History of Science 5970
Research, Criticism, and Analysis
Mondays 1:30 – 4:20

Course Description:
This course is composed of four strands: 1) an introduction to current literature in the history of science, medicine and technology; 2) an introduction to the history of our discipline(s); 3) an introduction to historical research and writing; and 4) an introduction to the faculty and resources of the University of Oklahoma’s History of Science Department.
I have divided the semester into three units, the first on the history of science, the second on the history of medicine and the third on the history of technology. Within these units, we will explore some of the major issues and ongoing debates in each subfield and we will discuss the origins and history of each subfield. In addition to the weekly reading assignments, I have prepared a series of written exercises to develop and improve your research and analytic skills. Several of these assignments are designed to complement ongoing research in other seminars. Finally, throughout the semester department faculty and affiliates will visit the seminar. These visits will generally last 30 minutes and come either at the beginning or the end of class. They will provide other professors in the department with an opportunity to introduce themselves to you and to explain their areas of research. You are encouraged to ask them questions about their research and career trajectories, as well as their views on the state of the field and on the historiographic issues discussed in class.

Course Books:
The following books are available in paperback and can be purchased. You are not required to buy all of them; I will put copies on reserve in the History of Science Collections. All other readings are in the History of Science Collections or available online.


Francesca Bray, *Technology and Gender: Fabrics of Power in Late Imperial China* (University of California Press, 1997) (also available online)

**Course Schedule:**

**Week 1**  
**8/25**  
Introductory discussion

**Week 2**  
**9/1**  
NO CLASS: Labor Day Holiday

**Week 3**  
**9/8**  
Science I. Origins, Big Questions, Historical Methodology

Reading


Assignment: Choose a year from the 1930s, the 1950s, the 1970s and the 1990s from *Isis* and look through the issues. Then look at a few very recent issues of *Isis* as well as the *Isis* web page. Come prepared to discuss the changes and continuities in the journal over time. Questions you might consider include: What kinds of topics were covered? What kinds of arguments were made? Was there a chronological or geographical focus? Can you tell what sorts of people were publishing? What kinds of sources did they use? What else was in the journal besides scholarly articles? How does *Isis* currently define its mission and readership?

**Week 4**  
**9/15**  
Science II. Revolutions in Science

Reading
Thomas Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*

**Week 5**  
**Science III. Science in Cultural Context**  
**9/22**

**Reading**

Mario Biagioli, *Galileo, Courtier*

Assignment: Find and read three reviews of Biagioli's *Galileo, Courtier*. Bring these reviews to class and be prepared to discuss the following questions: What does each reviewer see as the main or most important aspects of the book? What flaws (if any) do the reviewers find? How does the reviewer assess the importance of the book? Is it a significant contribution to the history of science? If so, in what way? Which review(s) did you find most useful and why? How did you find these reviews? What do you think is the point of reading book reviews?

**Week 6**  
**Science IV: Scientific Work**  
**9/29**

**Reading**


Assignment: In about five pages, present a primary source (or type of source) you are using in a current research project. Analyze the problems and prospects of the source: who produced this source? Why did they produce it? What cautions are necessary in using it? Be prepared to present your analysis to the class.

**Week 7**  
**Science V: Popular Science**  
**10/6**

**Reading**


Adrian Desmond, "Artisan Resistance and Evolution in Britain, 1819-1848" Osiris, 2nd series, 1987, 3: 77-110

**Week 8**  Medicine I. Origins, Big Questions, Historical Methodology  
10/13

**Reading**
Frank G. Huisman and John Harley Warner (eds.), Locating Medical History: The Stories and Their Meanings (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004), chapters 1, 7, 8 and 16. In addition, pick one other chapter and come to class prepared to present it to the class.

Assignment: Choose a year from the 1930s, the 1950s, the 1970s and the 1990s from Bulletin of the History of Medicine. Then look at a few very recent issues as well as the web page. Come prepared to discuss the changes and continuities in the journal over time.

**Week 9**  Medicine II. Patients' Perspective  
10/20

**Reading**
Luise White, Speaking with Vampires, pp. 3-121.

**Week 10**  Medicine III. Historicizing the Body  
10/27

**Reading**
Barbara Duden, The Woman Beneath the Skin, chapter 1 (pp. 1-49) and chapter 4 (pp. 104-84)

Assignment: In about five pages, compare and contrast any two of the assigned readings. Focus on differences in arguments, methodology and sources.

**Week 11**  Medicine IV. Medicine, Science and Politics
Reading
Nadja Durbach, *Bodily Matters*

Assignment: Write a book review of Durbach's *Bodily Matters*. Your review should be 500 to 700 words and suitable for publication in a scholarly journal such as *Isis* or the *Bulletin*. Bring several copies of your review to class – we will read and discuss both the reviews and the book.

**Week 12**  
**Technology I. Origins, Big Questions, Historical Methodology**

11/10

Reading


Assignment: Choose a year from the 1950s, the 1970s and the 1990s from *Technology and Culture*. Then look at a few very recent issues as well as the web page. Come prepared to discuss the changes and continuities in the journal over time.

**Week 13**  
**Technology II. Technological Systems**

11/17

Reading


Assignment: Make a list of as many journals in the history of science, medicine, and technology as you can. Pick three that are particularly interesting to you and come prepared to describe them to the class. Look through a few recent issues as well as the journal’s web page. What kinds of articles do they publish? Is there a chronological or geographical focus? What sorts of
scholars publish here? Who reads it? What else is in the journal besides scholarly articles? (Note: Do not choose Isis, the Bulletin of the History of Medicine or Technology and Culture.)

Week 14 Technology III. Consumers of Technology 11/24

Reading
Joel D. Howell, Technology in the Hospital: Transforming Patient Care in the Early Twentieth Century (Johns Hopkins, 1996), pp. 133-168

Week 15 Technology IV. Technology and Gender 12/1

Reading
Francesca Bray, Technology and Gender: Fabrics of Power in Late Imperial China

Assignment: In seven to ten pages, analyze one primary source in relation to one secondary source. Does your reading of the primary source support the secondary source? Refute it? Complicate it? Come prepared to discuss with the class.

Week 16 Technology V. Technology and Work 12/8

Reading
Gregory J. Downey, Telegraph Messenger Boys, pp. TBA