST 267-01	Race and Immigration in Europe	M W F	9:40-10:40 am	Jess Pearson
HIST 275-01	The Rise of Modern China	T R	1:20-2:50 pm	James Coplin
HIST 290-01	History: Then and Now	T R	9:40-11:10 am	Walter Greason
HIST 294-02	Russia Goes East	M	7:00-10:00 pm	Maria Fedorova
HIST 294-03	The Mississippi River: Past and Present	T R	3:00-4:30 pm	Tom Robertson
HIST 294-04	America's Global Footprint: The Nature of American Empire	M W F	1:10-2:10 pm	Tom Robertson
HIST 305-01	Telling Queer and Trans Stories: Oral History as a Method and Practice	M W F	10:50-11:50 am	Myrl Beam
HIST 340-01	US Urban Environmental History	T R	1:20-2:50 pm	Chris Wells
HIST 350-01	Race, Gender, and Medicine	T R	3:00-4:30 pm	Amy Sullivan
HIST 376-01	Public History	T R	9:40-11:10 am	Amy Sullivan

COMING UP NEXT SEMESTER



SPECIAL ORIENTATION ISSUE
(History is Nothing But) "ONE DAMN
Thing After
ANOTHER!!"

