Political Islam: Understanding Present Debates Through Studying Past Encounters
September 28, 2018, 9am-2:30pm
Julia Stephens, Professor, Department of History, Rutgers University

This seminar seeks to connect current discussions about Political Islam to longer histories of encounter between Muslims and “the West.” It will focus on three case studies, including modes of interpreting the sharia, practices of veiling, and depictions of Islam in the media. Materials will cover diverse geographies and chronologies, from the Middle East to the United States and from the time of the Prophet to the present. The seminar leader, in conversation with the participants, will also discuss integrating these topics into classroom learning in ways that are sensitive to diverse student experiences and perspectives.

The 19th Amendment: Race, States' Rights, and the Voting Rights of American Women
October 12, 2018, 9am-2:30pm
Ann Gordon, Research Professor Emerita, Department of History, Rutgers University

The centennial of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 2020 presents an opportunity to acknowledge the public history celebrations while exploring aspects of the history of voting rights that underlie that transformative moment and inform its contemporary significance. In this workshop, we'll consider themes and source materials that can enable teachers and students to make connections across these historical topics: 1. Are naturalized citizens the equals of native-born in their voting rights? Focus on 1870 Rhode Island. 2. The attempt by woman suffragists to achieve a citizen's right to vote during Reconstruction. Focus on the 1873 criminal trial of Susan B. Anthony. 3. Disfranchisement of African-American men in southern states. Focus on 1903 Virginia. 4. Who benefitted and who did not from the 19th Amendment? Focus on South Carolina. 5. Civil rights movement of 20th century. Focus on Georgia. 6. Where are we today?

Material, Manpower, Morale: The Triangle of American Victory in World War II
October 26, 2018, 9am-2:30pm
Rich Grippaldi, Lecturer, Department of History, Rutgers University

American industry provided the materials with which Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and the other members of the United Nations were able to defeat the Axis Powers. Yet the United States also supplied the majority of the servicemen and -women fighting the Axis in the Mediterranean, northwest Europe, and Pacific Theatres. Thus, Allied victory ultimately rested on the United States' ability to motivate its people to participate in the war effort, so that the armed forces
could obtain the necessary combat manpower. The decisions of the government, private industry, and individual Americans during the war years reveal the tense relationship between military service and first-class citizenship in mid-twentieth century America.

Race, Sex, and Sexuality in American History  
November 2, 2018, 9am-2:30pm  
Deborah White, Board of Governors Professor, Department of History and Professor, Women’s and Gender Studies, Rutgers University

The seminar begins with an exploration of the way that race, class and gender were understood in early America. It continues by taking a close look at the way that these variables came together at various times in American history. With particular focus on marriage and the concept of intersectionality, we will study how American understanding of blackness and whiteness, manhood and womanhood, heterosexuality and homosexuality changed over time.

Class, Race, Gender, and Empire in the Making of the British Industrial Revolution  
November 30, 2018, 9am-2:30pm  
Seth Koven, Distinguished Professor, Departments of History and Poetics, Rutgers University

Steam engines, factories, coal and textiles are part of any historical reckoning about how and why Britain became the world's first great industrial capitalist economy. But this seminar will also show why Caribbean slavery, sugar, Indian opium, and the labor of poor women and children were no less important in the making of the so-called Industrial Revolution. The seminar will explore the emergence of the concept of the "Industrial Revolution," the many ways in which scholars have approached it while also using primary sources drawn from across the globe to link together British, imperial and global histories.

Jewish History in Europe: Main Themes, Problems, and Questions  
December 14, 2018, 9am-2:30pm  
Nancy Sinkoff, Associate Professor, Departments of History and Jewish Studies, Rutgers University

This workshop will examine the long history of the Jews in Europe by focusing on the ways in which this distinct national-ethnic-religious-linguistic people has interacted with its host societies, both Christian and Moslem, for over two millennia. We will begin by examining the major themes of Jewish religious self-definition (Covenant, Exile, Redemption, Peoplehood) while tracing the lived history of the Jews from the Second Temple Period (6th century BCE-1st century CE) up until the Christianization of the Roman Empire (4th century CE), which set in motion the great contest between the "Old" and "New" Israel. We will then explore the long Jewish Middle Ages, which "ended" in the 18th century. Turning for most of the seminar to the modern period (from the Partitions of Poland and the French Revolution until the present) in Western Europe (with a nod to the New World), we will explore the interactions between the European State and the Jews, the rise of nationalism, religious denominationalism, and modern forms of Judeo-phobia. The workshop will examine the changes in Jewish life engendered by
modernity and explore the Jews’--and their host societies'--responses to its challenges. Attention will be paid to the regional diversity of Jewish modernity and to the ways in which women's and gender history have challenged older narratives of the Jewish past.

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Spring Semester 2019

**Women in Ancient Greece. The Case of Sparta**

**February 1, 2019, 9am-2:30pm**

**Thomas Figueira**, Distinguished Professor of Classics and of Ancient History, Rutgers University

The study of women in the ancient world can be particularly valuable for the wider investigation of women’s history. The societies of the ancient Greeks and Romans are particularly well attested for pre-modern humanity, and exhibited a high level of self-awareness of their cultural existence as merely one of many co-existing civilizations. Hence the lives of women in the Greek and Roman world offer invaluable points of comparison for us about a number of important issues, including, for example, fertility in the nuclear family and its interaction with the demography of the community and state; maturation, procreation, and child-rearing in an environment of high mortality and primitive medicine; the allocation of productive roles within the proto-Western household; social roles mediating the private and public spheres; the ideological boundaries between nature and culture, and the political status of women in civic militarized states.

Sparta and Athens are the two best referenced Greek city-states. We have a wealth of information about Spartan women which not only presents them as mirror images to their Athenian sisters, but also marks out several significant ways in which they differ from other women in pre-modern European contexts. Sparta’s atypical political economy freed citizen men and women from all conventional work duties. Thus, Spartan women are seen to have shared an elaborate cycle of initiations and long athletic and musical educations, exercised autonomous control over their households, supervised the upbringing and marriages of their daughters, undertook family planning, and stringently policed men’s adherence to their political and military behavior codes. Aristotle reflected Athenian thinking when he contrasted Athenian democracy with Spartan gynecocracy ‘rule by women’. We shall explore several exemplary aspects of this social matrix.

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**The Financialization of the American Economy**

**March 1, 2019, 9am-2:30pm**

**James Livingston**, Professor, Department of History, Rutgers University
This seminar will examine a series of questions regarding American Economic History: (1) The "financialization" of the economy: what does that mean, how does it operate, why does it matter? (2) The origins of the Great Depression and the Great Recession: are the causes of these catastrophic events comparable? Is another crisis on the horizon? What can be done to prevent it, or manage it? (3) The future of work: does it have one? Have the robots and the computers already displaced us? If so, is a Universal Basic Income the only way to sustain a reasonable standard of living?

**Interconnections in the Ancient World**  
**March 29, 2019, 9am-2:30pm**  
**Adam DiBattista**, Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA

Modern views of the ancient world often divide cultures into singular categories like the Egyptians or the Greeks, ignoring the role played by interaction and exchange in shaping these cultures. This distorts our view of the ancient world and reinforces outdated ideas about “cultural evolution.” This seminar examines how the highly interconnected world of the Late Bronze Age Aegean and Near East (ca. 1500-1100 BCE) fostered an environment of experimentation and internationalism. We will examine how the subsequent breakdown of Bronze Age society (ca. 1200-1000 BCE) led to widespread destruction and instability. However, it also created new opportunities for the creation of cultural identities in subsequent periods. We will then trace the legacy of Bronze Age internationalism into the Early Iron Age and so-called Orientalizing periods of Ancient Greece (1100-600 BCE). Here we see how the intellectual and material world of Homer was shaped by foreign individuals like Phoenician merchants and Anatolian kings. This seminar will complicate more monolithic views of the ancient world which has ramifications for the entire notion of the Western intellectual tradition.

**The US in the Middle East: What does oil have to do with it?**  
**April 5, 2019, 9am-2:30pm**  
**Toby Jones**, Associate Professor, Department of History, Rutgers University

This session will examine the recent history of American politics and war in the Middle East. It will consider two deceptively simple questions: what is the relationship between oil and war in the region? And, why has the United States sought to maintain hegemony in the region?

**War of the Empires: The First World War and its Global Impact**  
**May 3, 2019, 9am-2:30pm**  
**Michael Adas**, Professor Emeritus, Department of History, Rutgers University

As the original name – the Great War – adopted by those who lived through that half-decade of horrific slaughter indicates, the First World War was by far the most genuinely global and immense conflict humankind had ever experienced. The seminar will focus on how to integrate the “world” aspects of that war from the Middle East, Africa, and North America to
India, East Asia, and Oceania into courses on American, European and World history. We will consider its enduring impact on the emergence of nationalist resistance to the colonial powers, the boost it gave across continents to the struggle for women’s rights, the shift in power from Europe to the US and Japan, and the misguided postwar settlement that made a second world war inevitable.