This course is composed of three strands: 1. An introduction to current topics in the history of science, medicine, and technology. 2. An introduction to the history of the discipline(s). 3. An introduction to historical research and writing methods. Class time will be focused on discussion of assigned articles and of research tactics and strategies based on your own research project for the semester or year. Written assignments are designed to strengthen analytic skills and to complement your own ongoing research in other seminars. When the written assignments focus on your own research project during the second half of the course, you are still expected to take notes on each article in terms of methods and sources, contributions, limitations, and questions left unanswered. Articles on-line at MSE’s e-reserves under Hanson. Weekly assignments have been listed separately. Please feel free to make an appt to meet with me to discuss anything you would like to discuss about the materials and assignments for this course.


**Week 1 Sept 3**

**Introduction: Practicing History & Historians**
What is history? What is the history of science, technology, medicine? Why do it? Who is doing it? Why do you want to do HSTM? We shall discuss the motivations, prospects, and contexts of a life of scholarship.

As preparation read two of the autobiographical essays in “A Life of Learning” by historians found at the website of the American Council of Learning: (www.acls.org/pubs/haskins/). The two recommended essays are by historian of science, Robert K. Merton (1994) and historian of medicine, Nancy G. Siraisi (2010). You may choose as well essays by other cultural and intellectual historians whose work interests you, such as Paul Oskar Kristeller, Carl E. Schorske, Lawrence Stone, Peter Brown, Natalie Zemon Davis, etc.

**Week 2 Sept. 10**

**From Whence We Came: the Scientific Revolution Issue**
the history of science, read Golinski, ch. 1, pp. 13–46.
Note: Several journals published 50-year anniversary reviews of Kuhn’s *Structure* in 2012 (HSNS, EASTS, *History of Science*, etc). I will pass out some of these issues in the first class for you to review for this seminar.

**Week 3 Sept. 17  The History of Science and Constructivism**

**Week 4 Sept 24  Making Knowledge: Power and Patronage**

**Week 5 Oct 1  Making Knowledge: The Workers**
Review: Golinski, ch. 2, pp. 67–78.

**Week 6 Oct 8  Workplaces 1: The Laboratory**


**Week 7 Oct. 15  Workplaces 2: The Field & The Museum**


Note: We will organize a visit to the Walters Museum’s Reconstruction of a Cabinet of Wonders

**Week 8 Oct 22  Writing Knowledge**
Review: Golinski, ch. 4, pp. 103–19.


**Week 9 Oct 29  Making Knowledge: The Tools**
Review: Golinski ch. 2, pp. 66–78; and ch. 5, pp. 133–144.


Ellen B Koch, “In the Image of Science? Negotiating the Development of Diagnostic Ultrasound

**Week 10 Nov 5**

**Making Knowledge: Material Practices**


**Week 11 Nov 12**

**Drawing Knowledge: Visualization Practices**


**Week 12 Nov 19**

**Histories of Science, Technology, and Medicine and Their “Others”**


Week 13 Nov 24-28  Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 14 Dec 3  No class – a handout of practice questions will be sent in advance to prepare for the take-home exam.

Week 15 Mon Dec 15  24 hour Take-home exam
History of Science, Medicine and Technology 140.601
An Introduction to Historical Research Methods Fall 2010
Meetings Wednesdays 11:00-1:00
History of Science Seminar Room, 300 Gilman
ASSIGNMENTS ONLY

Week 1 Sept 3  Introduction: Practicing History & Historians
Be prepared also to present a self-evaluation (orally) of your abilities (strengths and weaknesses) as practicing historians. Submit a statement on your research interests.

Week 2 Sept 10  From Whence We Came: the Scientific Revolution Issue

1 Assignment: Summarize the reappraisal of the “scientific revolution” issue of one of the sources. What is the author’s or authors’ main argument. How is it substantiated?

Week 3 Sept 17  The History of Science and Constructivism


Week 4 Sept 24  Making Knowledge: Power and Patronage

3 Assignment:
Write an abstract about one of these articles, summarizing the article rather than recounting it in detail. Cut to the chase; get to the core of the argument; keep it succinct. (600 words, 1 pg.)

Week 5 or 6 TBA LIBRARY SESSION WITH CHRISTINE RUGGERE  Weds 9-11 at Institute of Medicine Library. We’ll have the seminar in the Welch library afterwards.
Assignment: Prepare by working through exercises in library research handout.

Week 5 Oct 1  Making Knowledge: The Workers

Assignment: The History of the Disciplines Part I. You may work as a group on this project over two weeks. Choose a representative year from the 1930s, the 1950s, the 1970s and the 1990s from Isis, Bulletin of the History of Medicine, or Technology and Culture. (nb. T&C only starts in 1959 -- choose a year from the early 1960s, the ’70s and the ’90s). Analyze the changes and continuities in the journals over time. Questions you might consider include: What kinds of topics and arguments were made? Was there a chronological or geographical focus? Can you tell what sorts of people were publishing? What sources did they use? What else was in the journal besides scholarly articles? In what journals were most of the articles chosen for this class
published? What are the major changes you see over the life of the journal?


**Week 6 Oct 8**  
**Workplaces 1: The Laboratory**


**4 Assignment continued: The History of the Disciplines.**  
Write up your conclusions for distribution due in class today. Be prepared to introduce the main findings of your research in 10 minutes.

**Week 7 Oct 15**  
**Workplaces 2: The Field & The Museum**


**5 Written Assignment based on your research:** Write on the questions you are asking, the primary sources you are planning to use, and your reasoning for the periodization you have chosen in your research paper. Do any of the readings so far help you think about your own project? If yes, explain. Include a preliminary bibliography. (2 pp. essay, 4-5 citations)

**Week 8 Oct 22**  
**Writing Knowledge**


**6 Written Assignment:** Write an overview of the secondary literature on your research topic, a “literature review” in 3 pp. Pay attention to how you position your own research in the field. Include a bibliography. (You will return to this in week 12)

**Week 9 Oct 29**  
**Making Knowledge: The Tools**

**Optional Read:** *The Craft of Research*, Part IV Preparing to Draft, Drafting, and Revising, pp. 149-254.

**7 Written Assignment:** **Making an argument**  
Complete a preliminary outline of your research paper asking yourself what kinds of evidence and sources you will be using. What work is your evidence doing for your central argument? What interpretative methods are you employing? (2-3 pp.) (You will return to this in week 12)

**Week 10 Nov 5**  
**Making Knowledge: Material Practices**

8 Written Assignment: Primary sources You are not required to turn in anything this week. I will return my comments on your assignment the previous week on primary sources and evidence. For your final written assignment, you should be thinking about your sources in terms of the sources’ reliability, typicality, and historical value. What are the problems and prospects of your sources? Who produced this source? Why did they produce it? What cautions are necessary in using it?

Week 11 Nov 12 Drawing Knowledge

9 Written Assignment: Is there a visual dimension to your research project? Do any of the articles for this week open up possibilities of new material to consider or new approaches to interpretation for your own research? If there are no connections with your own work, compare and contrast two of the articles in terms of selection of sources & their interpretation. (2 pp.)

Week 12 Nov 19 Histories of Science, Technology, and Medicine and Their “Others”


10 Assignment: Revise your “literature review” from week 8 based on our comments and the assignments related to your own research up to this point in the course. Update accordingly the detailed outline of your research project from week 8 and turn in with your lit review. (4-5 pp.)

Week 13 Nov 24-8 Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 14 Review Week No Class

Final “Literature Review” Assignment: How does your own research paper fit into larger themes in history? Based on the literature review and research outline you submitted in week 12, situate your research in a broader interpretive field. What are the historical issues? What are the lines of debate? Where does your research fit into the previous conversation on the topic? (10 pages)


Week 15 Mon Dec 15 History Medicine First Year Exam
1 methods question for History of Medicine students

Fri Dec 19 Literature Reviews Due for everyone.