

HIS 237
Science, Technology, and Medicine in Western Civilization I

Satisfies: STAS

Thematic Category: "Health, Science & Environmental Change"

T/TH, 12:30-1:50pm

Professor Alix Cooper

This course will examine the origins of modern science, technology, and medicine from their earliest roots in ancient and medieval civilizations through the Scientific Revolution of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and its aftermath. Themes will include the connectedness of science, technology, and medicine to culture and society; ideas about humanity and the universe in antiquity; the transmission of knowledge from the ancient Near East to the Greco-Roman world, and from the Greco-Roman world through the Islamic world to medieval Christian Europe; the rise during the Renaissance and Reformation period of new ways of thinking about knowledge of the natural world and humanity's role in it, culminating in the work of such figures as Copernicus, Vesalius, Kepler, Galileo, Harvey, Boyle, and Newton during the Scientific Revolution; and finally the dissemination of knowledge about science, technology, and medicine to a broader public during the Enlightenment period of the eighteenth century. This course will require regular reading and in-class exercises, two midterms, and a final exam.