

## NEW COURSES IN TOPIC STUDIES OFFERED IN SEMESTER 1, 2016-2017

### **HIST 4215** Topic Studies in Western History: The Age of Enlightenment (17th & 18th Centuries) (E)

**Dr. Bettina DIETZ**

This course offers an overview of the European Enlightenment as an intellectual and cultural movement in the 17th and 18th centuries. We will discuss the emergence of new ideas concerning nature, reason, man, and government, their impact on society and politics as well as their long-term significance for individual and collective Western identities. But we won't reduce the Enlightenment to a set of disembodied ideas. To have an impact, ideas had to circulate through society. Therefore we will also address the proliferation of print media all over Europe in the 18th century, the related emergence of new reading publics, as well as coffee houses, salons, and societies as spaces of sociability and exchange of ideas.

Reading and interpreting a range of primary and secondary sources will be a component of this course.

### **HIST 4335** Topic Studies in Global History: The Maritime Silk Road (E)

**Dr. Oivan LIU**

China's "one belt, one road" project has generated a revived interest in the importance of the maritime silk road. China's contemporary vision of silk roads, however, often deemphasizes those non-Chinese forces that played integral roles in the formation of this maritime route. This course, therefore, will examine the maritime silk road's connections between China, Southeast Asia, the Indian Ocean, and Europe from the 7th to 18th centuries. We will explore the circulations of people, goods, ideas, and institutions in and beyond maritime Asia, and study how these exchanges further produced societal, economic, and political changes in the settlements along the maritime silk road. This course is broadly divided into two periods. In the first part of this course we will examine intra-Asian connections before the arrival of Europeans by looking at, for example, the forging of riverine, archipelagic, and sea trade routes, tributary relations, networks of diasporas, knowledge production, and the spread of religion and cultural exchanges. The second part of this course will look at how oceanic voyages, increased demand for Asian goods in Europe, maritime technology, and Western presence further expanded these intra-Asian connections within a wider and global context.