

HOS 720

Historiography and Methods

Let us begin by dispelling what may be a misapprehension: 720 is not a “survey” of the historiography of the fields of science, technology, and medicine in any usual sense. To seek to offer an adequate overview of these sub-disciplines, disparate as they are, over some 2500 years or more of history, all in 14 weeks of readings, would be a fool’s mission. Even were I capable of such omniscience, I have opted for a more modest survey that emphasizes five principal themes:

- 1) The Scientific Revolution and the Nature of Modernity
- 2) The History of the Body
- 3) Public Health
- 4) Representations, Simulations, and Other Constructions of Reality
- 5) Globalization and Commerce

These themes, I believe, are all currently receiving a great deal of attention in the literature, and all have produced some outstanding and varied work. As I hope you will see, these themes intersect substantially in interesting ways. In glancing through the syllabus, however, you will readily determine that I have not given equal treatment to all. There are two reasons for this. First, by inclination and previous experience I am an early modern historian, and so the readings probably somewhat over-represent that period. Second, I have not been able to find enough readings to satisfy me in all areas equally. There is plenty of stuff out there, let there be no doubt about that. But one has to keep several things in mind when choosing readings, and despite my best efforts, and despite some very generous advice from my colleagues, I have not succeeded in covering all of the themes equally well.

The goal of these readings is to present you with a varied mixture of kinds of writings from social history, intellectual history, the history of concepts (not the same thing!), and cultural studies. There is even a selection from a biography. Biographies constitute a genre that is often pooh-poohed by academic historians of high pretension, but is in fact the form of history most preferred by the public. As I hope you will see, it is also a uniquely interesting ways to pose questions about how history is made.

For your part, the task is to read each week’s readings carefully, reflect on them, and come to class prepared to criticize them with vigor and judiciousness. In my opinion, good history begins by knowing how to criticize what one reads. What kinds of evidence has the author of a piece brought to bear on the topic? What kinds of conclusions have been drawn from it? Are those conclusions reasonable in light of the evidence? And perhaps most importantly, how does this work suggest questions and approaches for future research? **One of my most cherished goals for 720 is to get you to see that everything you read, whether in a subject that you are particularly interested in or not, is a potential source of inspiration for questions and analytical approaches that can be put to work in your own research.** If I accomplish nothing else, I would like to accomplish that.

Requirements

The requirements are simple: do the reading carefully and comprehensively, and attend class every week prepared to discuss the readings. As for formal writing, there are two kinds. Every student will produce two 2-3 page digest/summary/critiques of a week’s reading, which will be a thematic point of departure for the discussion. It is due on Sunday night at 8:00 p.m. (I will write said digest for our next meeting, to model for you how I would like you to do it.) Each student will also write a 15-page essay

review of some body of literature. Details will come separately.

The readings that follow have four different designations after them:

All means that you should procure the book yourself and read it – all of it.

Pdf means the reading will be posted on the course web site

E-journal means the reading is available through the library & you can download it for yourself

E-book means that the entire book can be downloaded from the library's web site

September 10 – Origin Stories for the Modern History of Science

Reading: Thomas S. Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (any edition!), **all**

Deborah R. Coen, "Rise, *Grubenhund*: On Provincializing Kuhn." *Modern Intellectual History* 2012, 9: 109-126. **e-journal**

September 17 – Deliberations About "Modernity"

Reading: G. E. R. Lloyd, *The Ambitions of Curiosity: Understanding the World in Ancient Greece and China* (Cambridge: Cambridge U.P., 2002), **all**

H. Floris Cohen, *How Modern Science Came into the World* (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2011), Prologue (pp. xv – xxxiii). Look over the table of contents & chap 1. **e-book**

Dipesh Chakrabarty, "The Muddle of Modernity." *American Historical Review* 2011, 116: 663-675. **e-journal**

Dipesh Chakrabarty, "Postcoloniality and the Artifice of History". In Chakrabarty, *Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2007), pp. 27-46. **pdf**

Merritt Roe Smith, "Technological Determinism in American Culture." In Merritt Roe Smith and Leo Marx (eds), *Does Technology Drive History? The Dilemma of Technological Determinism* (Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1994), pp. 3-35. **pdf**

September 24 – Mapping and Governing the Early Modern World

Reading: Chandra Mukerji, *Impossible Engineering: Technology and Territoriality on the Canal du Midi* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton Univ. Pr., 2009), chaps. 1-4. **pdf**

C.M. Santos, "Administrative Knowledge in a Colonial Context: Angola in the Eighteenth Century." *British Journal for the History of Science* 2010, 43:539-556 **e-journal**

Maria M. Portuondo, "Cosmography at the *Casa*, *Consejo*, and *Corte* During the Century of Discovery." In Daniela Bleichmar et al., (eds), *Science in the Spanish and Portuguese Empires, 1500-1800* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2009), pp. 57-78. **pdf**

Christian Licoppe, "The Project for a Map of Languedoc in Eighteenth-Century France at the Contested Intersection Between Astronomy and Geography: The Problem of Coordination between Philosophers, Instruments, and Observations as a Keystone of Modernity." In Marie-Noëlle Bourguet, Christian Licoppe, and H. Otto Sibum (eds), *Instruments, Travel and Science: Itineraries of Precision from the Seventeenth to the Twentieth Century* (London and New York: Routledge, 2002), pp. 51-74. **pdf**

October 1 – Gendered and Sexualized Bodies: Foundational and Theoretical Issues

Reading: Michel Foucault, *A History of Sexuality*, vol. 1 (any edition!) **all**

Thomas Laqueur, *Making Sex: Body and Gender from the Greeks to Freud* (Cambridge MA: Harvard Univ. Pr., 1990) **all**

Caroline Walker Bynum, "Why All the Fuss about the Body? A Medievalist's Perspective." *Critical Inquiry* 1995, 22:1-33. **e-journal**

Joan Wolloch Scott, "Rereading the History of Feminism." In Scott, *Only Paradoxes to Offer: French Feminists and the Rights of Man* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1996), pp. 1-18. **pdf**

October 8 – Colonial & Early Modern Bodies

Reading: Joyce Chaplin, *Subject Matter: Technology, the Body, and Science on the Anglo-American Frontier, 1500-1676* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard Univ.Press, 2001), **all**
Jennifer L. Morgan, "'Some Could Suckle Over Their Shoulder': Male Travelers, Female Bodies, and the Gendering of Racial Ideology, 1500-1700." *The William and Mary Quarterly*, 3rd Series (1997), 54:167-192. **e-journal**
Brooke N. Newman, "Gender, Sexuality and the Formation of Racial Identities in the Eighteenth-Century Anglo-Caribbean World." *Gender & History* 2010, 22:585-602. **e-journal**

October 15 – Bodies/Gender in Modern Society

Reading: Anson Rabinbach, *The Human Motor: Energy, Fatigue, and the Origins of Modernity* (Berkeley and Los Angeles: Univ. of California Press, 1992), **all**
Beth Linker, "Feet for Fighting: Locating Disability and Social Medicine in First World War America." *Social History of Medicine* 2007, 20:91-109. **e-journal**
Rob Boddice, "The Manly Mind? Revisiting the Victorian 'Sex in Brain' Debate." *Gender & History* 2011:321-340. **e-journal**
Nadine Weidman, "Popularizing the Ancestry of Man: Robert Ardrey and the Killer Instinct." *Isis* 2011, **102**:269-299. **e-journal**

October 22 – The Body in Colonial Settings

Reading: Ann Laura Stoler, *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Race and the Intimate in Colonial Rule* (Berkeley and Los Angeles: Univ. of California Press, 2002) chapters 1-3, 6. **pdf**
Ryan Johnson, "European Cloth and 'Tropical' Skin: Clothing Material and British Ideas of Health and Hygiene in Tropical Climates." *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 2009, 83:530-560. **e-journal**
Lucy Delap, "Uneven Orientalisms: Burmese Women and the Feminist Imagination." *Gender & History* 2012, 24:389-410. **e-journal**

October 29 – Public Health

Reading: Natalia Molina, *Fit to be Citizens? Public Health and Race in Los Angeles, 1879-1939* (Berkeley and Los Angeles: U. of California Press, 2006), intro, chaps 1 & 2 **pdf**
Warwick Anderson, "Immunization and Hygiene in the Colonial Philippines." *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* 2006, 62:1-20. **e-journal**
Steven Palmer, "Migrant Clinics and Hookworm Science: Peripheral Origins of International Health, 1840-1920." *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 2009, 83:676-709. **e-journal**
Jorge Varanda, "Crossing Colonies and Empires: The Health Services of the Diamond Colony of Angola." In Anne Digby et al., (eds) *Crossing Colonial Historiographies: Histories of Colonial and Indigenous Medicines in Transnational Perspective* (Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars, 2010), pp. 165-184. **pdf**

November 5 – Actors and Actants in 19th-Century Microbiology

Reading: Gerald L. Geison, *The Private Science of Louis Pasteur* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton Univ. Press, 1995), chaps. 1, 5-9. **pdf**

- Bruno Latour, "Give Me a Laboratory and I Will Raise the World." In Karin D. Knorr-Cetina and Michael Mulkay (eds), *Science Observed* (London: Sage, 1983), pp. 141-170 **pdf**
- Bruno Latour, "On the Partial Existence of Existing and Non-Existing Objects". In Lorraine Daston (ed), *Biographies of Scientific Objects* (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 2000), pp. 247-269. **pdf**
- Simon Schaffer, "The Eighteenth Brumaire of Bruno Latour." *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, part A 1991, 22:174-192. **pdf**

November 12 – Objects and Objectivity

- Reading: Lorraine Daston and Peter Galison, "The Image of Objectivity." *Representations* 1992, 40:81-128. **e-journal**
- Peter Galison, "Judgment Against Objectivity." In Caroline A. Jones and Peter Galison (eds), *Picturing Science, Producing Art* (New York: Routledge, 1998), pp. 327-359. **pdf**
- Deborah R. Coen, "Imperial Climatologies From Tyrol to Turkestan." In James Rodger Fleming and Vladimir Jankovic (eds), *Klima*. Osiris 2nd Series, vol. 26 (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 2011), pp. 45-66. **e-journal**
- Hans-Jörg Rheinberger, "Cytoplasmic Particles: The Trajectory of a Scientific Object." In Daston (ed), *Biographies of Scientific Objects*, pp. 270-294. **pdf**

November 19 – Simulations and Models of Reality

- Reading: Paul N. Edwards, *The Closed World: Computers and the Politics of Discourse in Cold War America* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1996), preface and chaps. 1-3. **pdf**
- William Thomas and Lambert Williams, "The Epistemologies of Non-Forecasting Simulations, Part I: Industrial Dynamics and Management Pedagogy at MIT." *Science in Context* 2009, 22:245-270. **e-journal**
- Sherry Turkle, *Simulation and its Discontents* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2009), pp. 3-84. **pdf**
- Matthias Dörries, "The Politics of Atmospheric Sciences: 'Nuclear Winter' and Global Climate Change." In Fleming and Jankovic, *Klima*, pp. 198-223. **e-journal**

November 26 – Globalization and Commerce, "The Early Years"

- Reading: Harold Cook, *Matters of Exchange: Commerce, Medicine, and Science in the Dutch Golden Age* (New Haven, CT: Yale U. P., 2007), chaps 1-2. **pdf**
- Paula de Vos, "The Science of Spices: Empiricism and Economic Botany in the Early Spanish Empire." *Journal of World History* 2006, 17:399-427. **e-journal**
- Patrick Wallis, "Exotic Drugs and English Medicine: England's Drug Trade, c. 1550–c. 1800." *Social History of Medicine* 2011, 25:20-46. **e-journal**
- Neil Safier, "Spies, Dyes and Leaves: Agro-Intermediaries, Luso-Brazilian Couriers, and the Worlds They Sowed." In Simon Schaffer et al., (eds) *The Brokered World: Go-Betweens and Global Intelligence, 1770-1820* (Sagamore Beach, MA: Science History Publications, 2009), pp. 239-269. **pdf**
- Sanjay Subrahmanyam, "Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Some Afterthoughts." In Schaffer, *The Brokered World*, pp. 429-440. **pdf**

December 3 – Globalization and Commerce in the Modern World

- Reading: Ilana Löwy, *Between Bench and Bedside: Science, Healing, and Interleukin-2* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard Univ. Press, 1996), chaps. 1-3 **pdf**
- Marshall Sahlins, "'Sentimental Pessimism' and Ethnographic Experience; or, Why Culture Is Not a Disappearing 'Object'." In Daston (ed) *Biographies of Scientific Objects*,

pp. 158-202. **pdf**

Miriam Ticktin, "Medical Humanitarianism In and Beyond France: Breaking Down or Patrolling Borders?" In Alison Bashford (ed), *Medicine at the Border: Disease, Globalization and Security, 1850 to the Present* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006), pp. 116-135. **pdf**

Markku Hokkanen, "Imperial Networks, Colonial Bioprospecting and Burroughs Wellcome & Co.: The Case of Strophanthus Kombe from Malawi (1859–1915)." *Social History of Medicine* 2012, 25:589-607. **e-journal**

Sarah Hodges, "Second Opinion: The Global Menace." *Social History of Medicine* 2012, 25:719-728. **e-journal**

December 10 – ??

Readers' Choice!

