HIS 304-001: HISTORY OF SCIENCE
FALL 2018
TR- 11.00 AM- 12.15PM, F474

Dr. Suparna Chakraborty
Department of History
Liberal Arts North 343

Contact Information:
E-mail: chakrabos@sfasu.edu

Office Hours:
Monday, Wednesday: 1.00 p.m. - 2.00 p.m.
Tuesday, Thursday: 12.30 p.m. - 2.00 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will examine the role of modern science in making and unmaking of cultural and ideological identities. In doing so, it challenges the notion of science as a value-neutral discipline that remains unaffected by cultural forces. More particularly we will explore how European science and technology was deeply shaped by the imperial expansion. This course also highlights the interplay of science and issues of gender, race and sexuality. Readings for this course will look at the topics mentioned above and allow students to understand the persistence of these “knowledge forms” in shaping the very understanding of social and cultural relations into the present time.

READINGS

*Additional reading will be posted on the course website D2L.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Academic Integrity (A-9.1)
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or
invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or
(3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism.
Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your
own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's
own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a
work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or
another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's
paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at
http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Withheld Grades (Semester Grades Policy, A-54)
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the
academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot
complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must
complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which
they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register
for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and
will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point
average.

Students with Disabilities
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary
aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services
(ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as
early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course
instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be
provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your
accommodations. For additional information, go to
http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Acceptable Student Behavior
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the
class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program.
Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the
learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial,
academic or other penalties. The instructor will have full discretion over what
behavior is deemed appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. All cell phones
must be turned off or put on silent or vibrate mode. Students are not to use
their cell phones to text during class sessions.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assignments:

Attendance (5%): Students are expected to attend ALL classes. Attendance will be taken EVERYDAY. **You may have three absences, whether excused or unexcused without penalty. After that for every non-school-related absences will result in the loss of 2 points from the final total grade.** I strongly advise you to contact me prior to class for your absence to be excused. You may do this by email, or in person. **All cell phones must be turned off or put on silent. Students are not allowed to use their cell phones to text during class sessions**

In-Class Participation (5%): Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings assigned for the day.

Exams (15% + 20%): There will be 2 exams for this course. The contents of the exams will be based on the lectures and the readings assigned for the period. The exams are not going to be cumulative. Students will have to take the examinations in class without access to any notes, books, or electronic devices. There should be no talking among students once the distribution of examinations has begun. Please write your examination in blue or black ink (no pencil). **Exam 1 will count for 15% of the final grade. Exam 2 will count for 20% of the final grade.** If because of a special university activity, serious illness, or some other personal emergency, you have to miss an examination, be sure to notify the instructor in advance by e-mail.

Research Project (50%): This semester-long project constitutes several components, the breakdown of which is provided below. As you are expected to work on your research project throughout the semester, missed assignments and late submission will hinder your progress as well as the quality of the subsequent assignments.

Presentation (5%): Students will be required to present their paper in class. This will be an opportunity for the students to conduct themselves professionally as they would at a conference. Students are also required to provide constructive comments on the works of their peers.

Grading Policy:
Attendance- 5%
Class Participation- 10%
Exam 1- 15%
Exam 2-20%
Class presentation- 5%
Research Project:
Annotated Bibliography- 10%
Complete Draft of Final Paper: 15%
Revised Final Paper- 25%

Grading Scale:
90-100 = A
80-89 = B
70-79 = C
60-69 = D
0-59 = F

No alternate exams will be offered. You must contact me prior to any excusable absence (medical, sport-related, etc.).
Any late assignment will reflect in a lowering of your grade by 5% for each day they are late allowing for a maximum deduction of 30% of the total allotted points for that assignment.

Program Learning Outcomes:
The SFA History Department has identified the following Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) for all SFA students earning a B.A. degree in History:

1. Interpret the past in context.
2. Understand the complex nature of the historical record.
3. Engage in historical inquiry, research and analysis.
4. Craft historical narrative and argument.
5. Practice historical thinking as central to engaged citizenship.
This section of this course will cover all five PLOs at the introductory level.

Student Learning Outcomes:
The more specific outcomes for this particular course are as follows:

1. Students will be able to identify key moments, themes, and individuals in the history of science.
2. Students will be able to identify factors of race, class, gender and ethnicity in shaping the history of science.
3. Students will be able to analyze and synthesize knowledge about cultural variation within and/or between different cultures.
4. Students will complete an annotated bibliography which will demonstrate their proficiencies in the following areas: identification of relevant sources, use of appropriate databases and other means of locating relevant sources, ability to analyze sources for bias, reliability and relevance.

5. Students will write a research paper with an interpretive thesis. Students will demonstrate their proficiencies in the following areas: thesis definition, structure and organization, interpretation of evidence, clarity and general writing skills, citation and documentation using the most recent edition of the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

**LECTURES AND READINGS**

Next to each date is a title for the day’s lecture or activity. Under each lecture title are the readings that correspond to that lecture. The lectures are not a substitute for the reading or vice versa. You will require information from both lectures and readings to pass the course. The syllabus is subject to change dependent on the instructor’s assessment of the progress of the course. Students will be notified of such changes in class.

**Week 1: (August 28, 30):**
Introduction.
Additional Readings will be posted on D2L

**Week 2: (September 4, 5):**
Prehistoric Tools and Toolmakers
(Chapter- 1, 2)

**Week 3: (September 11, 13):**
Civilizations and Science
(Chapter 3, 4)

**Week 4: (September 18, 19):**
Arab Science and Science in the Middle Kingdom
(Chapter- 5, 6, 8)

**Week 5: (September 25, 27):**
September 25- Exam review and Discussion on Paper topic
September 27- Exam 1
**Week 6: (October 2, 4):**
Scientific Revolution
(Chapter 11, 12)

**Week 7: (October 9, 11):**
Science and the Industrial Revolution
(Chapter 14, 15, 16)

**Week 8: (October 16, 18)**
Victorian Science in Context
(Additional Readings on D2l)

**October 18- Annotated Bibliography due on D2l**

**Week 9: (October 23, 25)**
October 25- **Exam 2**

**Week 10: (October 30, November 1)**
Science and colonialism
(Additional Readings on D2l)

**Week 11: (November 6, 8)**
Science and Race and the Eugenic Movement.
(Additional Readings on D2l)

**Week 12: (November 13, 15)**
Science and Gender
(Additional Readings on D2l)

**November 15- Complete Draft of Final Paper**

**Week 13: (November 20, 22)**
Thanksgiving Break

**Week 14: (November 27, 29)**
Class presentations

**Week 15: (December 4, 6)**
Class presentations

**December 9- Final Paper Due**