

HIS 396
Cold War Sciences

Satisfies: SBS+

Thematic Categories: Health, Science & Environmental Change,” “Law Politics and Social Justice” and “Arts, Ideas, and Culture”

Tuesday/Thursday, 5:30-6:20pm

Professor Susannah Glickman

This course teaches the history of the Cold War through the disciplines which defined it: Economics, Physics, and Computation. We will do so by uniting the histories of science, technology, American politics, and the U.S. state. Weaving these subjects together, the course offers a genealogy of how we understand postwar "modernity." Specifically, we will explore insights into our societal preoccupation with ‘tech’ — from computers to the Internet, bitcoin, and quantum technologies. It accomplishes this through the integration of histories of the Cold War, computing, and physics, while encouraging students to draw connections between ideologies, institutions, and intellectual and material histories of science and technology. Students will emerge from this class with a better understanding of the ideologies, theories, and practices surrounding the “modern” American science regime from 1945 to the present.