HASS Exploration (HEX) Program

The HEX Program consists of a group of HASS subjects recommended by MIT faculty to undergraduates as an option to become familiar with various methodologies in the humanities, arts, and social sciences that approach topics from different disciplinary and interdisciplinary viewpoints. HEX subjects have limited enrollment and are team-taught by MIT faculty - presenting students an opportunity for faculty interaction.

All HEX subjects may count towards the HASS Requirement. They can be used towards the Distribution, categories are noted in the online subject listings, or they can be used as a HASS Elective.

Subjects offered Spring 2015



17.53: Rise of Asia (HASS-S)

This subject is offered as a "gateway" to the study of Asia, the world's most dynamic region, and as an exploratory subject touching on many of the key issues addressed in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Science. Students will select one of three Asian countries to focus on-- China, India, or Japan-- and will study its history, literature, politics, economy, and culture in the context of the region as a whole. The course will satisfy MISTI's non-language course requirements for each country program.

M. T. Fravel, V. Narang, R. Samuels



21H.007J: Empire: Introduction to Ancient and Medieval Studies (HASS-H; CI-H)

Interdisciplinary and comparative investigation of the Roman empire of Augustus, the Frankish empire of Charlemagne, and the English empire in the age of the Hundred Years' War. Focuses on how large, multi-ethnic empires were created, sustained, legitimated, and contested through conquest, government, literature, art, and economic organization. Students examine different types of evidence, read across a variety of disciplines, and develop skills to identify continuities and changes in ancient and medieval societies.

W. Broadhead, S. Frampton, E. Goldberg



21H.009: The World, 1400-Present (HASS-H)

Surveys the increasing interaction between communities, as the barrier of distance succumbed to both curiosity and new transport technologies. Explores Western Europe and the United States' rise to world dominance, as well as the great divergence in material, political, and technological development between Western Europe and East Asia post-1750, and its impact on the rest of the world. Examines a series of evolving relationships, including human beings and their physical environment; religious and political systems; and sub-groups within communities, sorted by race, class, and gender. Introduces historical and other interpretive methodologies using both primary and secondary source materials.

H. Nagahara, J. Ravel

