

HIST 238 Science and Technology in the Modern World

Midterm II 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%):

On a Sunday morning in 1928, you are reading a newspaper and having breakfast in a local restaurant. You come across an op-ed advocating eugenics. The author asserts that eugenics is both more humane and more effective than social reform, education, and improvement of living conditions. You have read a lot about eugenics, and you know the ideas and arguments presented by Francis Galton, Henry Goddard, and Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes about heredity, eugenics, and society.

Please write a letter to the newspaper presenting your view. You can support the op-ed, you can be critical of it, or you can try to rebut it. You can also advocate certain eugenic measures but not others. You must substantiate your points with examples taken from the course material, including Diane Paul's *Controlling Human Heredity* and the picture below (fig. 1). Please note, too, that the year is 1928. You do not know what will happen after that year; nor do you have scientific knowledge beyond that point in time. Make your letter as solid, coherent, and persuasive as possible.

fig. 1



Essay 2 (50%)

With a new wave of industrialization in the early 20th-century, new modes of production, management, and consumption emerged and expanded in the United States and beyond. Please discuss the most important changes during that time period. Your answer must refer to Carroll Pursell, *The Machine in America*, ch. 9 and 10. Also, please comment briefly on the impact of industrialization on workers, individuality, and society as portrayed in the film clips from *Metropolis* (1927) and *Modern Times* (1936) shown in class.

II. Multiple Choice (1% each):

1. When Charles Darwin was young, he went on a five-year voyage around the world. The famous voyage was called, The Voyage of the a. Beagle; b. Bagel; c. Beetle.
2. William Paley's "watchmaker analogy" was an argument about a. natural theology; b. March Madness; c. industrialization.

Citation Examples:

Readings: (Pursell, 80)

Lectures/Discussions: (Fan, 2/10)

Paper due April 11, 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.