

**HISTORY DEPARTMENT**  
**SPRING 2025 COLLOQUIUM (392W) COURSE OFFERINGS**

**H. 392W**

**Prof. F. Tavarez**

**SLAVERY & THE ATLANTIC WORLD**

**Tuesday/Thursday 1:40-2:55**

This course examines the development of chattel slavery in the Atlantic world and its impact on colonial societies across the Americas from the sixteenth century to the nineteenth. While the course examines some aspects of North American slavery, its primary focus is on Latin America and the Caribbean. The course begins by examining the conditions that led to the enslavement of Africans over the course of the sixteenth century, paying particular attention to early interactions between Europeans and Africans. The course then proceeds to examine the development of the plantation complex in the Americas, focusing on institutional developments and modes of resistance and accommodation among the enslaved. The course concludes by examining the interplay between slave insurgencies, revolution, and abolition during the long nineteenth century. By carefully examining primary and argumentative secondary sources, this course will enable students to acquire a nuanced understanding of the rise and fall of chattel slavery in the Americas. In addition to the slave trade and the plantation complex, topics covered in the course include the Middle Passage, maroon politics, manumission, race and racism, the African diaspora, the Haitian Revolution, and the abolition of slavery.

**Hist 392 W WESTERNERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST & THE ROLE OF MONEY 1700s**

**Prof. E. Frangakis-Syrett**

**Tuesdays 3:10-5:50**

In the 1700s, both Europe and the Middle East were at the cusp of modernity, which was transforming societies and economies through the increasing use of money, creating the modern world as we know it today. This was also the time when western Europeans started going to the Middle East for long periods of time. They ranged from diplomats and merchants to travelers, intellectuals and missionaries—men and women too.

The Middle East, as part of the Ottoman Empire, was a multi-ethnic, multi-confessional and multi-linguistic society, with Christians, Jews, and Muslims all living together--albeit within changing boundaries of toleration. The colloquium will offer examples of points of contact where regular interactions between Westerners and the local communities occurred, the role and impact of money in these interactions, and what this reveals about the relationship between the Middle East and West Europe in the long term, namely the 1700s and beyond.

(over)

**H.392W**

**THE SILK ROAD THEN & NOW**

**Prof. M. Rossabi**

**Mondays 1:40- 4:30pm**

**The fabled Silk Roads kept traditional and modern China in touch with the rest of the world and had important influence on China's and Asia's religions, politics, commerce, culture, and art. Students will receive a guided tour of Silk Roads-influenced art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. As the course approaches the modern period and considers China's Belt and Road policy, a Central Asian official and adviser to his government will address the class and the Queens College community on "China's Relations with Central Asia." Students will be guided through the research and writing of a term paper on their chosen subject relating to the modern and traditional Silk Roads.**

**H. 392W**

**AMERICA IN THE SIXTIES**

**Prof. C. Giardina**

**Wednesdays 4:30-7:20pm**

**How did the socially conscious, uproarious, irreverent "Sixties" evolve from the quietism of the 1950s? What has been the impact of this period of deep and rapid change? From the signature social movements to hallmark legislation, from the counterculture to the political murders and assassinations of leader after leader, the course will explore the highs and lows of this tumultuous decade. The course will include the role of Queens College activists on campus and nationally.**

**H. 392W**

**MASS VIOLENCE IN MODERN EUROPE**

**Prof. E. Bemporad**

**Thursdays 3:10-5:50pm**

**This course explores instances of unprecedented mass violence in modern Europe during the twentieth century. It is based on several case studies, including events in German South-West Africa, Germany, Ukraine, the Soviet Union, and Chechnya. By analyzing some of the most recent scholarship on genocide and ethnic cleansing, the course examines the short-term and long-term causes for mass violence, assessing the extent to which, in different contexts, it resulted from political ideologies, colonialism, bureaucratic pressures, or ethnic and religious hatred. The course will also focus on the repercussions of mass violence, including acts of revenge, changes in international law and human rights, and attempts to create sites of memory in those places where atrocities were committed. Finally, this course aims at tracing how such unprecedented violence against civilians was experienced by ordinary citizens of European countries, and how it transformed and affected their everyday lives, political choices, and social attitudes during and after the events.**