***2019-2020 Rutgers High School Teacher’s Institute***

**10/11/19**

***“African American Young Women, Brown vs. Board of Education, and the Long Civil Rights Movement”***

**Rachel Devlin, Associate Professor of History, Rutgers University**

*Brown vs. Board of Education* has been called “The Case of the Century” and “the finest hour of American law.” This workshop will examine how and why African American young women and girls led the fight to bring *Brown* to fruition and then, in vastly disproportionate numbers, volunteered to desegregate historically white schools in the early nineteen sixties. In the process we will examine the everyday lives of black girls at midcentury with an eye toward understanding the particular skills and commitment they brought to school desegregation in particular and the larger civil rights movement in general. We will follow girls through the arduous process of filing desegregation law suites and into formerly all-white schools where they were met with daily violence, harassment and social ostracism. We will consider their oral histories, keeping in mind how individual women chose to tell their stories of what was, by all accounts, a war inside American public schools. We will also consider how girls and young women fought back against sexual harassment and violence, the outsized role women played in the Montgomery bus boycott and other landmark civil rights protests, and how their activism informed the civil rights movement as a whole from the 1940s through the 1960s.

**10/18/19**

***“Republic of Spin: Teaching the History of the White House Message Machine”***

**David Greenberg**, **Professor of Journalism & Media Studies and History, Rutgers University**

David Greenberg’s talk, based on his award-winning 2016 book, *Republic of Spin: An Inside History of the American Presidency*, will recount the development of the White House spin machine from Teddy Roosevelt to Barack Obama. It tells the story about the rise of a new conception of the presidency in the 20th century focused on influencing public opinion though the new mass media. It explains how president and their aides—a new breed of political operative trained to traffic in words, images and symbols—established tools and techniques, institutions and practices, to lead the nation by leading public opinion. It also looks at the ideas of the last century’s most provocative political critics, as they grappled with the advent of spin in politics and its inherently ambiguous role in a democracy.

**10/25/19**

***“The Pinelands: History, Geography, Culture, and The Legend of the Jersey Devil”***

**Michael Orfe, author, *The True History of the Jersey Devil***

The seminar will examine various aspects of this unique part of New Jersey and its people by discussing ecological, ethnological, and sociological perspectives. A focal point of the presentation will be to present some of the fact and fiction behind the Pineland's most famous "citizen," the Jersey Devil. Included will be a personal narrative about a chance encounter in the back roads of The Pines.

**11/1/19**

***“National Security and the Courts: Famous Trials from the McCarthy Era to the Present”***

**Paul Clemens, Professor of History, Rutgers University**

In the post-World War II era, a number of high profile judicial cases highlighted the American government’s efforts to convict individuals identified by the FBI or congressional investigators as Communist Party spies. The outcome of these cases remains controversial today, as do the numerous less well remembered security hearings, firings, and prosecutions of other accused of disloyalty during “the McCarthy Era.” In the 1970s, and continuing to this day, the role of “whistle-blowers” in releasing classified government information to the public has occasioned an equally strong response, although one that differs significantly from that to the charges of communism in the 1950s. We will together examine three cases/trials, and in addition take a brief journey through Rutgers history to recall these issues. From the McCarthy period (which one can more accurately call the Second Red Scare or the J. Edgar Hoover era) we will look at the Alger Hiss (1949-1950) and the Julius and Ethel Rosenberg (1951) cases; from the later period, we will examine the case of Daniel Ellsberg (1973) – something less than a full trial—and the release of the Pentagon Papers. I will also discuss Rutgers part in the politics of anti-communism in the 1950s, and the four cases that made the university known for rooting out “fifth-amendment communists”—a sad but now largely forgotten legacy of that era

**11/15/19**

***“Disease in World History: Cholera in London, Yellow Fever in the Panama Canal, and Malaria in Liberia”***

**Barbara Cooper, Professor of History, Rutgers University**

Biomedicine is one of the triumphs of western technology. The conventional history of global health begins with the systematic sleuthing of physician and amateur epidemiologist John Snow as he sought to stop a cholera epidemic in London in the early decades of the 19th century. Another major breakthrough accompanied the engineering miracle of the Panama canal—the “conquest” of Yellow Fever. These successes contributed to a sense that western technology could tame the entire globe. However not all diseases have yielded to biomedical advances. Why do some public health efforts succeed where others fail? Why, after decades of struggle, does malaria continue to plague much of Africa? This seminar will explore the technological, epidemiological, political, and social factors that shape the history of public health by focusing on three case studies: cholera in 19th century London, Yellow Fever at the Panama Canal at the turn of the 20th century, and Malaria in Liberia in the post-World War II period

**11/22/19**

***“Law, Society, and Culture in American History”***

**Leslie Fishbein, Associate Professor, American Studies, Rutgers University**

Law, Society, and Culture focuses not simply on the evolution of the law but instead on how the law has affected American society, politics, history, and culture. The seminar will examine the Alien and Sedition Acts; the laws governing women's right to work, suffrage, and ability to control their own bodies; Andrew Jackson's Indian removal policies; the laws regarding a national bank and currency regulation; Prohibition; the Scopes Trial, the regulation of vice; immigration restriction; censorship during war and peacetime; conscientious objection to war; and laws regarding sexual and gender identity and the public expression of sexual and gender identity, among other topics

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**12/6/19**

***“American Russophopbia: From Nicholas II to Vladimir Putin”***

**David S. Foglesong, Professor of History, Rutgers University**

The extreme fears in recent years that Russia has determined an American election outcome, made the U.S. president a puppet, and pursued a global design for aggressive expansion are part of a long history of Russophobia in the United States. Since the late nineteenth century there have been five major surges of American fear and loathing of Russia: (1) during the reign of the last tsar, Nicholas II; (2) in the Red Scare of 1919-1920; (3) during the early Cold War and McCarthyism; (4) in the new bout of the Cold War in the late 1970s and early 1980s; and (5) in the last decade, when Vladimir Putin has been relentlessly vilified as America’s enemy number one.

**2/7/20**

**“*The Black Death and Medieval Medicine”***

**Anthony di Battista,**  **Lecturer, Department of History, Rutgers University**

The Black Death was the most devastating pandemic to strike medieval Europe, ultimately killing at least one third of the population.  Without a modern scientific explanation, the population reacted to the crisis in ways that often seem unfamiliar, and in fact, irrational, to the modern reader. This seminar will examine the Black Death within the context of an understanding of medieval medicine and the medical profession. We will examine contemporary accounts of the plague, medieval cures, and the artistic, theological, literary and economic responses to the devastation. In addition, the seminar will also examine another disease, leprosy, and its unique place within the medieval consciousness.

**2/21/20**

***“Communism in Eastern Europe: Myths and Realities”***

**Melissa Feinberg, Professor of History, Rutgers University**

For those looking at it from the outside, Eastern Europe has often seemed a mysterious place, backward, savage, and unknowable, hidden behind the veil of what Czech novelist Milan Kundera called its “strange and scarcely accessible languages.” This sense of Eastern Europe’s strangeness was at its height during the Cold War, when the region was isolated from the West by militarized borders and travel restrictions. This workshop will examine the world behind the Iron Curtain. While some might imagine it only as a totalitarian hellscape, the reality was much more complicated. The socialist states of Eastern Europe were dictatorships, but they were also societies in which people built meaningful lives. Instead of concentrating on whether state socialism was “good” or “bad,” we will try to understand it as a world with its own values, routines, and modes of being. Why, even thirty years after its fall, is Communism’s legacy still felt around the region?

**3/13/20**

***“Baseball History as American History”***

**Norman Markowitz, Associate Professor of History, Rutgers University**

This seminar will examine America’s “national pastime” as a microcosm of a changing American society and culture. Through the study of baseball in U.S. History, the seminar will examine player individualism in conflict with team effort, and player solidarity in conflict with owners’ control. Historic segregation and ethnic discrimination will be examined as they conflicted with the egalitarian and democratic ideals celebrated in the early years of the game. The development of baseball from its first inceptions as an amateur “gentleman’s game” in the pre-Civil War era to its present role as a multi-billion dollar transactional business will be the

primary focus of the day.

**4/24/20**

***Piracy in World History: “The Greatest Pirate in History”***

**Johan Mathew, Assistant Professor of History, Rutgers University**

Pirates were some of the most depraved and horrific individuals in human history. And yet they are also somehow beloved characters fit for Disney cartoons; for some reason they make “rape and pillage” sound like a birthday party game. How do we reconcile this disturbing contradiction? This workshop takes three figures from across the globe who have a claim to be the world’s greatest pirate. In understanding their stories and their historical contexts we seek to explore issues of race, gender, imperialism, inequality, and the long history of globalization. In the workshop we will be introduced to different eras and locations of piratical activity and we will learn what these instances reveal about their societies and how we can use these exciting stories to explore important historical concepts and debates.

**5/1/20**

***“Why Europe? Why Not China? The Ottomans or India? Teaching the Early Modern Origins of the “Great Divergence”***

**Michael Adas, Professor Emeritus, Department of History, Rutgers University**

Among the many challenges of teaching world history in the post-1500 era, tracing the factors that led to Western European dominance in the half-millennium that followed poses far-ranging and complex challenges, among them distortions due to an overwhelming focus on Europe. The debate over the “Great Divergence,” the processes that fundamentally transformed human history, and ultimately led to the dire state of planet earth more generally, also poses problems due to the recent, often-strident disagreements over the timing of these watershed developments. The workshop will focus on an approach that that that traces the beginnings of these global transformations to the 15th and 16th centuries. To counter the potential Western-centrism of this time frame, we will discuss ways to meaningfully cover Middle Eastern and Asian rivals. The rise of the European’s global dominance cannot be understood apart from their extensive borrowing from overseas civilizations (including those in the Americas) whose superiority in many fields was a major impetus for Western global expansionism.