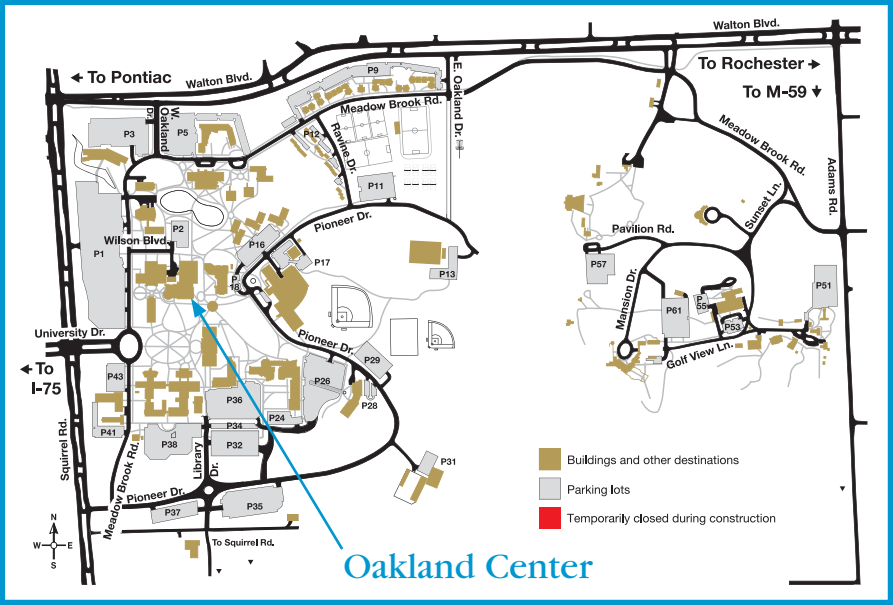


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THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD: LEGEND VS. HISTORY

De Witt S. Dykes, Jr.
Tuesday, September 19, 2017
Oakland Center, Gold Rooms B and C

The Underground Railroad involved networks of individuals who assisted runaway slaves as they sought freedom and safety in the non-slave areas of the United States and Canada. To avoid prosecution, those who helped the runaway slaves rarely kept records. In the years since the end of slavery, legends have developed containing exaggerated, dubious or mistaken accounts of help given, the location of “safe houses” and secret hiding places or tunnels, all of which undervalued the role most runaway slaves played in freeing themselves. This talk will analyze the historical evidence from reliable sources to separate fact from fiction.

AN ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP

Dan Clark
Wednesday, October 18, 2017
Oakland Center, Gold Rooms B and C

Although history has been transmitted by oral traditions for millennia, “oral history” — interviewing people about their experiences in the past — has become a staple of research methodology only over the past couple of generations. Yet oral history has had a complicated, contentious history of its own. Does interviewing people who were there provide a clear window into the past? Is memory hopelessly unreliable as a historical source? What exactly can we learn through oral history interviews? This talk will also provide guidance for those who might want to undertake oral history projects of their own.

POISONED HEARTS: POISON, SLAVERY AND INTIMACY IN THE ATLANTIC WORLD, 1670-1861

Erin Dwyer
Tuesday, November 14, 2017
Oakland Center, Gold Rooms B and C

Enslaved people frequently turned to poison as a means of resistance and revenge. Poison was a tool of the dispossessed, but it was also inherently a weapon of intimacy. The enslaved people who slaveholders saw each day, and trusted the most, were also the ones slipping poison into their owners’ food and drinks. This talk on poison, slavery, fear and intimacy examines how slaveholders in the Caribbean and the United States managed fear of enslaved poisoners and how slaves wielded poison to resist bondage.

WHAT DIFFERENCE DID A REVOLUTION MAKE? MILITARY SERVICE IN POST-1952 BOLIVIA

Liz Shesko
Wednesday, January 17, 2018
Oakland Center, Gold Rooms B and C

Within sixteen months of seizing power, the leaders of Bolivia’s 1952 Revolution had nationalized the three largest tin mines, enacted agrarian reform in favor of small producers, and granted universal suffrage. The new administration faced a dilemma, however, over the military. How would it deal with this powerful institution that had dominated Bolivian politics for decades? This lecture explores the Revolutionary Nationalist Movement’s conflicted relationship with the military and how military service changed after 1952.

HUMANISM AND MEDICINE IN THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE

Craig Martin
Tuesday, February 13, 2018
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Italian Renaissance humanists sought to recover and revive the ancient cultures of Greece and Rome. This recovery, and at times rediscovery, of ancient texts included the medical writings of Galen, Hippocrates and others. Renaissance physicians applied these writings to both their theoretical understanding of the human body and their practices.

THE FATAL ATTRACTION OF NATIONALISM: THE POLITICS OF IDENTITY AND BELONGING IN MODERN EUROPE

Derek Hastings
Wednesday, March 21, 2018
Oakland Center, Gold Rooms B and C

Nationalism developed into the most potent social and political force in Europe after the French Revolution, outflanking rival forms of attachment and motivating millions to sacrifice, kill and, if necessary, die in the name of their “nations.” But why was this so? What made nationalism such a powerful marker of identification and belonging? Exploring specific examples from the French Revolution, the Nazi era and present-day Europe, this lecture will discuss the compelling, yet often contradictory, reasons for nationalism’s forceful appeal.

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