



Summer 2018: Descriptions of Special Topic and Seminar Courses

HIS 480, Dismantling Slavery in the Civil War Era

The question "Who Freed the Slaves?" may sound overly simple with an easy and obvious answer. We learn in school that President Lincoln, the "Great Emancipator," freed the slaves on January 1, 1863 with the Emancipation Proclamation. However, students in "Dismantling Slavery in the Civil War Era" will learn that the answer to this important question is not simple nor straightforward. It is indeed one of the most complex and fascinating stories in all of American history and involves a multitude of actors. Throughout the semester students will engage with scholarship from some of the top historians of the Civil War era, including Eric Foner, Edward Ayers and James Oakes.

HIS 481, The Tudors

The Tudor Era is one of the most fascinating dynasties in English history. Henry VIII, in a desperate quest for a son and heir, would declare himself Supreme Head of the Church and marry six wives. We will examine in detail his tumultuous reign and those of his three children: Edward VI, who, still a child when his father died, was manipulated by unscrupulous men; Mary I, whose attempts to restore England to the Church of Rome earned her the sobriquet, "Bloody Mary"; and Elizabeth I, the "Virgin Queen," who resolved to be dominated by no man, imprisoned and executed her cousin, Mary, Queen of Scots, and against whom the Spanish king launched the "invincible" armada.

LDR 490, Leadership and Wellbeing

This course conceives of "wellbeing" as a set of skills that allow us to respond more productively to the stressors of modern life to flourish. This course introduces students to ideas, exercises, and practices from ancient wisdom, modern psychology and neuroscience that can lead to increased wellbeing which in turn allows one to reach one's potential and effectively lead others. Students will engage in actual practices to increase wellbeing, reflect upon their experience, articulate what they are learning, and create a developmental wellbeing plan. Pre-req. LDR 101.

INT 270, Race, Sport and Culture

Racial tensions in the country have reached heightened levels and the country is being forced to acknowledge and grapple with a complex and polarizing racial history and legacy. Sports have always had the unique ability to act as a mirror, reflecting and helping to examine society's most pressing, complex and controversial issues. This course will explore racial, gender and socio-economic issues through the lens of sports, highlighting their role as both leader and laggard on social issues as well as their ability to act as an influencer in the court of public opinion.