Making History at the University of Michigan, 1817-2017

WINTER 2016
HISTORY 496 SECTION 004
TUESDAYS 10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Join Terrence J. McDonald, Professor of History and Director of the Bentley Historical Library, for “Making History at the University of Michigan, 1817-2017,” a course exploring the rise and development of U-M for the past 200 years.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The University of Michigan opened in 1817 with two instructors and no students. It has risen from there to become one of the best known universities in the world and in 2017 it will celebrate its Bicentennial. This course will survey the development of the University through its organizational, intellectual, political, and architectural histories. Guest lecturers from around the campus will add perspective to the course and tours of historically important parts of the campus will be included. The course satisfies both the “colloquium” requirement for History majors and the LSA Upper Level Writing Requirement. Enrollment is limited to 18.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Weekly assigned readings, averaging about 100-200 pages; four short in-class quizzes, which will cover the lectures and readings; periodic brief written reflections on the assigned readings, and a writing assignment of 10-15 pages that will be based on research into primary sources on the history of the University at the Bentley Historical Library. This assignment will begin in a traditional “paper” format and then become a Wikipedia publication, so that each student will be a published author by the end of the semester.

INTENDED AUDIENCE:
This is a history course and will spend much of its time on the nineteenth and twentieth century history of the University. But no prior background in history will be assumed.

CLASS FORMAT:
Significant discussion of assigned readings with some lectures including by guests.