

HISTORY NEWS

HISTORY DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Spring 2022

Professors Discuss Ukraine

Ukraine was the issue on the afternoon of March 15, when the Phi Sigma Iota foreign language honor society convened an informational symposium. As one of the two invited panelists, Dr. Mara Kozelsky of our department delivered a fast-moving, powerpoint supported talk that contextualized Russia's plans for its neighbor.

Confining her focus to the post-Soviet period, Dr. Kozelsky set out to detail "the recent history of Russian expansion into areas it deems to be in its sphere of interest, as well as the decade-long trend of repression inside Russia itself." These two topics are interrelated, for Russian President Vladimir Putin's goal is to exert total control in Russia and transform Ukraine into a client state, much like Belarus. When Russia annexed Crimea in 2014, the indigenous population of Crimean Tatars who protested Russia's occupation of their region were prosecuted under an Anti-Assembly Law passed in Russia in 2012. In general, Mr. Putin has made it clear that any supposed anti-Russian activity, even if set in an independent Ukraine, may be dealt with retroactively according to Russian sedition law, should Ukraine (like Crimea) fall under Russian control.

As for the extension of Russian control, now being essayed by the Russian army, Dr. Kozelsky reported that its groundwork has long been laid by

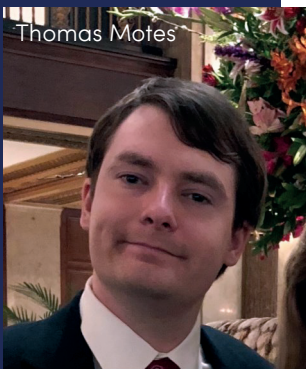
the Russian Orthodox Church, which, through its endorsement of the Russkiy Mir ("Russian World") concept, has asserted that all areas in which Russian Orthodoxy is practiced should be considered part of Russia. As an aside, she noted that many Alabamians with church missions in Ukraine have already seen firsthand Russian persecution of non-Orthodox Christians. Together with co-panelist Dr. Anton Svyrenenko of the Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures Department, Dr. Kozelsky concluded that Russian irredentism, carried out in alleged response to NATO expansion, may now be making NATO expansion seem all the more reasonable.

The forum was attended by at least seventy students, faculty, and members of the community, who filled the venue.



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Grad Student Presents Work

History graduate student Thomas Motes presented a poster about his research for his M.A. thesis at the Spring Graduate Research Forum, sponsored by the Graduate School and the USA Faculty Development Council, on March 9, 2022. He was also one of six graduate students asked to give a short oral presentation about his work at the Forum.

Motes' thesis, titled "Pioneer Inventors, Sea Devils, and Infernal Machines: Submarine Development in the United States from the American Revolution to the American Civil War," focuses on the technological difficulties inherent in developing safe and effective submersible and semi-submersible watercraft and the inventors who tried to overcome these problems. He also looks at the changing opinions

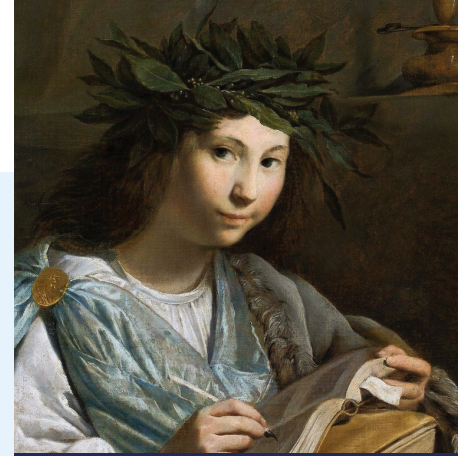
of military commanders towards "stealth" war machines, concluding that the weaker side in a war was more likely to develop and use such "infernal machines" than the stronger side. Thus the Americans in the Revolution experimented with them more than the British and Confederacy more than the Union in the Civil War. Motes defended his thesis, directed by Dr. Henry McKiven, in February and will graduate in May 2022.



UNIVERSITY OF
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Fall 2022 Courses

HY 101	History of Western Civilization I (4 sections)
HY 102	History of Western Civilization II (5 sections)
HY 103	History of Asian Civilization I (Miller)
HY 121	World Civilization I (Kozelsky)
HY 122	World Civilization I (TBA)
HY 135	US History to 1877 (9 sections)
HY 136	US History Since 1877 (10 sections)
HY 305W	History of Military Thought (Kozelsky)
HY 355	The French Revolution (Cage)
HY 366	Traditional China (Miller)
HY 390	Special Topics: History of Modern Spain (Messenger)
HY 443	World History Research Seminar: Black in Latin America (Urban)
HY 457/557	Studies in European History: Race, Migration, and Identity in Europe (Messenger)
HY 465/565	Studies in the History of Islamic Civilization: Myth, Magic, and Miracle in Islam (Williams)
HY 477/577	The Old South (McKiven)
HY 496/596	Public History (Hamilton)
HY 498	Internship in Histor (Hamilton)
HY 540	Modern European Historiography (Strong)



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