HSCI 4993-001 Capstone Seminar in the History of Science, Technology and Medicine, Fall Semester 2016

This class meets M, W 10:30-11:45 in PHSC 623

Instructor: Peter Barker. Office PHSC 617. Email: barkerp(at)OU(dot)edu. Ph. 405-325-2242. Office hours: TBA.

Required texts:
1. Thomas S. Kuhn, The Structure of Scientific Revolutions (Chicago University Press, 1962, and three later editions. Any will do)

Class plan: After reading Kuhn's Structure of Scientific Revolutions Kuhn, The Structure of Scientific Revolutions (SSR), to establish some baseline information about the history and historiography of science, we will work through Douglas' Reader's Brain (RB), for concrete help with writing. Rublack's Concise Companion to History (CCH), to improve our knowledge of historiography, and as a source of ideas for major projects. We will conclude by reading Guldi and Armitage's Manifesto and asking how it applies to the history of science.

Writing Assignments: A major goal of the course is to improve participants' writing and research skills. After reading Douglas participants will write a 1000 word paper on Kuhn to establish a baseline. While we read Rublack, individual participants will produce 500 word reports on chapters every two weeks (3 reports per participant). No later than week 8, participants will select major research project in consultation with the Instructor. This may be a traditional research paper (5000 words) but need not be. Remember the slogan "Don't judge a book [=project] by its output mode." Group review of research projects will occupy the last weeks of the course.

Order of work (subject to revision, version 1.0; 22 Aug 2016)

Week
1 SSR 1,2 – Individual meetings with participants
2 SSR 3-8 – Individual meetings with participants
3 SSR 9-13 + Postscript
4 RB 1-4
5 RB 5-7
For weeks 6 & 7, PB will supply study guides.
6 CCH 1, 2 Deadline for first writing assignment: Explain any major event in the history of science using Kuhn's approach from SSR.
7 CCH 3, 4
After week 7, individual students will be responsible for preparing 500 word overviews of each week's chapters, isolating the main thesis or objective, as well as the overall argument and evidence presented. These reports will be distributed to other participants and form a basis for discussion. (3 reports per person).
8 CCH 5, 6. Topic selection for major projects should take place no later than week 8.
9 CCH 7, 8.
10 CCH 9, 10.
11 CCH 11, 12.
12 CCH 13, 14. First drafts of major projects circulated to other members of seminar.
13 CCH 15, 16 responses to projects: Everyone will write a 500 word report on everyone else's projects, isolating the main thesis or objective, as well as overall the argument and evidence presented, and will conclude with suggestions for improvement.
14 Final drafts of projects due 21 Nov. The History Manifesto – week 1
15 The History Manifesto – week 2