

HIST 4800B - Topics: Beer History

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 43883,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Kyle Starkey

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Kyle Timothy Starkey, PhD

Instructor Professional Qualifications:

PhD., History, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Master's, History, Youngstown State University

Bachelor's, History & German, Allegheny College

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Course Description

4800B. Topics: Beer History. In-depth investigation of a selected topic in History including, but not limited to political, social, economic, environmental, technological, or cultural issues. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	In the Land of Ninkasi: A History of Beer in Ancient Mesopotamia	Tate Paulette	
Required	Uncorking the Past: The Quest for Wine, Beer, and Other Alcoholic Beverages	Patrick E. McGovern	
Required	Ale, Beer, and Brewsters in England: Women's Work in a Changing World, 1300-1600	Judith M. Bennett	
Required	Hopped Up: How Travel, Trade, and Taste Made Beer a Global Commodity	Jeffrey M. Pilcher	
Required	Ambitious Brew: The Story of American Beer	Maureen Ogle	
Required	"Archaeology of Ancient Egyptian Beer"	Delwen Samuel	
Required	"Understanding Early Modern Beer: An Interdisciplinary Case-Study"	John Morrissey et al.	
Required	"From Monasteries to Multinationals (and Back): A Historical Review of the Beer Economy"	Eline Poelmans & Johan F.M. Swinnen	
Required	"Belgium's Historic Beer Diversity: Should we Raise a Pint to Institutions?"	Eline Poelmans & Jason E. Taylor	



Required	The Barbarian's Beverage: A History of Beer in Ancient Europe	
Required	"Technical Change in the Brewing Industry in Germany, the Low Countries, and England in the Middle Ages"	
Required	Principles of Brewing Science: A Study of Serious Brewing Issues	George Fix
Required	The Brewing Industry in England, 1700-1830	Peter Mathias

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Course Schedule

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	In the Land of Ninkasi: A History of Beer in Ancient Mesopotamia "Archaeology of Ancient Egyptian Beer"	Module 1: The Origins of Alcohol	
8/31	In the Land of Ninkasi: A History of Beer in Ancient Mesopotamia	Module 1: The Origins of Alcohol	Recipe Analysis #1 (Due Online: 09/06)
9/7	Uncorking the Past: The Quest for Wine, Beer, and Other Alcoholic Beverages	Module 1: The Origins of Alcohol	
9/14	Uncorking the Past: The Quest for Wine, Beer, and Other Alcoholic Beverages Principles of Brewing Science: A Study of Serious Brewing Issues	Module 1: The Origins of Alcohol	Essay Assignment #1 (Due Online: 09/20)
9/21	Ale, Beer, and Brewsters in England: Women's Work in a Changing World, 1300-1600 Hopped Up: How Travel, Trade, and Taste Made Beer a Global Commodity	Module 2: Monks, Laws, and Hops	
9/28	The Barbarian's Beverage: A History of Beer in Ancient Europe	Module 2: Monks, Laws, and Hops	Recipe Analysis #2 (Due Online: 10/04)
10/5	"Technical Change in the Brewing Industry in Germany, the Low Countries, and England in the Middle Ages" "From Monasteries to Multinationals (and Back): A Historical Review of the Beer Economy"	Module 2: Monks, Laws, and Hops	Oktoberfest Assignment (Due Online: 10/11)
10/12	Principles of Brewing Science: A Study of Serious Brewing Issues "Belgium's Historic Beer Diversity: Should we Raise a Pint to Institutions?"	Module 2: Monks, Laws, and Hops	Midterm Exam (In-Class - 10/16)
10/19	The Brewing Industry in England, 1700-1830	Module 3: Industrializing Beer	
10/26	The Brewing Industry in England, 1700-1830	Module 3: Industrializing Beer	Recipe Analysis #3 (Due Online: 11/01)
11/2	The Brewing Industry in England, 1700-1830	Module 3: Industrializing Beer	
11/9	Principles of Brewing Science: A Study of Serious Brewing Issues	Module 3: Industrializing Beer	Essay Assignment #2 (Due Online: 11/15)
11/16	Ambitious Brew: The Story of American Beer	Module 4: Beer & the Contemporary World	
11/23	Ambitious Brew: The Story of American Beer	Module 4: Beer & the Contemporary World (Thanksgiving Break)	Recipe Analysis #4 (Due Online: 11/29)

11/30	Principles of Brewing Science: A Study of Serious Brewing Issues	Module 4: Beer & the Contemporary World
12/7		Final Exams Week
		Final Exam (12/11 - 8:00am-10:00am)

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