

**History 200: Events and Ideas that Shook the World:
Ordinary Things, Extraordinary Histories****Winter, 2018****Instructor: Dr. J. Spangler****Tu/Th 11:00-12:15**

This course examines the history of some objects that are so commonplace now that we aren't likely to think about them very much, but that once "shook the world."

Tea and sugar, for example, became cheap globally-available commodities by 1900, but expansion of their production and sale involved slavery, warfare, colonialism, and imperialism on a massive scale. A rapid increase in the processing and use of fossil fuels between 1500 and 1900 made possible utterly new scales of production, transportation, and environmental engagement. The medieval and early-modern expansion of print technologies similarly revolutionized the transmission and preservation of ideas in several key societies by 1700.



This first-year course welcomes everyone, but is not counted as history credit for majors in history. Assigned reading will average about 30 pages a week (scholarly articles and book chapters primarily, provided a no cost via D2L). Assessment will be comprised of several timed exams and quizzes. The exams will include a writing component, but there is no term paper for this course.