

**HIST 3530A: History of Science**  
**MWF 10-10:50am**  
**Spring 2019**  
**Wikipedia Syllabus**

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hours: MW 1-2:30pm



**Course Description**

Throughout this semester, we will focus on the search for knowledge about the natural world, from antiquity to today. In order to successfully participate in this course, you must first forget everything you think you know about science, how it has developed, and what it means to you today. We will be moving beyond our preconceptions about "science" by looking at questions raised by those who sought to explain the structure of the heavens, the earth, and the body, as well as those who developed technologies to work within and try to control those structures.

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the history of science, from the ancient world to today. Because it covers such a long period of time—approximately 5000 years—it is necessarily a survey of the important ideas, people, institutions and developments throughout time. We will also analyze the close relationship between science and culture, discussing issues such as ethnicity, socio-economic status, and gender which pervade human society, and therefore science. This course is set up chronologically as well as thematically so that we can more fully understand the intricacies within these complex relationships.

By the end of the semester, you will have a broad knowledge of the timeline of what we call "Science", and an in-depth knowledge of the agents that brought about changes within their contexts. You will be able to read and analyze primary and secondary sources so to improve your interpretation of the historical data. Finally, you will hone your writing skills to be able to gather and analyze historical data in order to clearly prove your hypothesis through critical thinking and evaluation.

### **Introduction:**

No doubt you're wondering, after all the time you've been told not to trust Wikipedia, why your professor is asking you to spend hours on Wikipedia for class. There are a number of reasons. As you will read in your introductory materials for this project, Wikipedia strives to represent "the sum of all human knowledge." While Wikipedia contains more than 5 million articles, a lot of that human knowledge is still missing or underdeveloped on Wikipedia.

As a student, you can access knowledge that most people can only dream of. You have the university library. You have access to academic journals and textbooks. You also have your brain. You are developing the critical thinking skills and the academic know-how to help others make sense of the subjects you're studying. Imagine the difference your knowledge can make in people's lives. That's why we're writing for Wikipedia.

Because the history of science is a relatively small field, with a few exceptions, the articles on Wikipedia in this field are in need of work or are totally unavailable. In this class, we will be working on identifying, editing, enriching, and possibly writing new articles on Wikipedia. Throughout the semester we will work together in class, and you on your own or with your partner, making Wikipedia better through rigorous scholarship and peer review.

The goal of this project is to make you a better critical thinker, reader, and writer. In the age of information inundation, whose waters are muddied with fake news and conspiracy theorists, it is critical that you develop particular skills to wade through the mess. This project will teach you critical information literacy, scholarly writing, data analysis and synthesis, as well as give you cross-cultural experience and exposure, and global competency.

Further, when you've written papers in the past, they were likely read by just one person – your instructor. Writing for Wikipedia makes knowledge available for others; when you write for Wikipedia, you're writing for an audience of millions.

### **Instructions:**

Follow this link to set up your Wikipedia account.

[https://dashboard.wikiedu.org/courses/Missouri\\_SandT/History\\_of\\_Science\\_A\\_\(Spring\\_2019\)?enroll=oegkpmnh](https://dashboard.wikiedu.org/courses/Missouri_SandT/History_of_Science_A_(Spring_2019)?enroll=oegkpmnh)

**\*\*NB\*\*** You must have reviewed the assignment and usually have any training done before coming to class on Fridays. We are doing a lot of work in class, but you must understand that there will be homework outside of class—especially writing and editing.

**Project Outline:**

**Week 1: Feb 11-15**

**Introduction and Getting Started**

We will talk about the project more in class on Friday, but you're expected to have a Wikipedia account by Friday in class so you can use the ipads for the tutorials and get everything ready to go.

**Week 2: Feb 18-22**

**Evaluating Wikipedia**

Make sure you have the training done and choose an article to evaluate before coming to class.

You will complete the week 2 assignment on Friday in class. We will discuss what a content gap is before we do the Exercise to evaluate a chosen article. Good articles to choose will be stub articles that are rated as important. Go through the syllabus and see what interests you, look those topics up on Wikipedia. Find a few before coming to class. Make sure you look at our Wikipedia course page for articles I have chosen for you, as well.

**Week 3: Feb 25-Mar 1**

**Thinking about Sources and Plagiarism, and Begin Working in Groups to Choose your Topic/Sources**

You must read the information about the main assignments. Come to class prepared to discuss group work and discuss possible topics. By the end of class, you will have a topic and have found a few sources.

**Week 4: Mar 4-8**

**Add to an Article**

We will discuss how to add to an article in class. Once we have all completed the assignment in class, we will discuss the process and how everything is going.

**Week 5: Mar 11-15**

**Begin to Draft Your Article**

This Friday is Spring Recess. However, you will be doing this assignment outside of class. Make sure you do the required training before Wednesday so you can ask questions if necessary. Before the end of the day Sunday the 17th (5pm), you should have begun drafting your article and working with your partner.

**Week 6: Mar 18-22**

**Expanding your draft and Peer Review**

Make sure you do the required training and reading before coming to class. Make sure you have chosen the articles you want to peer review so that you can do that in class. We will also have discussion of Wikipedia itself, so be ready for that.

**SPRING BREAK: Mar 25-29**

**Week 7: Apr 1-5**

Respond to your Peer Review.

You should have some feedback from other students and possibly other Wikipedians. It's time to work with that feedback to improve your article. Make sure you have the reading done before class so you can work most effectively in class.

#### Week 8: Apr 8-12

##### Begin Moving your Work to Wikipedia

You should have been making appropriate changes to your article throughout the last few weeks. I will show you how to move things into the main space. You will do this on your own by 5pm on Friday.

#### Week 9: Apr 15-19

##### Continue Improving your Article

Outside of class this week, you will do additional research. In class on Friday, you will work with your partner, improving your article.

#### Week 10: Apr 22-26

##### Polish Your Work and Prepare for your in-class presentation

You'll be polishing your work by putting the finishing touches on your article, based on peer review and simply critiquing your own work.

In class, we will begin discussing and working on your reflection essay and your in-class presentation. You will sign up for a presentation time and day.

#### Week 11: Apr 29-May 3

##### Writing and Editing Reflective Essays and work on In-Class presentation

In class you will continue working on these items.

#### Week 12: May 6-10

##### Presentations

You will give your in-class presentations, and then turn in your reflective essays. More details on a separate instruction sheet.