

HIST 238 Science and Technology in the Modern World

Midterm 1 Spring 2025

Short Essays (50% each): Your essays should be based on historical evidence drawn from the course materials (including lectures, readings, and images). The total length of the two essays together (double-spaced, Times New Roman, font size 12, and 1-inch margins all around) must be between 5 and 6 pages (normally, 2.5 to 3 pages for each essay). You will lose 1 point per line if you exceed the page limit (6 pages).

Please note that this is a take-home exam. You must answer the questions on your own, without human or AI assistance. Also, you may not use any sources other than the course material.

1. (50%) You are having breakfast with a friend, Meowalot, at a local cafe. After a sip of coffee, Meowalot says, “I know all about the Scientific Revolution. Let me tell you. It happened in the 17th century. Three or four great minds made awesome discoveries about the universe. Just like that, boom, we entered the modern era.” Do you agree with Meowalot’s statement? If yes, why? If no, how would you describe the so-called “Scientific Revolution”? Please use historical evidence drawn from the course content to support your position. Your essay must refer to Guerrini’s book, *Experimenting with Humans and Animals*.

2. (50%). It has been argued that the development of science, technology, and medicine (STM) often went hand in hand with the expansion of European empires in the 19th century. Please characterize the relationship between STM, on the one hand, and European imperialism, on the other. Please use three examples from the course material to illustrate your point. (Note: Your essay should include at least one example from Pacey and Bray, *Technology and World Civilization*.)

II. Multiple Choice (1% each):

1. What is represented in the picture below? a. a large broom; b. a gunpowder weapon; c. a palm tree.



2. Jesuit missionaries were employed by the Qing court to run a. the Imperial Garden Restaurant; b. the Great Wall Tourist Bureau; c. the Imperial Observatory.

Citation Examples:

Readings: (Guerrini, 27)

Lectures/Discussions: (Fan, 2/10)

Paper due 2/28, 11pm. Late submissions will be penalized by subtracting 8 points for every 24 hours. Please upload your essays (in **one document**) to Turnitin on the course website. Your TA will give detailed instructions as to where and how to upload your paper. Only pdf file will be accepted.

Note: Please make sure that you read and understand the Academic Honesty Code. <https://www.binghamton.edu/academics/provost/faculty-resources/honesty.html>.

Violations of academic integrity will not be tolerated.