

# History House Herald



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## NOTE FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR, DR. ELY JANIS

On behalf of the department, welcome to the 2022-2023 academic year. This year, we have begun to turn the corner on the COVID-19 pandemic and a full return to the on-campus, in-person experience that makes MCLA such a wonderful place. I want to thank our students, staff, and faculty for their patience, resilience, and dedication over the past two years and for continuing to make the History and Political Science department the close and connected community that it is.

It is my pleasure to share the news that Dr. Mariah Hepworth is now a full-time, tenure-track member of the department. Dr. Hepworth was previously a Visiting Assistant Professor in the department. She specializes in modern America with additional expertise in the First World War, American cinema, and popular culture. Welcome back to the department, Dr. Hepworth!

I am also very glad to announce that we are finally able to bring back our international travel courses after a two-year hiatus. Dr. Cupery and Dr. Huang are both leading full trips in March to Peru and Japan. We are all very happy to be able to bring back these amazing opportunities to our students.

I wish you all a healthy, happy, and productive academic year.

## Internships

OUR DEPARTMENT HAS WORKED HARD OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS WITH ALUMNI, LOCAL DONORS, COLLEGE ADMINISTRATORS, THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS TO INCREASE ACCESS TO INTERNSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS. WE WILL CONTINUE OUR FUNDRAISING EFFORTS FOR AN ENDOWED INTERNSHIP LEGACY FUND DESIGNATED FOR SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT. ALONG THOSE SAME LINES, WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE RUTH E. PROUD CHARITABLE TRUST, WHICH PROVIDES SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT FOR INTERNSHIPS FOR STUDENTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND HISTORY. TOGETHER, THESE TWO FUNDS LOOK TO REMOVE COST AS A CONSIDERATION AS MOTIVATED, HARD-WORKING STUDENTS DETERMINE WHICH INTERNSHIP IS BEST FOR THEM.

### Jack Anderson-The Washington Center

"I interned at Bethesda Green, a small environmental nonprofit from Bethesda, Maryland that specializes in green business consulting. With Bethesda I worked on legislative tracking and did research for different grant proposals. I would sit in on local and state legislative sessions, taking notes and writing memos that would then be passed to my supervisor. This really improved my writing, note taking, and researching skills because I was focusing on including as much detail as possible while also writing in a concise and informative manner. I would also participate in environmental coalition meetings as well. Through these meetings I improved my organizational operation skills by learning how best to manage different, varying interests. I also did a ton of other cool stuff while in DC like attend protests, visit museums, and visit and tour government buildings. My time in DC helped me advance toward my career goals by exposing me to the multitude of opportunities in the political science and public policy field. I was able to meet alumni of the Washington Center who were all very good people to talk to about career goals. They shared wisdom that only industry insiders could really know about how to get jobs on the Hill, possible career paths, and how to network and make connections. Altogether, the experience I gained in DC helped make me a better student as well as a more well-rounded job candidate."

Political science majors Casey Young (top photo), Miranda Maciejowski (bottom), Brianna Mensah, and Lindzie White also completed a semester in DC with The Washington Center earlier this year.



## Internships (Continued)

### Emily Durkee-The Louis Miller Museum and Historical Society

“This past summer I had the incredible opportunity of interning for the Louis Miller Museum and Historical Society of Hoosick Falls, New York. I began the internship in May after returning home from the spring semester. At the museum, I worked alongside the director, Joyce and numerous volunteers who were equally as passionate about their local history and the history of Hoosick Falls. At my internship I did research on numerous topics, worked with summer camps for students in Hoosick Falls, helped people find relatives through the genealogy program, and volunteered to work with a group of veterans in Hoosick Falls.

I think the best way for me to display what I have learned and discuss my experience of interning for the Louis Miller Museum is to share some of my favorite and most rewarding moments. In May, I was able to be a part of the Memorial Day Parade. Members of the Historical Society, students from Hoosick Falls Elementary School, and I dressed up as Revolutionary militia and marched in the parade. We were able to educate students about the history of Memorial Day and educate them on local history. Hoosick Falls is the site of the Battle of Bennington that took place in 1777 during the Revolutionary War. Many people don't realize that the battle took place in New York. Even Hoosick Falls locals don't realize it. Then, in July, a man brought in a photograph of a local baseball team and wanted to identify the men in the photo. The photo appeared to be from the late 1940s, so I knew I had a place to start. By looking through old yearbooks available and World War II veteran profiles, I was able to identify each of the men in the photo. This was by far one of the most rewarding experiences of my internship, along with using our genealogy program to find peoples family members. Lastly, Joyce and I worked closely with a group of local veterans. Each week we planned breakfast with them and provided them with different video stories of United States history. We surprised them with a trip to Hangar 743 and the USS Slater in Albany, NY. We were able to see United States aircrafts that were used in World War II, an ambulance used on D-Day in Normandy, and the USS Slater, which is a destroyer that was also used during World War II. It was such a fun and rewarding experience for everyone. My internship has shaped me to be better prepared for my career in history and has changed some of my perspectives regarding history. “





## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

THIS ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT IS ON TWO DEPARTMENT ALUMS. JAKE BONENFANT GRADUATED IN 2015 WITH A DEGREE IN HISTORY AND THEATER. MARIE BRAZEAU GRADUATED IN 2021 WITH A DEGREE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE.

### Jake Bonenfant, History, Class of 2015

*Could you tell us a little about your professional path since MCLA? Where are you currently working/studying and have you completed any additional education after graduating from MCLA? What is your long-term professional goal?*

After MCLA, I did graduate work at Bridgewater State University. I got MA teaching licenses for History and Theatre for grades 8-12. After that, I started a Master's Degree program for Computer Science. Now I have a career at Noble and Greenough School as a Senior IT and A/V support specialist, Personal Development Teacher, and Properties Master (for the school's theatre program). My long term goal is to be a Dramaturg, someone who does historical research for theatre productions. However, now I also want to continue my career here at Nobles, in both teaching and technology.

*Do you have a favorite memory or course from your time in the History and Political Science Department?*

The problem with the History program at MCLA is that it's far too good. Every class I took still resonates with me each and every day. One of the most vivid memories is from taking History of Japan with Prof. Huang with my roommate and (still) best friend Cameron. It was the night before the final exam. He and I had put off studying until the last minute, a bad habit we had formed due to living together. We were furiously going through our notes and attempting to answer the example essay questions we were provided. We had made some progress, we finished half of the ones provided, done in order of how familiar we were with the question. Right as we reviewed the halfway question with each other, the power goes out. It's pitch black across campus. We can no longer read our notes and our laptops were not charged. We look at each other. We are exhausted. We surrender to our fate. We go to bed. The next morning, we arise and sadly get out of bed to face our fates. A karmic retribution for our lack of scholarly responsibility. However, there suddenly exists a glimmer of hope. The power is still out. We become excited, perhaps the test will be postponed, giving us the time to finish our practice test! We eat breakfast and begin our march to Church Street Center to hopefully be given a short reprieve. As we walk, Church Street and the History House come into view. The lights come back on. We look at each other. We know in our hearts that our doom is upon us. We take our usual seats in the classroom. It's tense. We are quietly panicking about success in the exam. Professor Huang comes in just a few minutes late. He has successfully printed out the tests and acquired bluebooks to answer them in. Sweat beads down our faces. We are heart-broken that we are about to disappoint Prof. Huang. The tests get handed out. Prof. Huang begins our time. We flip the tests over. Our eyes go wide, and we turn our heads to look at each other with lightning speed. We both smile the biggest smiles. There are only 4 questions. They are the ones we studied.

**Continued on page 5.**

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### Jake Bonenfant, Alumni Spotlight, continued from page 4.

*Are there particular skills, knowledge or experience that you gained as a part of the History and Political Science Department that have come in handy for you professionally? If so, how?*

The ability to critically analyze any works that are handed to us has been priceless to me in every job and in my career. I have been able to much better participate in staff organization and project preparation. I have been able to use critical thinking and reading skills to work on large scale projects by being able to accurately chart needs of faculty and staff. This allows me to be able to understand their needs and what they want and accurately convey it to others in order to achieve the desired outcome.

*Do you have any advice for our current students? Is there something you wish you would have done differently in college or maybe an opportunity you regret not taking advantage of?*

I think the most important thing to know about college is that there are resources out there to help you and it is ok to ask for help. It's important to do this. The History Department alone provided so much for me to help in the times I really felt I was drowning in work and pressure. Getting a hand in a critical moment can change our entire outlook on the 4 years spent at the school. It can also propel someone into a better and happier path than we might not get to without the extra help. Use those resources and get the most out of college. It can help make them some of the best years one can have.

### Marie Brazeau, Political Science, Class of 2021

*Could you tell us a little about your professional path since MCLA? Where are you currently working/studying, and have you completed any additional education after graduating from MCLA?*

During most of my time at MCLA I thought I would immediately continue my education after graduating. It took until my final semester to realize that the time just wasn't right. I had no clue what I would get an advanced degree in and opted to search for jobs in my field so I could better learn what it is I actually want to specialize in. Since January of 2022 I have been working as the Head Clerk for Planning and Economic Development with the City of Holyoke. That is a long-winded title which boils down to providing support to the Department and our Boards in a variety of ways to further the city's Economic Development Plan. This means I help balance finances for the Boards, draft minutes and agendas, create meeting packets, draft press releases, review agreements, assist with city property sales, assist with grants and staff meetings, and much more. Municipal jobs are very all hands-on-deck environments, every single person in my department and others goes above and beyond with limited funds and resources to serve the community. The beauty of this chaotic and busy job is I have gotten more hands-on experience than I would have gotten delivering coffee in a corporate world. I think at this moment in time my largest professional goal is to work with and for my community.

**Continued on page 6.**

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### Marie Brazeau, Alumni Spotlight, continued from page 5.

*Do you have a favorite memory or course from your time in the History and Political Science Department?*

Choosing one favorite memory or course is an extremely difficult question, especially because choosing one Political Science or a History course feels like choosing one friend over the other. I loved all my courses, but the ones I find myself thinking of fondly are the courses that pushed me to break out of my comfort zone. Dr. Cupery's U.S. Foreign Policy course challenged me to work on my public speaking which I am extremely grateful for as I now put my Roberts Rules of Order skills to use on a daily basis and in front of more people (still just as terrifying). This course also allowed me to work on critical thinking and be constantly challenged with new ideas. Despite the weirdness of Covid-classrooms this one remained fun, interactive, and taught me skills I still use (and desperately need).

*If you had an internship during your time at MCLA, could you describe it and anyway it has helped you?*

During my sophomore year, I participated in The Washington Centers Academic Internship program in D.C. where I landed as a Legal Intern for Marzulla Law. This was a litigation firm that did a lot of environmental work. This internship was amazing since it wasn't the scut work that many internships turn out to be. I got to do real research projects and work directly with the paralegal to learn a lot about how the legal process works and all the complexities that come with it. I also got used to working in a professional office environment. Being a study away internship was also a great change of pace that allowed me to make new friends and try out city life.

*Are there particular skills, knowledge, or experience that you gained as a part of the History and Political Science Department that have come in handy for you professionally? If so, how?*

The skill that comes in handy constantly is the ability to learn. That may sound generic but the ability to continue learning, adapting, and thinking is something I am grateful for in the workforce. No one degree will ever prepare you for everything you need to know wherever you land after school. Being a good learner and maintaining my love of learning has allowed me to get the most out of my post-college experiences.

*Do you have any advice for our current students? Is there something you wish you would have done differently in college or maybe an opportunity you regret not taking advantage of?*

My advice to current students is, if you are anything like me, take a deep breath and calm the \*expletive\* down. There is time to do all the things you want to accomplish, and you need to appreciate where you are. Step out of your comfort zone and use your voice more. It's valuable and you need the practice. I promise. Take advantage of opportunities to travel whether that means studying abroad, Model UN, or the Washington Center. Just put yourself out there even when it's intimidating or scary!

## TRAVEL COURSES ARE BACK!

MCLA is back to offering travel courses in the spring 2023 semester! These faculty-led trips partner the on-campus instruction of a 3-credit course with 10-12 days of travel to come face to face with what you have been studying. Next semester, department faculty are leading two of MCLA's travel courses. Other recent History and Political Science Department travel courses include Cuba, Ireland, Mexico, and a civil rights bus tour of the American south.

**Japan:** Thirteen students will join Professor Huang in Japan for his spring 2023 travel course. This high-impact experience combines classroom learning with a 12-day trip to Japan from March 9-20, 2023, during the spring break. Either you are an enthusiast of Japanese culture, including anime/manga, or simply want to challenge yourself to a sensory overload in a dramatically different cultural ambience, a trip to Japan will take you through times, terrains, and tastes like no other! The travel component of the course will focus on the main island of Honshu, where the ancient capital Kyoto and the world's largest metropolis Tokyo are located. With these two cities as our bases, we will also make several side trips, including the poignant visit to Hiroshima's Peace Memorial. Upon completing the course, students are expected to gain a deeper understanding of Japan's various blends of ancient traditions and cutting-edge modernity, to appreciate the distinct Japanese aesthetics, and to develop a new perspective on the challenges and advantages of globalization.

**Peru:** Professor Cupery will be joined by fourteen students for his spring 2023 Peru Travel Course. This interdisciplinary course will explore Peru's history, society, government, and economy before bringing students face to face with the country's stunning natural beauty and rich cultural diversity during a 12-day trip from March 8-19, 2023. Visit world wonder Machu Picchu and other remarkable Incan archaeological sites. Spend two days touring the islands of beautiful Lake Titicaca, including a homestay with families in a traditional indigenous community. Explore the colonial centers of Cuzco and Lima. Sample a variety of excellent Peruvian dishes, music, dance, and artisan markets. Take in the majestic views as you hike (optional) in the Andes mountains. The course aims to leave students with a better understanding of the challenges, opportunities, and identities of a non-western country and to increase their curiosity about the world and its interconnectedness.





## Faculty Spotlight

The department is excited that Dr. Mariah Hepworth has returned this fall, now as a full-time, tenure track member of the department. Dr. Hepworth earlier taught at MCLA as a Visiting Assistant Professor and earned a reputation as an excellent teacher and fantastic colleague. Here is what she has to say about her career path and interests.

*What first drew you to studying history and why did you decide to pursue a career as a historian?*

My love of history started in my high school AP US History class, which prompted me to declare a history major in college. During my junior year at Seattle University, I enrolled in departmental honors, which required an article-length research project on the theme of Hitler and the Holocaust. Knowing my love of film and pop culture, my thesis advisor encouraged me to pursue a topic on Holocaust memory in Hollywood films. I fell in love with the process of research and writing and presenting at conferences. By the end of my junior year, I knew I wanted to pursue a PhD in American cultural history.



*Tell us about your research interests. What topics and questions most excite you?*

As a cultural historian, I get most excited by studying shifts in collective mindsets and the role commercial media plays in generating those shifts. For instance, my current manuscript looks at the way early narrative films during World War I helped normalize preemptive U.S. military intervention in global affairs. More broadly, I'm interested in how consumer culture structures beliefs around national identity and the possibilities of social and political change.

*What types of classes do you plan to offer at MCLA? Do you have any activities outside of the conventional classroom that you hope to get involved in?*

At MCLA I plan to offer courses in American military, cultural, and social history. I plan to reprise American History through Film, and a Cultural History of American Sports (classes I taught as a Visiting Professor here). Next term I'll be teaching History of the American Soldier as well as a class on Indigenous America. I hope to get more involved with undergraduate research and student affinity groups that foster connections with the local community.

*What do you enjoy doing outside of work?*

I try to spend time outdoors as much as possible, hiking, running, or otherwise staying active. During winter, I enjoy cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or competing with myself on the Peloton. I also love finding new shows to binge and knocking films off my watch-list, then poring over reviews!



# Faculty Sabbatical

IN SPRING OF 2022, HISTORY PROFESSOR ANTHONY DALY WAS ON SABBATICAL. FACULTY SABBATICALS ARE A TIME FOR US TO DIVE DEEPER INTO A PROJECT. AS FACULTY, WE LOVE TEACHING AND BEING IMMERSSED IN THE LIFE OF THE CAMPUS, BUT THE SABBATICAL IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO RECHARGE AND TO DEDICATE YOURSELF TO RESEARCH WORK THAT IS HARD TO GET TO WITH THE NORMAL BUSINESS OF THE SEMESTER. HERE'S A SPOTLIGHT ON THE WORK (AND FUN!) DR. DALY COMPLETED WHILE ON SABBATICAL. PROFESSOR SAMANTHA PETTEY WILL BE ON SABBATICAL NEXT SPRING, SO OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL FEATURE HER RESEARCH.

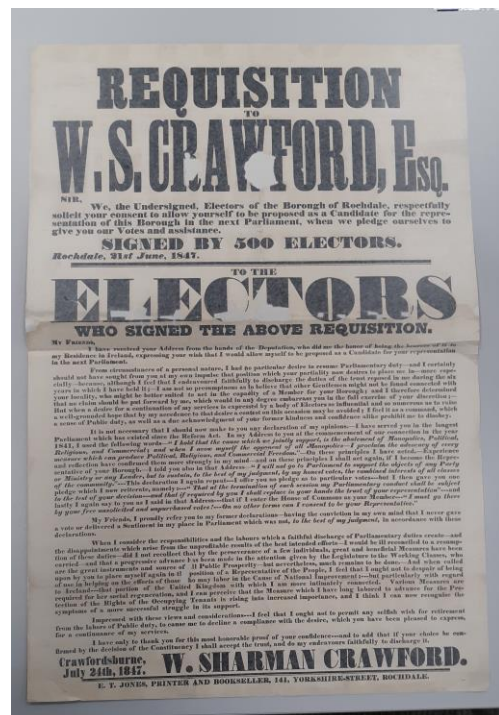
## Dr. Anthony Daly

“My sabbatical work focused on researching the work of William Sharman Crawford. He was a wealthy Irish landlord in the nineteenth century, but he devoted himself to trying to expand voting rights for the working-classes and to improving the lives of poor farmers. Over the semester, I worked on primary source research with newspapers and pamphlets, as well as reading a huge amount of secondary source material on the Chartist movement, which he joined to advance their agenda of democratic reform. I plan to publish an article on Crawford’s work in 2023.

I also visited Belfast, to do archival research for a week in the Sharman Crawford papers at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI). It is exciting to be able to work with materials from the era, and while in Belfast I was also able to do some preparation work for a 2024 travel course to Ireland.”



Near Lough Mask in County Mayo, Ireland



Poster for William S. Crawford 1847 Election in Rochdale, England

## Department-organized Speakers

MCLA WORKS HARD TO BRING TIMELY AND NOTABLE SPEAKERS TO CAMPUS. STUDENTS AND FACULTY IN OUR DEPARTMENT ARE PIVOTAL IN ORGANIZING THE ANNUAL MICHAEL S. AND KITTY DUKAKIS PUBLIC POLICY LECTURE SERIES, WHICH IS FUNDED BY THE GENEROSITY OF THE RUTH PROUD CHARITABLE TRUST. RECENT SPEAKERS INCLUDE AUTHOR AND JOURNALIST TA-NEHISI COATES, THE LATE JOURNALIST COKIE ROBERTS, JOURNALIST AND POLITICAL/SOCIAL ACTIVIST GLORIA STEINEM.

THE DEPARTMENT ALSO ORGANIZES AND SPONSORS OUR ANNUAL CONSTITUTION DAY TALK WHICH TAKES PLACE EVERY SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> TO CELEBRATE THE RATIFICATION OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION. WE ALSO PLAY A ROLE IN ORGANIZING THE HARDMAN LECTURE SERIES (JOURNALISM) EACH FALL AND THE CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESOLUTION SERIES EACH SPRING.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR LECTURE SERIES: CONTACT DR. DAVE CUPERY AT D.CUPERY@MCLA.EDU

### Fall 2022 Public Policy Lecture Series: “Race and Democracy: America is Always Changing”

**Dr. Eddie Glaude** will give this year’s Public Policy Lecture on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. He is the chair of the African American Studies program at Princeton University, an accomplished author, and a regular contributor to various national media outlets. Combining a scholar’s knowledge of history, a political commentator’s take on the latest events, and an activist’s passion for social justice, Glaude challenges all of us to examine our collective American conscience, “not to posit the greatness of America, but to establish the ground upon which to imagine the country anew.”

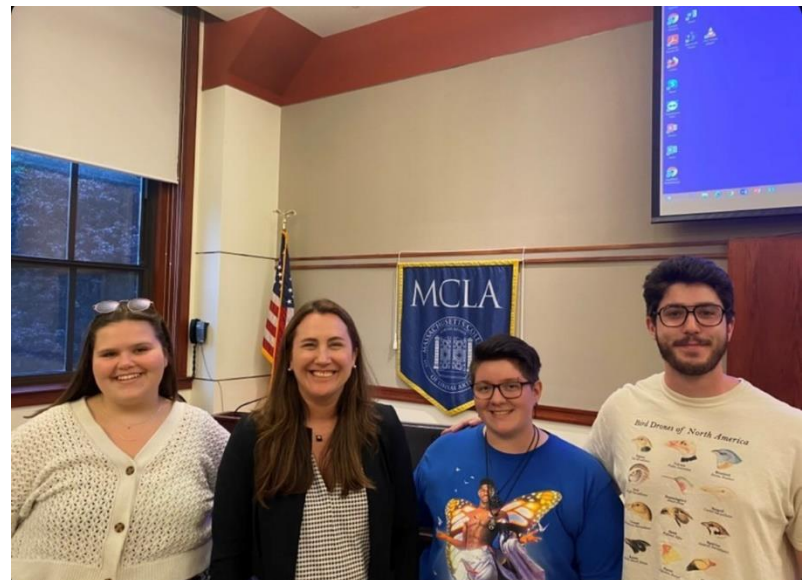
### Constitution Day 2022: “Abortion, Privacy and the National and State Constitutions”

**Dr. Shannon Jenkins** addressed the recent Supreme Court *Dobbs* ruling. Her talk traced the evolution of federal rights to privacy and abortion over time before looking at these issues in various state constitutions to help the audience understand how the issue might evolve in the near future.

### Fall 2022 Hardman Lecture Series

#### “Fake News in the Age of Misinformation”

**Scott Dickers** founded the iconic comedy publication *The Onion* and is a best-selling author. In his lecture, he addressed the history of *The Onion* and how its philosophies and practices have changed over time. He shared tips on marketing a unique brand in today’s context and on how to make sense of the ever-changing challenges of fake news and misinformation. This was also a lecture with more than its fair share of jokes. Seriously.



Students with Constitution Day Speaker Dr. Shannon Jenkins

## Model United Nations

MCLA political science and history students have a long history of successful participation in Model UN conferences. Each year, we offer a 3-credit class that works on public speaking, debate, problem-solving and other skills before traveling to a top-notch Model UN conference. Our Political Science Club also organized several MUN trips prior to the pandemic. The pandemic changed the nature of our participation, but our group of students was still remarkably successful during the spring 2021 semester, participating in two virtual conferences and winning best small delegation at the North American Model United Nations Conference (hosted by the University of Toronto). For the Spring 2022 Model UN course, 11 students traveled to Chicago for CHOMUN, an enormous, fast-paced, crisis-only conference hosted by the University of Chicago. Delegates had a great time in a new city and represented the college well. This academic year we are finally back to our pre-pandemic schedule. This November (2022), Political Science Club will send a delegation to Cornell's International Affairs Conference. Prof. Cupery's spring 2023 course will culminate by participating at the New York University Model UN Conference in Manhattan.



MCLA's 2022 MUN Delegation in Chicago

## UPCOMING SPRING 2023 COURSE OFFERINGS

- HIST 104: Pre-Modern World Civilization
- HIST 113: US History before 1877
- HIST 114: US History after 1877
- HIST 125/HONR 101: World Regional Geography
- HIST 230: War, Science, and Society
- CCHH 110: Superheroes and American Society
- HIST 305: 20<sup>th</sup> Century Europe
- HIST 320: Irish in America
- HIST 350: Sub-Saharan African Politics & Society
- HIST 401: History of the American Soldier
- HIST 403: 19<sup>th</sup> Century European Empires
- POSC 315: Political Philosophy and American Politics & Society
- POSC 316: Sub-Saharan African Politics
- POSC 343: Political Economy
- POSC 345: Model United Nations
- TRVL 300-01: Peru Travel Course
- TRVL 300-02: Japan Travel Course

\*Note that this semester's POSC course offerings are much more limited than usual because of Prof. Pettey's spring 2023 research sabbatical.