Description:
This segment of the Integrated Studies course will examine the connections that exist between, on one hand, the organization of society in different times and places, and on the other hand, the systems of thought that hold sway within them—beliefs about humans, nature, and the supernatural. It is an introduction, all at once, to a number of different aspects of “ways of knowing”: social theory, historical thinking, and analysis of the distinguishing features of “modernity.” We begin by reading some classic texts from anthropology and the sociology of knowledge which encourage us to compare non-Western ways of knowing with modern science: What do the settings, techniques and practices of systems of thought such as modern cartography, astronomy, or statistics have in common with Hopi cosmology, Incan accounting techniques, and Australian Aboriginal religion? The second part will focus on turning points in the history of Western knowledge. We will look at the social and technical conditions for the emergence of modern ways of knowing that rely on mathematics, experiment, machines and mechanical models. In the last third of the class, we will explore further the specific techniques of visualizing, representing, collecting and writing that have produced “universal knowledge” in its various and changing forms.

Readings:
Readings should be completed before class on the day for which they are listed. They will be closely connected to the lectures and the discussions on both Thursday and Friday.

Books (to purchase at Penn Book Center):
  David Turnbull, Masons, Tricksters and Cartographers: Comparative Studies in the Sociology of Scientific and Indigenous Knowledge
  René Descartes, Meditations on First Philosophy

The other readings listed below will be available as PDFs on the Blackboard site.

Evaluation:
Your grade for this stream will be based on two exams: a midterm on October 16th and a final on December 12th. These will ask you to recall and reflect on the basic concepts discussed in the readings and lectures. The midterm will be worth 40%, the final worth 60% of your grade.

Contact Information:
Professor Tresch’s office: 361 Cohen Hall.
Office hours: Tuesday, 12:30-2:30, or by appointment.
Email: jtresch@sas.upenn.edu
PART 1: NARRATIVE WAYS OF KNOWING

12 Sept.: PATTERN: *Order in society, order in nature, the power of representations.*

Guest Lecturer: Dr. Lisa Messeri, ISP Fellow

EMILE DURKHEIM, *The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life.*
Pages: 8-18 (method); 40-44 (religion defined); 84-95, esp. pp. 84-87 and 90-95 (totemism); 99-107, 111-115, 118-122, 207-231 (social forces); 440-448 (social origin of thought).

19 Sept.: VIOLATING PATTERNS: *Rites of passage and rituals of avoidance.*

VICTOR TURNER: *Ritual Process,* “Liminality and Communitas”: 94-130;
MARY DOUGLAS, *Purity and Danger*: 29-40

26 Sept.: LOGICS: *Putting the world together in different ways.*

DAVID TURNBULL, “On with the Motley” (in Masons, Tricksters) 19-46.


HUGH GUSTERSON, *Nuclear Rites.* “Secrecy,” 68-100

PART 2: RATIONAL WAYS OF KNOWING

10 Oct.: INFINITY: *From closed world to infinite universe: Machines of light.*

ERWIN PANOFSKY: *Gothic Architecture and Scholasticism,* focus on 27-70 (very short pages)

16 Oct.: **** INTELLECTUAL HISTORY MIDTERM EXAM ****
7-9 P.M., Location TBA
17 Oct.: PREDICTION: Infinite universe, arrival of “the mechanical philosophy”.


24 Oct.: Fall term break

31 Oct.: UNPREDICTABILITY: Coping with public uncertainty.

THEODORE PORTER, Trust in Numbers, vi-xii, 192-231; Possible: EDGAR ALLAN POE, “Maelzel’s Chess-Player” STEVEN SHAPIN, "Certainty and Civility” 310-354.

7 Nov.: SELF-REFERENCE: Objectivity as a form of moral self-training.

LORRAINE DASTON and PETER GALISON, Objectivity. 191-205; 216-250

PART 3: KNOWING SHAPES AND STRUCTURES

14 Nov.: FORM: Grounding a new world on “clear and distinct” images.

IGNATIUS DE LOYOLA, Spiritual Exercises, pages 1-3, 25-28
RENÉ DESCARTES, Meditations on First Philosophy, all (Hackett: at Penn Book Center)

21 Nov.: MAPPING: Using signs to draw the world together.

CHARLES SAUNDERS PEIRCE, “What is a Sign?” 297-302. (MS404 Eprint)
BRUNO LATOUR, “Drawing Things Together,” 1-40

28 Nov.: LOCUS: Where do we go and who do we ask to find out where we are?

DAVID TURNBULL, “Tricksters and Cartographers” (in Masons, Tricksters), 89-129; Selections from TURNBULL, Maps Are Territories: Science is an Atlas (pdf online)

5 Dec.: COSMOS: Is the universe universal?


***FINAL EXAM, INTELLECTUAL HISTORY STREAM***
DECEMBER 12, evening; more details to come.