**Description:** The primary objective of the course is to provide students with a working knowledge of the historiography of the history of science, medicine, and technology. The course is organized around some of the major themes and readings in the field. Since complete coverage would be impossible, the course strives to provide a mix of classic texts and more recent scholarship in an effort to familiarize students with the methods, objectives, and research techniques employed by historians of science, medicine, and technology. While all students are welcome to take this course, this graduate seminar will prepare those interested in preparing for an exam in the field. Note that while it is always good to read the entire book, I have listed the chapters upon which we shall focus our discussion.

**Week 1:** (27 January)

Introduction: Course Mechanics and Requirements

**Week 2:** (3 February)


**Week 3:** (10 February)


**Week 4:** (17 February)


**Week 5:** (24 February)

Science in the Enlightenment: Natural History. Reading: *Cultures of Natural History*, edited by Nicholas Jardine, James A. Secord, and Emma C. Spary (Cambridge University Press), chapters 3, 4, 9, 10, 18, 19, and 22.
Week 6: (2 March)

Engineering and the Enlightenment: Ken Alder, *Engineering the Revolution: Arms and Enlightenment in France* Princeton University Press, chapters 2, 4-7

Week 7: (9 March)


**Spring Break**

Week 8 (23 March)

The History of Objectivity, Part II. Reading: Lorraine Daston and Peter Galison, *Objectivity* (MIT Press), chapters 4 and 6

Week 9: (30 March)

Social Darwinism in Europe and the U.S. Reading: Mike Hawkins, *Social Darwinism in European and Social Thought*, chapters 3-6, 8, 9, and 11.

Week 10: (6 April)

Nineteenth-Century History of Medicine: *Explaining Epidemics*, Charles Rosenberg, chapters 1, 5-8, 10, and 12-16.

Week 11: (13 April)

Twentieth-Century Medicine. Reading: *In the Care of Strangers*, Charles Rosenberg, chapters 1, 4-6, 10, 13, and 14

Week 12: (20 April)

Scientists, the Bombs and Nuclear Weapons Policy. Reading: Donald MacKenzie, “Nuclear Missile Testing and the Social Construction of Accuracy” and Gilpin, American Scientists and Nuclear Weapons Policy, chapters 1-4, 7, and 9-10

Week 13: (27 April)


Week 14: (4 May)

**Paper Two Due: Week of 9 May**

Two papers, 15 pages each @ 45% each= 90 %  
Class Discussion= 10%

**Office Hours:**  
Myles W. Jackson, Ph.D., Albert Gallatin Research Excellence Professor of the History of Science, NYU-Gallatin; Professor of History, NYU-FAS; Professor of Medical Bioethics, NYU-Langone School of Medicine; and Director of Science and Society, NYU-CAS.  
Gallatin 405, x88488  
M: 10 am-1 pm; Tu: 10 am-12 noon