Graduate Courses
Spring 2016
http://cas.ou.edu/graduate-courses

5523 – Advanced Studies in the History of Renaissance and Early Modern Science
Prerequisite: Graduate standing and permission of instructor
Professor Rienk Vermij
Section 001 W 1:30-4:20 PhSc 119
Thematic historical analyses of scientific ideas and practices in the scientific revolution and the enlightenment, 16th - 18th centuries. Includes examination of sources and critical assessment of scholarly interpretations.

5550 – Topics in the History of Science
Prerequisite: Graduate standing and permission of instructor
Assistant Professor Aparna Nair
Section 001 M 9:00-11:50 BL 418
The course explores disability as experience, as identity and as difference in spaces as varied as modern Botswana to ancient Greece and early modern France. In the course of the semester, students will come to an appreciation of the immense import and potential of disability as a category of historical and social analysis. Employing literature from history, anthropology and disability studies, we explore diverse theoretical perspectives on disability from scholars including Foucault, Canguilheim, Garland-Thomson, Stiker and Erevelles. Important themes that transect with disability in the course include labour, war, religion and eugenics.

We also will engage with the criticisms made of disability studies as being a neologism, a framework that emerged in the Anglophone world drawn on largely ‘western’ Judeo-Christian social and cultural norms of corporeal difference. The course will therefore also attempt to decolonise disability by considering the cultural fluidity of such an experience. This course uses documentaries and films to push students towards a more critical understanding of the complex narrative of the histories of the ‘abnormal’ body against the discourse of colonialism, biomedicine, gender, religion, poverty, race and class in the majority world. We trace how various cultures have developed criteria, practices and rituals that identify and regulate the non-normative body. In particular we explore the intersection between disability and poverty and how disability has been subsumed into the discourse of development, and the implications of this.

The questions that this course explores includes the following:
• How do and how have we experienced and responded to corporeal difference and debility in our midst?
• How have the definitions of disability changed across time; who has been excluded and who included?
• What is disability’s impact on mainstream histories?
• How did and does disability intersect with other categories of difference including gender, class, caste, race and sexuality?
• How is disability socially constructed, produced and reproduced?
• What was and is the relationship between science, biomedicine and the disabled or non-normative body?
• How did societies begin to conceptualise the ‘normal’ and the ‘pathological’ through science and the scientific method; and how did those ideas reinforce power and penalise and stigmatise deviance?
• What kinds of scientific understandings, social responses, political constructions, economic valuations and cultural articulations shaped the experience of disability in locations as diverse as the Ottoman Arab world, to modern Botswana or twentieth century Japan?

5613 – Issues and Methods in the Digital Humanities
Prerequisite: Graduate standing and permission of instructor

Associate Professor Katherine Pandora
Section 001        M 1:30-4:20        PhSc 119
Introduction to the central issues, methods, and tools in the emerging field of the digital humanities. Digital humanities is an interdisciplinary set of methods, concepts, values, and practices that enable scholars to create and apply new technologies to answer social, cultural, and historical questions. (No student may earn credit for both 4613 and 5613.)

5970 – Seminar: Research, Criticism, and Analysis
Prerequisite: Graduate standing and permission of instructor

Associate Professor Kathleen Crowther
Section 001        R 1:30-4:20        BL 418
Continuation of the fall seminar, with a thematic focus designed to assist first-year students in focusing on individual fields of interest and selection of a thesis project.

5990 – Graduate Survey: History of Science since the 17th Century
Prerequisite: Graduate standing and permission of instructor

Assistant Professor Stephen Weldon (coordinator); participating faculty: Assistant Professor Piers Hale, Associate Professor Hunter Heyck, Associate Professor Suzanne Moon, Associate Professor Katherine Pandora, Assistant Professor Peter Soppelsa
Section 002        T 1:30-4:20        TBA
Graduate introduction to selected topics in the history of modern science. Possible topics include history of biology and the environment, history of technology, history of science and popular culture, history of the social sciences, and history of the relationship between science and religion.

GRAD 5990 – Writing and Publication
Prerequisite: Graduate standing and permission of instructor

Professor Peter Barker and Professor Ronald Schleifer
Section 001        R 1:30-5:05        ZH 105
Intensive course in academic writing with the goal of submitting a paper for publication by the end of the semester.

10-27-15