

History 97i Introduction to Historical Practice:

Cultural history of science, technology, and medicine

in the second half of the twentieth century

<http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/06F/hist97i-1/>

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Introduction to study of history, with emphasis on historical theory and research methods.

The topic for this course is the cultural history of science, technology, and medicine during the second half of the twentieth century around the world. We will explore the research methods of archival study, oral history, and historical ethnography. We will discuss the traditional genres of biography, history of ideas, and institutional history, as well as the more contemporary genres of cultural, gender, social, and world history.

The course will meet 10 times; the 22 November class meeting must be rescheduled*. [I will be giving a set of talks at the National Autonomous University of Mexico.]

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| 4 Oct | Research methods and interpretive strategies in the history of contemporary scientific, technological, and medical practices |
| 11 Oct | Changes in debates among historians of science, technology, medicine |
| 18 Oct | Selecting research topics |
| 25 Oct
researchers] | Locating existing research [bibliographic searches; contacting |
| 1 Nov
funding] | Designing research [choosing hypotheses, methods, schedules; finding |
| 8 Nov | Conducting archival research [paper/digital archives] |
| 15 Nov
research plan] | Conducting historical ethnography [site selection, gaining access, |

- *22 Nov Conducting oral history interviews [selecting interviewees, questions]
- 29 Nov Interpreting research findings
- 6 Dec Analytic writing [addressing current debates]

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COURSE:

1. Attendance at ALL classes. Much information about assignments will be given in class only
2. A minimum of 100 pages of reading week 2-10
- 3 Total of twenty pages of writing
4. Participation in class discussion.
5. There are no examinations.

Reading and Writing Assignments will be discussed in class.

First Reading Assignment:

"How Modern Became Retro: an historical political economy of knowledge," for Cultural Studies of Science, Technology, and Medicine, edited by Sharon Traweek and Roddey Reid [Rutledge Press, 2000]

Available at <http://www.history.ucla.edu/traweek>

Writing Assignments:

First assignment due October 4: prepare a one page bibliography of books and articles on a research topic of interest to you. Instructions given in class. Sample bibliographies will be distributed via the course website.

Second Assignment due October 18: write a 3 page review of some books or articles from your bibliography. Instructions given in class

Third Assignment due November 1: write a 3 page review of some books or articles from your bibliography. Instructions given in class.

Fourth Assignment due November 15: write a 3 page review of some books or articles from your bibliography. Instructions given in class.

Fifth Assignment due November 29: write a 3 page review of some books or articles from your bibliography. Instructions given in class.

Sixth Assignment due December 15: write a 7 page paper on the themes of the course.