

History Comes Alive



“We are the Makers of Manners”: Tudor-Stuart England and the Making of Modernity

Seán Moran
Tuesday, September 21, 2010 | 7 p.m.
Oakland Center, Gold Rooms A&B

The focus on using royal dynasties to define an age privileges royal genealogy and biography without revealing the true historical significance of that time. Between 1485 and 1714, England was transformed not by the accident of royal birth, but by a process of “civilizing” manners that produced a more rationalized, secularized, conforming and calculating culture.

Professor Moran is a specialist in British and Irish history. His particular interests concern intellectual history and cultural development.

Civil Defense as a Way of Life?

Bruce Zellers
Tuesday, October 19, 2010 | 7 p.m.
Oakland Center, Gold Rooms B&C

Duck and cover. Fallout shelter. These terms lay at the core of the Civil Defense effort during the Cold War. However, that effort was also a source of controversy — and even opposition. Thus the Civil Defense programs of the '50s and '60s are a means of examining the debate over national security during the early Cold War.

Professor Zellers teaches history at Greenhills School in Ann Arbor and is a special lecturer at Oakland University. For many years, he has been a close student of the emergence of the Cold War.



The Arab World and the Holocaust

Don Matthews
Tuesday, November 16, 2010 | 7 p.m.
Oakland Center, Gold Rooms A&B

The role of the Holocaust in the establishment of the State of Israel and the significance of anti-Semitism in Arab opposition to Israel's emergence are two hotly disputed issues that are entangled with one another; controversial recent scholarship explores these questions. This lecture examines the scholarly debate as well as Arab responses to the Holocaust from the time of its perpetration until the present.

Professor Matthews is an expert in modern Arab nationalism. He has written on Palestinian identity and is currently working on a book project concerning American foreign policy toward Iran.

Female Suns and Plantation Madams: Women Leaders in French Louisiana

George Milne
Wednesday, January 19, 2011 | 7 p.m.
Oakland Center, Oakland Room

In the 18th-century lower Mississippi Valley, French colonists and Native Americans sometimes lived in very close proximity to one another. Women from both cultures played crucial roles in the prevention of conflict between the two groups. They acted as teachers and diplomats who often stood up to their people's male decision-makers as part of their efforts to keep the peace.

Professor Milne specializes in American colonial history. He is currently writing a book on the interaction between Native Americans and French colonists in the lower Mississippi Valley.



Photo courtesy of The Newberry Library, Chicago. Ayer MS 257, #4.



Religion, Slavery, and the Meaning of the Union: The Civil War-Era Case of Kentucky

Luke Harlow
Wednesday, February 16, 2011 | 7 p.m.
Oakland Center, Oakland Room

Early in the American Civil War, Abraham Lincoln reportedly said, “I hope to have God on my side, but I must have Kentucky.” Lincoln got his wish during the conflict, but things changed shortly after the peace. This talk explores the role of white religious interpretations of slavery and the nation in driving Kentucky to embrace the Confederacy — after the fact.

Professor Harlow is a specialist in Civil War history and his particular interest concerns the role of “border states” in the political conflicts of the 19th century. He is currently working on a book concerning attitudes about slavery in Kentucky.

Women of Power and Influence in Medieval Europe

Jace Crouch
Wednesday, March 16, 2011 | 7 p.m.
Oakland Center, Oakland Room

Pelagia the Visigoth, Countess Matilda of Tuscany and the German Empress Theophanu are hardly household names, but during their lifetimes they were as powerful as most men. These medieval women were very able diplomats, administrators, rulers, parents, patrons, lawmakers, letter writers and warlords.

Professor Crouch is a special lecturer who teaches European history. His research interests concern the development of medieval thought and culture.



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- The Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

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Admission is free, but reservations are requested.
To reserve your space, call (248) 370-3511
or e-mail jkessler@oakland.edu.