

HIST 238 Science and Technology in the Modern World

Final Exam Spring 2025

Short Essays (50% each): Your essays should be based on historical evidence drawn from the course materials (including lectures, readings, discussions, and movie clips). 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.

Essay 1 (50%)

Statement: There is little question that science and technology have transformed the face of modern warfare. During the 20th century, for example, ways of war evolved as military technology, methods of production, and industrial-political systems changed notably from WWI through the Cold War.

Do you agree with this statement? Whether your answer is Yes or No, please use relevant course material to support your position. (Your answer must include references to Carroll Pursell, *The Machine in America*; and Audra Wolfe, *Competing with the Soviets*.)

Essay 2 (50%):

You turn up at a party and meet a new friend, Bubble. You are happy to learn that Bubble shares your keen interest in the history of science and technology. Encouraged by the atmospheric music and soft light, you two get into a deep conversation about social perceptions of science and technology. Bubble says that science and technology have always represented progress and success, at least in the United States. People have always embraced them without question or hesitation. You disagree. Having taken HIST 238, you believe that you can give a more nuanced account of how Americans have perceived science and technology over the 20th century. Please tell Bubble what you know about the topic. Use the course material to substantiate your points.

II. Multiple Choice (1% each):

1. The movie *Them!* (1954) is about a. giant ants attacking humans; b. mutant alligators slurping radioactive ice cream; c. Godzilla stumping on Ant-Man.
2. Which place is known as the “Birthplace of IBM”? a. Endicott (adjacent to Binghamton); b. Silicon Valley; c. The Bahamas.

Citation Examples:

Readings: (Pursell, 121)

Lectures/Discussions: (Lecture 4/17; Discussion 4/19)

The Final Exam is due May 12, 11pm. Late submissions will be penalized by subtracting 8 points for every 24 hours until May 15, 11pm (after that, the Final Exam ***will NOT be accepted***). Please upload your essays (in ***one PDF document***) to Turnitin on the course website. Your TA will give detailed instructions as to where and how to upload your paper.

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.