History
Year Three
Module Title: Vikings in Ireland

Module Convenor: Dr Clare Downham

Broad description of module content:
This module provides an overview of Viking activity in Ireland from the first raids in 795 until the beheading of the last Viking king of Dublin by the English in 1171. It is coursework based with a strong emphasis on primary sources from a range of different disciplines including history, literature, and archaeology.

In this course we will explore key problems in the interpretation of the Viking world, explore life in the Viking Age and challenge students to broaden their chronological and conceptual assumptions concerning this fascinating and under-explored area of medieval European history.

Module code: HIST304

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value: 15

Semester available (2017-18): Semester 1

Balance of assessment: 15% Bibliography; 85% Essay
**Module Title:** The African-American Odyssey: slavery, race and freedom in North America

**Module Convenor:**
Dr Laura Sandy

**Broad description of module content:**
This module looks in detail at the development of slavery in North America from settlement to emancipation. It covers a wide range of topics, such as ideologies of race and racism, slavery in Africa, the transition from white to black labour, the development of the slave trade, slave life and culture, punishment and resistance, plantation management and overseers, female slaves and plantation mistresses, the economics of slavery, slavery during the American Revolution and Civil War, the lives and position of free people of colour living in a slave society, the international abolition movement, and the effect of slavery on the social, cultural and economic development of North America.

Students taking this module will assess the differing value of conflicting approaches, a process that throws into relief the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge but also the possibility of achieving methodological objectivity. They will also improve their time management skills and be able to manage their own learning by generating essay topics themselves, and make use of scholarly articles and primary sources relating to slavery in a way that goes beyond the insights available from secondary sources alone.

**Module code:**
HIST307

**Other modules frequently taken with this module:**

**Credit value:**
30

**Semester available (2017-18):**
Semester 1

**Balance of assessment:**
15% Presentation; 25% Secondary Literature Assignment; 60% Essay
Module Title:
The Henrician Reformation

Module Convenor:
Dr Martin Heale

Broad description of module content:
The Reformation remains one of the most divisive and controversial topics in English history. This module will focus on the first stage of religious reform in England, initiated by Henry VIII, exploring the break with Rome and the early implications of this cataclysm for English politics and society.

Much about the Henrician Reformation is contested, including the king’s own intentions for the English church and the extent to which he retained control over events. These debates will be considered through case studies of themes such as the king’s divorce, the Reformation Parliament, the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the English Bible, the royal court in the 1530s and ‘40s and international affairs. We will also consider the reception of these reforms across English society, including the early spread of Protestantism and the Pilgrimage of Grace.

The module will conclude by exploring early modern and more recent depictions of Henry VIII and how they have shaped popular and scholarly perceptions of the king and his reformation.

Module code:
HIST309

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value:
30

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 1

Balance of assessment:
40% Source Exercises; 60% Essay
Module Title:
Invented Histories: British uses of the past, c.1750-1900

Module Convenor:
Dr Mark Towsey

Broad description of module content:
Historical writing changed dramatically in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. At the beginning of the eighteenth century, history did not exist as part of the formal university curriculum. It was written by and for gentlemen amateurs, and remained deeply rooted in the violent controversies of the Reformation and the Civil War.

By the last decade of the nineteenth century, it had taken on many of the characteristics we would associate with the modern, academic discipline we know today – with a scientific methodology of its own, taught in specialist university departments, and a range of learned journals and professional societies devoted to its study.

This module examines how attitudes to the past developed in this crucial period of historical writing, shaped and reshaped by the political, social and cultural assumptions of the Enlightenment, the American and French Revolutions, Romanticism and Victorian liberalism. In the process, it will explore the means by which Georgian and Victorian Britons exploited the past to meet the concerns of the present.

Themes considered include national identity, empire, the role of women, social change, and secularisation.

Module code:
HIST319

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value:
30

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 1

Balance of assessment:
30% Source Exercises; 70% Essay
Module Title:
Satan's Guises: the development of Protestant demonologies in early modern England

Module Convenor:
Dr Anna French

Broad description of module content:
This module will focus on early modern demonological texts, asking whether Protestantism developed a distinctive demonology between the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. It will explore 'popular' and 'learned' demonologies alongside traditional Catholic visions of the fiend, as well as various representations and depictions of Satan (for example, how he may appear to individuals, the relationship between the devil and women, and witches and demonic possession).

More broadly, the module will explore how significant religious change during the years of the Reformation influenced people's perceptions of the world around them. It will consider how reformed Protestant culture led to a heightened fear of the 'supernatural' sphere, due to newly invigorated beliefs about the innately sinful nature of humankind and fears about the heretical nature of the traditional Church.

The module will develop your understanding of early modern religious culture, the nature of early modern primary texts, alongside various historiographical debates.

Module code:
HIST321

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value:
30

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 1

Balance of assessment:
50% Essay; 50% Final Essay
Module Title:
Metropolis: crisis and reform in the Great Cities 1840-1920

Module Convenor:
Dr Graeme Milne

Broad description of module content:
This module explores crime, disease, deprivation and disasters in nineteenth- and twentieth century cities, and the reforms that tackled these crises. It examines the 'under-class' that featured in sensational exposés, as well as the new techniques, such as slum photography, that shaped public understanding of the city as a dangerous place that should be and could be reformed.

Using transatlantic case studies, the module covers a range of important themes, including ethnic and racial conflict; men and women as both victims and active reformers; the role of artists, journalists and social surveyors; and academic investigation as a tool of social reform.

The module also introduces key debates about the relationships between protection, policing and governance in modern societies, the role of different forms of representation in political and social activism, and the role of activism in shaping modern urban life.

Module code:
HIST328

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value:
15

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 1

Balance of assessment:
15% Source Exercise; 85% Essay
Module Title: Confronting Catastrophe? Environmental histories of Britain, Europe and the United States since 1800

Module Convenor: Dr Chris Pearson

Broad description of module content:
This module explores the relationship between humans and the environment in modern Britain, Europe and the United States. Drawing on the approaches and insights of environmental history, one of history's newest and most exciting sub-disciplines, this module assesses the environmental dimensions of key historical processes in the West, such as colonialism, urbanization, and war.

An exploration of real and imagined environmental catastrophes frames this module. We will ask whether the modern West has courted environmental and social catastrophe with its attitudes towards, and uses of, the environment.

We will also explore the ramifications of various environmental disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina that struck New Orleans in 2005, and the ways in which they affect different communities, thereby addressing issues of environmental racism and justice. No prior knowledge of the subject is required.

Module code: HIST332
Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value: 30
Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 1

Balance of assessment:
15% Presentation; 25% Source Commentary; 60% Essay
Module Title: Generations of Hurt: human experiments in American history

Module Convenor: Dr Stephen Kenny

Broad description of module content:
The history of human experimentation is as old as the practice of medicine and has always targeted disadvantaged, marginalised, institutionalised, stigmatised and vulnerable populations – prisoners, the condemned, orphans, the mentally ill, students, the poor, women, the disabled, children, peoples of colour, indigenous peoples and the enslaved.

Since the end of World War II, the scale and the scope of human subject research has massively expanded, particularly in the United States, largely because of developments in professional medicine. This module explores what happens when professional medicine exceeds its limits.

Module code: HIST341

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value: 30

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 1

Balance of assessment:
15% Secondary Literature Assignment; 15% Source Exercise; 70% Essay
Module Title: Neighbours or Enemies? Muslims and Christians at the time of the Crusades

Module Convenor: Dr Damien Kempf

Broad description of module content:
This module addresses the relationships between Muslims and Christians between the eleventh century, prior to the launch of the First Crusade, up to the thirteenth century and the end of the Fifth Crusade.

While the West had been in direct contact with Muslim power for centuries, in particular in Spain, which was under Muslim domination, we will be exploring whether the crusades impacted and significantly shaped the way(s) in which Christians lived with Muslims, and more particularly, whether it modified their perception of Islam.

Module code: HIST348

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value: 30

Semester available (2017-18): Semester 1

Balance of assessment: 15% Presentation; 25% Source Exercise; 60% Essay
Module Title:
America and the World, 1939-1945

Module Convenor:
Dr Michael Hopkins

Broad description of module content:
This module explores the making and implementing of American foreign policy during the Second World War. It addresses the institutions and procedures in the making of US foreign policy; neutrality; aid to Britain; US-Japanese relations; Pearl Harbor and American entry into the war; Lend-Lease; allied strategy and diplomacy; postwar planning - Bretton Woods; postwar planning - UN; dealing with Germany and Japan; Yalta and Potsdam.

Module code:
HIST349

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value:
30

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 1

Balance of assessment:
25% Secondary Literature Assignment; 25% Source Exercise; 50% Essay
Module Title:
Digital Histories of Crime and Punishment in Victorian and Edwardian England

Module Convenor:
Dr Andrew Davies

Broad description of module content:
Histories of crime and punishment provide a window onto wider social relations as well as cultural anxieties. In Victorian and Edwardian England, these were manifested in debates on the perceived criminality of the Irish – and of the poor: rural and urban, women and men, children and adults.

This period also saw the development of a recognizably modern criminal justice system, of uniformed police and tiered systems of courts and prisons, the ending of transportation, and an uneven shift away from corporal and capital punishment as imagined solutions to crime. Through this expanding machinery of justice, the Victorian state attempted to regulate civilian life to a degree previously unimagined in the human past. Yet society was rocked by a series of scandals, from the railway frauds of the 1840s to the serial killings of ‘Jack the Ripper’ in 1888 and the ‘hooligan’ panic of the 1890s.

This module explores these developments through an unusually strong focus on both e-learning and research-based learning.

Module code:
HIST359

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value:
30

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 1

Balance of assessment:
25% Project Proposal; 75% Project Report
Module Title:
Digital Histories of Gender, Race and Youth in Twentieth Century Britain

Module Convenor:
Dr Laura Balderstone

Broad description of module content:
You will undertake a supervised individual research project (on a topic of your own choosing) based on online sources. Our focus will be on gender, race and youth in twentieth-century Britain, and sources to be utilised include digital newspapers; electronic collections of archives (including the Mass-Observation Archive); and online collections of twentieth-century photographs and cartoons.

Previous topics researched by students taking this module have included: representations of inter-racial relationships in the national press; analysis of women's fashion adverts in the 1950s and 60s; the role and representation of the British Union of Fascists in 1930s Britain; and the misrepresentation of the Mods in the 1960s.

Module code:
HIST360

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value:
30

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 1

Balance of assessment:
30% Project Proposal; 70% Project Report
Module Title:
Age of Catastrophe: Politics, Culture and the Self in Europe, 1930-1950

Module Convenor:
Dr Celia Donert

Broad description of module content:
How did the mid-twentieth century crisis in Europe transform the relationship between politics, culture and the individual?

This module addresses that question through sources such as diaries, memoirs, films and fiction to explore how Europeans experienced fascism and antifascism, dictatorship, war, occupation and liberation leading to new forms of individuality and selfhood between 1930 and 1950.

We will ask how cultural forms, such as the theatrical and artistic avant-garde, as well as the everyday experiences of economic depression, political extremism and mass violence influenced the making of the self in the context of the ideological clash between Right and Left during Europe’s age of catastrophe.

Module code:
HIST361

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value:
30

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 1

Balance of assessment:
20% Bibliographical Exercise; 20% Source Exercise; 60% Essay
Module Title: 
Power, Knowledge and Debt: 
British industrialisation, 1640-1842

Module Convenor: 
Dr Will Ashworth

Broad description of module content: 
The theme of this module focuses primarily upon British industrialisation between 1640 and 1842. Understanding this process is one of the most controversial and hotly contested topics in history. What were the origins of the British Industrial Revolution? Was it simply driven by a distinct set of national characteristics – most notably Protestantism, the embracing of Newtonian science, and an entrepreneurial spirit, as some cultural and economic historians argue?

Conversely is the explanation more mundane. Were there a unique set of institutional features vital to British industrialisation- most notably the work of State bodies and a national policy of economic regulation? What role did foreign trade and the colonies play?

Was it crucial or simply of secondary importance?

This module demonstrates the complexity and contingency of British industrialisation by situating it fully in the global world. Finally, did the withdrawal of State regulation and the emergence of free trade during the nineteenth century have a more negative than positive impact upon British industrialisation?

Module code: 
HIST365

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value: 
30

Semester available (2017-18): 
Semester 1

Balance of assessment: 
25% Secondary Literature Assignment; 25% Source Exercise; 50% Essay
Module Title:
Christian Conversion in Late Antiquity

Module Convenor:
Professor Bonnie Effros

Broad description of module content:
This module will address the portrayal and the changing significance of conversion in late antiquity and the early middle ages.

Starting with interactions between pagan, Christian, and Jewish communities in the Middle East and North Africa, we will discuss attitudes toward syncretism, proselytism, interfaith relations, and the afterlife.

In the second part of the module, we will follow the spread of Christianity and its institutionalization within the borders of the Roman empire as well as its impact on newer arrivals who entered its frontiers as pagans, heretics and Nicene Christians.

We will spend the last part of the module discussing the role of monasticism and missions, ideology and religious intolerance between Christians, Jews, and Muslims, and the problems of primary sources in dealing with these issues.

Module code:
HIST368

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value:
30

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 1

Balance of assessment:
50% Essays; 50% Final Essay
Module Title:
Knowledge and Power in Medieval and Early Modern Europe

Module Convenor:
Dr Harald Braun

Broad description of module content:
This module explores the relationship between knowledge and power in medieval and early modern Europe. How did medieval and early modern societies produce and organise knowledge in order to make and communicate political decisions? What kind of knowledge was considered ‘necessary’, ‘useful’, ‘safe’ or ‘dangerous’, and why? Who was in control of producing and disseminating knowledge?

Together, we will investigate and compare the modes, media and institutions of knowledge production and their relationship to political power from the Middle Ages to the seventeenth century.

Module code:
HIST372

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value:
30

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 1

Balance of assessment:
30% Source Exercises; 15% Presentation; 55% Essay
Module Title:
European Social Movements since 1760

Module Convenor:
Dr Roland Clark

Broad description of module content:
The extensive sociological literature on social movements has traditionally focused on movements in the United States and Western Europe since the 1960s, but there is an increasing awareness amongst scholars that comparable examples of collective action have existed since at least the eighteenth century.

This module uses concrete case studies of collective action from early modern England to the Occupy movement to investigate questions about how movements mobilize activists, how they communicate with their publics, the importance of mass media, what unites a movement, and what makes a movement successful.

In the process, we will cover the rise of communism and fascism, feminist organizing, terrorism, religious groups, and youth subculture over the past two hundred years.

Module code:
HIST377

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value:
30

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 1

Balance of assessment:
20% Critique; 20% Narratives; 60% Essay
Module Title: Disasters

Module Convenor: Dr Christienna Fryar

Broad description of module content: This module explores the relationship between disasters, culture, and politics. It will consider the historical trajectories, political decisions, and cultural forces that have left some nations and regions more susceptible to disaster than other, and it will also consider the ways that societies over time have responded in the aftermath of catastrophe. Finally, the module will examine the usefulness of a disaster studies framework and question the existence of "natural disasters".

Module code: HIST386

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value: 30

Semester available (2017-18): Semester 1

Balance of assessment: 25% Source Exercise; 25% Secondary Literature Assignment; 50% Essay
**Module Title:**
The Empire Strikes Back: the impact of decolonisation on British society

**Module Convenor:**
Dr Anna Bocking-Welch

**Broad description of module content:**
In the decades following the Second World War the British Empire was dismantled and new Commonwealth migrants arrived in Britain to live and work. While much has been written about the political history of British decolonization, the cultural and social dimensions of the end of empire have only recently attracted academic attention.

This course looks at the immediate impact of decolonization on domestic Britain and assesses the lingering effects of imperialism on British society. How did Britain come to terms with decolonization? Did the British public care about the end of empire? Has empire continued to shape British identity after its collapse?

**Module code:**
HIST391

**Other modules frequently taken with this module:**

**Credit value:**
30

**Semester available (2017-18):**
Semester 1

**Balance of assessment:**
15% Source Exercise; 25% Secondary Literature Assignment; 60% Essay
Module Title:
War and the People: society and culture in Second World War Britain

Module Convenor:
Dr Sam Caslin

Broad description of module content:
The module will familiarise you with the impact of the Second World War on British society. It introduces you to the social and cultural history of Britain between 1939 and 1945, and it allows you to analyse how British society negotiated the strains of ‘total’ war during these years.

You will critically analyse the notion of the ‘people’s war’ and consider the question of whether or not the war acted as a leveller in terms of people’s experiences, fortunes and lifestyles. The module will also give you a sound basis for thinking about broader questions about the relationship between war and social change.

Module code:
HIST392

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value:
15

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 1

Balance of assessment:
15% Source Exercise; 85% Essay
Module Title:
Emancipation, Sexuality, Repression: women in Ireland, 1800-1939

Module Convenor:
Dr Diane Urquhart

Broad description of module content:
Study one of the most innovative and challenging historical areas in a country undergoing significant social, economic and political change. Irish women’s history emerged as an academic discipline in the 1970s and the diversity and importance of that history has changed our understanding of Ireland’s past.

Assess how the vote, the campaign for Irish home rule and the conservatism of the Irish Free State impacted on women’s lives. Explore often hidden aspects of history like prostitution, convent life and Magdalen asylums. Consider the impact of democracy, patriarchy and theology in shaping gendered social mores.

Teaching is conducted through illustrated lectures and seminars which not only engage with cutting-edge research but also use primary sources to uncover women’s lived experience.

Module code:
HIST814

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value:
15

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 1

Balance of assessment:
20% Seminar Presentation; 80% Essay

Student quote:
In 2015-16 students described teaching on the module as ‘first rate’ with ‘fascinating and intellectually stimulating’ content and ‘brilliant’ academic support.