

HIS 398
Technologies of Capitalism

Satisfies: STAS

Thematic Categories: "Health, Science & Environmental Change,"
"Law, Politics & Social Justice"

Tu/Th, 3:30 – 4:50 PM

Professor Susannah Glickman

This course charts a path through the history of capitalism with a focus on the technologies which undergird and shape it. Blending histories of economics and capitalism together with histories of technology and science, this class will give student the tools to make sense of complex economic systems. We will begin the semester with debates over the nature of money, the development of double entry bookkeeping and by the end of 14 weeks will advance through the advent of high frequency trading and alternative monetary systems like cryptocurrencies. Through this, the course will offer students the tools to make sense of capitalist modernity. This course will put these economic technologies in a historical context, demonstrating how the development of economic and technological systems are contingent, not inevitable. It will also encourage students to make sense of how political choices shape and are shaped by economic technologies.