

COURSE DETAIL

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY AMERICA

Country

Germany

Host Institution

Free University of Berlin

Program(s)

Free University Berlin

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

History American Studies

UCEAP Course Number

154

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY AMERICA

UCEAP Transcript Title

SCI & TECH 20C AMER

UCEAP Quarter Units

4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

This course introduces students to the core themes and debates in the history of science and technology in modern America, examining how both shaped and were shaped by broader U.S. political, social, and economic developments and interests. Questions posed include what role did science and technology play in shaping twentieth-century U.S. history, and which major STEM figures and institutions drove this transformation? Topics covered include the rise of Big Science; research in wartime and during the Cold War; the relationship between scientific expertise and the state; science and public health policy; the development of technological hubs such as Silicon Valley; and the rise of environmentalism. Readings include contributions by figures such as Rachel Carson, Richard Feynman, Mae Jemison, Katherine Johnson, J. Robert Oppenheimer, Carl Sagan, Neil deGrasse Tyson, and Chien-Shiung Wu, alongside relevant historical scholarship. No prior STEM background is required. The course includes at least one science-focused field trip.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

32403

Host Institution Course Title

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY AMERICA

Host Institution Course Details

<https://www.fu-berlin.de/vv/en/lv/1051272?m=361339&pc=701222&sm=965826>

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

John-F-Kennedy-Institut für Nordamerikastudien

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

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