HISTORY – SUMMER 2020

HIST 5142 Advanced Inquiries in U.S. History

The ability to read German is encouraged but not required.

Topic: German Migration to Missouri
During the nineteenth century, large numbers of German migrants settled in the state of Missouri. In this three-credit course, students from the universities of Missouri in Kansas City and St. Louis as well as Hamburg, Wroclaw, and Vienna will collaborate on researching and writing short interpretive chapters about the everyday lives of German migrants before, during, and after their migration.

Focus: A Working-Class Family between Upper Silesia and Kansas City
The focus of students’ research will be the digitized letters, postcards, and photographs of the Kiefer-Scholtz family from 1899 to the 1920s. While Thekla Scholtz worked as a nanny in Kansas City among other places, Robert Kiefer worked as a travelling musician and cabinet maker. The collection records life in Upper Silesia along with their respective travels in Central Europe and the United States. Members of the family fought on both sides of the Great War.

Format: An Interuniversity Online Asynchronous Research Seminar
This joint course will be delivered through Canvas hosted at UMKC. UMSL students will enroll in the course for Summer Session VI (May 18-August 8), with extended writing deadlines to August 20, 2020.

The European research teams begin their work in March or April. If you wish to have advanced access to the course materials so you can begin collaborating with our European colleagues, then contact the instructor, Dr. Andrew Bergerson (bergersona@umkc.edu).

Please note: Because the written work for this course will not be due until late August, this course is not recommended for students who intend to graduate in the summer term.