

# Podcasting the Past

How can we use primary and secondary sources to research, write, and produce an original work of public history through the podcasting medium?

## Description

This course engaged the podcast form as a medium of public history. Students learned the methodology and tools of podcast production, and by semester's end, produced a history podcast series for public consumption. Students conducted thorough research and interviews with individuals involved in the original incident, maintained high production quality, and worked with Jeffrey Schiffman, Communication lecturer and WVYC radio station manager, to learn how to operate podcasting equipment and editing software.

## Final Product

Students worked in teams to create an eight-part podcast series exploring the journey of 286 Chinese immigrants who were smuggled into the United States in 1993 aboard the cargo ship, Golden Venture. The series, titled "Golden Dreams," explores the dramatic stories of the passengers aboard the Golden Venture, including running aground off the coast of New York City, their detention in York County Prison, and the subsequent struggles of the Chinese citizens who sought asylum in the United States as refugees.



Public History



Special Topics  
in History  
HIS 399  
Spring 2024



Taught by  
Dr. Jaqueline  
Beatty



## Students

### Why THIS project for THESE students?

Students in HIS 399 were predominantly History or Public History majors. The class had 12 upper-level students who worked in pairs to produce individual episodes of the eight-part series. Students worked as a class to determine common elements of the episodes such as theme music, introductory episode content, and closing thoughts. They engaged in peer review of each episode. They were responsible for scripts, recording, editing, and other production elements of the episodes on which they were the principal researchers and writers.

*"It was amazing to get to work with the original legal documents used by the lawyers involved with the Golden Venture. It was an amazing window into almost every aspect of this story. Conducting the interviews with the people involved with the Golden Venture was fascinating."*

- Benjamin Werkley '26, Public History



## Learning Outcomes

### What skills did students develop through completing this course?

#### **Podcasting**

Students developed an understanding of the methodology, ethics, tools, and best practices of podcasting.

#### **Primary Research**

Students conducted original primary research and synthesized secondary source materials to produce historical scholarship expressed through the podcast medium.

#### **Public History**

Students applied this methodology and skill set to create an original work of public history through the podcasting medium.

#### **Interpretation and Communication**

Students communicated historical knowledge and interpretations to various and different publics through the podcast medium.



## Context

### How does this project support the community?

Students worked with the York County Bar Association to tell this story. Students interviewed York-based attorneys who represented asylum seekers on the Golden Venture. The York County Bar Association also provided original legal documents that students reviewed as part of their research into this international incident and how it is connected to York County and the broader immigrant experience in the United States.

#### **Community Partner**



#### **Scan to Listen!**

