

Grande Prairie Regional College: HI 2940
“Introduction to the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine”
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This course follows some of the key events in the history of science, technology, and medicine. The lecture material will focus on the intellectual, social, and cultural settings of the major developments and central figures in the three fields beginning with Antiquity and ending with the role of Big Science, Big Technology, and Big Medicine in the twentieth century. The lectures will be divided into the following areas: Week 1 - History of Science, Week 2 - History of Technology, and Week 3 - History of Medicine. These three areas, although dealing with similar time periods, will be regarded in terms of the themes central to their place in history, society, and culture.

Required Text:

Andrew Ede and Lesley B. Cormack. *A History of Science in Society: from Philosophy to Utility*. Peterborough: Broadview Press, 2004.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Participation	20%
Midterm	40%
Final Exam	40%

Week 1:

Question: What is Science?

Themes: The relationship between science and religion; the understanding of the natural world and society; the shift from “Natural Philosophy” to “Big Science”

Week 2:

Question: What is Technology and how is it different from Science?

Themes: Military technology and weaponry; the domestic application of technology for the individual; the development of communication and transportation, and the changing concept of distance

Week 3:

Question: What is a doctor and what is medicine? How do we consider medicine today in terms of clinical and “traditional,” or “alternative”?

Themes: The understanding of medical ethics prominent in western medicine; surgery; gynecology and birth