COURSE NAME: Prometheus Unleashed
COURSE NUMBER: 2120-6

DEPARTMENT: Science/Social Studies
GRADE LEVEL/PHASE: 11-12/College Prep and Honors

LENGTH OF COURSE: Semester

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Prometheus Unleashed is an interdisciplinary semester elective offered to students in Grades 11 or 12 who are interested in exploring the effects of scientific discoveries on human history.

This course focuses on understanding science from multiple perspectives and drawing parallels from history to today’s society. Currently, students learn about scientific discoveries and historical events in isolation, which inhibits their understanding of the cause and effect relationships within the realms of natural science and social science that occur throughout history. Many of the current dilemmas that face societies today have parallels in history.

Topics may include: A history of modern computers and technology, The Black Death, The importance of Naturalism and Environmentalism and The Science and History of Chocolate.

Students have the option of taking Prometheus I and/or II for Science or Social Studies credit. Students who have taken Prometheus Unleashed may continue into this course or it may be taken as a separate elective.

CENTRAL OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student will demonstrate the following:

1. Answer the following essential questions:
   • What is science?
   • How was it defined over the course of the human experience?
   • What is its role in the life of the individual?
   • SHOULD HUMAN SOCIETY STRIVE FOR PERFECTION? IF SO, HOW COULD THIS BE ACCOMPLISHED? Can it be accomplished scientifically
   • WHAT ROLE SHOULD (DOES) SCIENCE PLAY IN SOCIETY?

These objectives support the following Academic Expectations from the Masconomet High School Mission Statement:

1. Students will communicate effectively.
2. Students will use problem solving skills.
3. Students will use a variety of technological and informational resources to gather, analyze, and synthesize facts, results, ideas and concepts.
4. Students will participate in decision making and team building activities
5. Students will demonstrate and practice an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

MATERIALS AND ACTIVITIES

This course will utilize the following text:

Books

Wild, Anthony. Coffee

The Great Influenza: The story of the deadliest pandemic in history

Friedman, David M. The Immortalists: Charles Lindbergh, Dr. Alexis Carrel, and Their Daring Quest to Live Forever

Unfit: History of a Bad Idea

Black, Edwin. War Against the Weak: Eugenics and America's Campaign to Create a Master Race

Bodanis, David. E=MC²


Connant, Jennet. 109 East Palace: Robert Oppenheimer and the Secret City of Los Alamos

Brock, Pope. Charlatan

Carr, Nicholas. Big Switch: Rewiring the World from Edison to Google

Websites

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
http://www.cshl.edu/

Los Alamos National Laboratory
http://www.lanl.gov/
This course will utilize the following types of activities:

**SCOPE AND SEQUENCE**

The following topics will be explored:

I. Coffee: Caffeine and the Thinking Mann’s Revolution

II. The End of Scientific Innocence: Development of Atomic Energy

III. Odd and Inexplicable: Scientific Wonders of the Gilded Age

IV. Influenza 1918

V. Chocolate

VI. The Computer Revolution

VII. Eugenics: The Search for Immortality

VIII. The Atomic Bomb: From E=MC² to The Manhattan Project

IX. Naturalism and Exploration

These topics support the *Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework for United States History II*. And World History II:

USII.1 Causes of the Industrial Revolution
USII.2 Important Consequences of the Industrial Revolution
USII.7 The course and significance of President Wilson’s wartime diplomacy
USII.8 the origins of Progressivism and important Progressive leaders, and major accomplishments of Progressivism
USII.10 the battle between traditionalism and modernity as manifested in historical trends after WWI
USII.15 Japanese aggression in Asia and its contributions to the start of WWII. Summary of major battles and events of the war
USII.16 the reasons for dropping the atom bombs on Japan and their effects

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UII.18 the factors contributing to the Cold war

**Industrial Revolution and Social and Political Change in Europe, 1800-1914**

WHII.5 Identify the causes of the Industrial Revolution. (H, E)
WHII.6 Summarize the social and economic impact of the Industrial Revolution. (H, E)
WHII.16 Identify the major developments of Latin American history to the early 20th century. (H, E)
WHII.18 Summarize the major events and consequences of World War I. (H, E)
WHII.21 Describe the rise and goals of totalitarianism in Italy, Germany, and the Soviet Union, and analyze the policies and main ideas of Mussolini, Hitler, Lenin, and Stalin. (H)
WHII.26 Describe the background, course, and consequences of the Holocaust, including its roots in the long tradition of Christian anti-Semitism, 19th century ideas about race and nation, and Nazi dehumanization of the Jews. (H)
WHII.27 Explain the reasons for the dropping of atom bombs on Japan and its short and long-term effects. (H)

**ASSESSMENT**

**Grading:** Based on assignments that may include

- Current event reflections
- Case study responses
- Position papers
- Participation

- Class Journal
- Video Reflections
- Media Project/Research
- Group and Individual Projects