

Science History, Making Science Futures

[course content subject to change]

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Gay penguins. Napping. Poo. How can these topics help us understand the world around us? In this class we splash into the field of STS (Science and Technology Studies) and take a critical, historical, and anthropological lens to scientists and institutions of power. This is a class for social justice advocates, aspiring scientists, and just anyone interested in why our world is the way it is and how we might imagine a better one.

2 October 2021

Scientists, Expertise, and Gay Penguins

We will be introduced to the framework of “Science and Technology Studies”, think about how science changes over time (and how it stays the same), and discuss an example of heterosexuality and queerness as opposing paradigms within the natural sciences.

9 October 2021

Stories, Race, and Empire

We think more deeply about what science is built upon, how knowledge is created, and what forms of knowledge are left out. How much of history fits within the paradigm of scientific knowledge? We will expand the scope of science by decentering the West; examining the Middle Passage and enslaved Black women’s relation to science; and examining how the US Empire created human laboratories.

16 October 2021

Making Science Futures

Knowing what we know about science’s complicated past, how might we re-imagine what we think of science and knowledge-making? We discuss the concept of “refusal” and Indigenous DNA; the Black Panthers and radical care; and theories on how to intervene in scientific institutions and practices.