

**HIS 396.02**  
**Science and Technology in the Global Cold War**

Satisfies: STAS

T/TH 12:30pm – 1:50pm.

Instructor: Erin Chávez

During the Cold War (1945-1989), science and technology became key fronts as the US and the USSR invested millions of dollars into scientific research as they actively competed for social, economic, technological, and cultural influence. This course adopts a transnational approach to move beyond just the US and USSR to investigate how midcentury scientific modernity influenced the culture, diplomacy, and actions of countries and international organizations around the globe. How did the pursuit of scientific and technological goals differ among countries? How did the newly emerging independent states in Africa and Asia, the rebuilding postwar Western European states, and the Eastern bloc define and pursue their own priorities of development? Among our many subjects, we will examine the growth, development, and attempts to limit the spread of nuclear weapons including the controversies over rampant nuclear testing and exposure to radiation. We will also explore the push for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the space race, developments in medicine, including vaccines and genetics, and the birth and eventual dominance of computer technologies.

Course Requirements: Weekly readings with 1-2 page reading analysis, weekly video content viewing with discussion questions, 1 midterm paper (6-8 pages), 1 final paper (8-10 pages). Most readings posted on Brightspace. Required Books: *The Cold War: A Very Short Introduction*, Robert J. McMahon

