

## IIT Mandi

## Proposal for a New Course

<b>Course Name:</b>	<b>Technology and World History: 1400 to the present</b>
<b>Course Number:</b>	<b>HS 393</b>
<b>Credits:</b>	<b>3-0-0-3</b>
<b>Students intended for:</b>	<b>B. Tech students all years</b>
<b>Elective or Compulsory:</b>	<b>Elective</b>
<b>Semester:</b>	<b>Odd/Even</b>

**Course Description:** What role has technology played in the unfolding of history and in the nature of relationships among different nations? This course attempts to answer this question by examining the power and limitations of technology in the domination of one part of the world by another. In particular, the course examines the role technology has played in the relationship between the West and the rest of the world beginning with the Age of Discovery in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century and continuing till the present. Since technology at a basic level represents power over nature, the course also takes into account how environmental factors have played a role in technology's impact on the course of history.

**Course Content:**

1. Age of Discovery (10 hours)
  - a. Ships, maps and knowledge of ocean currents
  - b. Weapons and European Armed Trading
  - c. Clocks at Sea: Longitudes and Navigation
2. Conquest of the Americas (6 hours)
  - a. Environment and diseases
  - b. Horses and weapons
3. Technology for Trade: (6 hours)
  - a. Rise of Dutch and British trading enterprises
  - b. Limits of the pre-industrial age
4. Industrialization and imperialism (6 hours)
  - a. Steamboat Imperialism
5. Technology and Domination: (8 hours)
  - a. Medicines, weapons and the scramble for Africa
  - b. Aviation and new technologies of war
6. Limits of Technological Domination: (6 hours)
  - a. Guerrilla warfare
  - b. Internet and resistance

Textbook:

Daniel R. Headrick, *Power over Peoples: Technology, Environments and Western Imperialism, 1400 to the present*, Princeton Univ Press: 2010

References:

Daniel R. Headrick, *Technology: A World History*, OUP: 2009

Thomas Misa, *Leonardo to the Internet: Technology and Culture from the Renaissance to the Present*, Johns Hopkins Univ Press: 2011