

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

Satisfies DEC: H | SBC: STAS
Thematic Category: "Health, Science & Environmental Change"

Winter 2024 Session
Online Asynchronous

Instructor: Donal Thomas

How did Science, Technology, and Medicine become an instrumental part of our daily lives and the potential solution to our many individual and global problems? In this course, we will survey the development of modern science in the West and beyond from the French Revolution in 1789 to the present. Over the course of those two centuries, how we conceive of science—how it is done, who does it, and what it means—has shifted dramatically in tandem with how we understand the world and society. We will examine several branches of science, including ecology, physics, biology, geology, medicine, anthropology, and others, in order to assess these changes. Students will analyze primary and secondary sources, including academic articles, podcasts, videos, and lectures, as we seek to understand how science has influenced Western Civilization and beyond. There will be a short response paper, discussion board engagement, and choice of a final paper or recorded podcast/video for the course. No required textbook; all the course materials will be uploaded on Brightspace.