

HIS 238
Science, Technology, and Medicine in Western Civilization - II

Satisfies: STAS

Thematic Categories: "Health, Science & Environmental Change"

Tu/Th 11:30 am-1:00 pm

Professor Susannah Glickman

This course will introduce students to the methods and a sampling of fields and methodologies in the History of Science, Technology and Medicine from 1790 to the present. We start with a critical examination of the field, its history, and its assumptions. What is the history of science and how did the field originate? What is science? How do we know things and how has this changed over time? What is the relationship between science, statistics, and the state? This course examines major schools of thought in the history and sociology of science, debates about knowledge and how it is produced, and a survey of other major and popular topics. We will read histories of measurement, quantification, finance, medicine, and laboratories, as well as biopolitics and cybernetics. Examples of course materials include *Closed World*, a history of Cold War computing politics and worldview, *Perfumed Nightmare* (1977), a film about the American space program and postcolonialism, *An Engine Not a Camera*, a book about financial models and the practice of financial markets, and "The History of Science & the History of Knowledge," a provocative article about the history of the History of Science. No background in the field is necessary.