

HIS 237
Science, Technology, and Medicine in Western Civilization-I

Summer Session I
Online, Asynchronous

Satisfies: STAS
Thematic Category: "Health, Science & Environmental Change"

Instructor: Christina Hurtado-Pierson

Science, technology, and medicine shape our lives in so many ways that we barely even notice their impact. But how did we figure out the nature of the universe? What tools did we develop to help us expand our knowledge and make our lives easier? And at what point did we figure out leeches are a bad idea? Spoiler: much later than you'd think. This course will track the journey of scientific thought from pre-history to the eighteenth century. Although we will primarily focus on developments in Europe, we will occasionally incorporate knowledge from other parts of the world as they impact Western thought. We will look at works by Aristotle, Pliny, Vesalius, Copernicus, Newton, and many others to hear, in their own words, the ideas that shaped science, technology, and medicine. Students will engage with primary sources, podcasts, short videos, and readings from a textbook. Progress will be evaluated through weekly quizzes and short writing assignments, culminating on a research project.