Harry Potter and the History of Magic

Teip Discovery—Summer 2019—EXST

Course Description
History is alive and all around us, including as an inspiration for our favorite books and movies. This course explores the real history behind the “Wizarding World” created by J.K. Rowling in the Harry Potter series. We will examine texts, artifacts, and illustrations to explore the historical origins of the Philosopher’s Stone, fantastical creatures, magic words, potions, and more.

Instructor
Courtney Dahlke
cdahlke@umd.edu
Office Hours after class or by appointment

Courtney Dahlke has been teaching history for almost 15 years. She studied Late Antiquity and Medieval Europe at Stanford, Oxford, and the University of Toronto before moving to Maryland in 2014. Most recently, she has been researching and teaching in the field of “Medievalism”, or how the Middle Ages are understood and represented in modern times, especially in popular culture. Her favorite Harry Potter book is definitely Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban.

Course Policies
• Students should be prepared for class each day, and actively participate in all activities.
• Students shall be respectful to the instructor and to each other.
• All electronic devices shall be turned off, except at times specified by the instructor.
• Students should be present and on time each day. If you have an unavoidable absence, please contact the instructor.

**Required Materials**

All other materials will be provided.

**Sorting & House Cup**
On the first day of class, students will be sorted into houses by drawing from the Sorting Hat. Houses will be awarded (or deducted) points based on their performance in daily activities and adherence to the course policies. The house with the most points at the end of the program will win the House Cup.

**Tentative Course Schedule**
Day 1
• Welcome; House Sorting; Introduction to the course & the exhibition
Day 2
• Potions
Day 3
• Alchemy
Day 4
• Herbology
Day 5
• Charms
Day 6
• Astronomy
Day 7
• Divination
Day 8
• Defense Against the Dark Arts
Day 9
• Care of Magical Creatures
Day 10
• Conclusions; Exhibition/Presentations; Quidditch