LEHMANN COLLEGE
OF THE
CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
CURRICULUM CHANGE

1. Type of Change: New Course

2. Course description: HIS 239: The Ascent of Man: An Introduction to the History of Science. 3 hours, 3 credits. Exploration of the events and people who have contributed to the technological and scientific progress of civilization from ancient times to the present. Weekly writing assignments, formal essays, and Internet research explore the role of science and technology in world history.

3. Rationale:

The primary objective of this course is to acquaint students with the events and people—some famous, some not so well known—who have contributed to the technological and scientific progress of civilization from ancient times to the present. It is also an objective of this course to offer intensive opportunities for students to improve their writing skills and use of English, as well as to become familiar with the rich resources for study and research made possible by access to the World Wide Web. Through a combination of weekly writing assignments and exploration of internet resources, students should find that their knowledge of the history of science and its significance for subsequent world history is deepened, and their skills by which to express their knowledge correspondingly enhanced.

4. Learning Objectives:
   - Report on Jacob Bronowski’s Ascent of Man as a foundational text addressing the content, methodology, and issues raised by the intertwined histories of civilization and science/technology.
   - Summarize and analyze primary texts and documents from a variety of sources, including textbooks, primary writing, and internet resources.
   - Report regularly on readings in class and on Blackboard, demonstrating mastery of regular work habits, basic writing skills, and clear communication.
   - Use case-histories to identify major scientific discoveries, the scientists involved, and the societies and cultures from which these events and people emerged.
   - Evaluate the interrelation of ethics and politics with scientific debate and discovery, and with how science is used in different times and places.
   - Develop critical arguments in formal written essays whose claims are supported by careful analysis of primary and secondary materials.

5. Date of History Department Approval: May 9, 2012
1. **Type of Change:** Cross-listing

2. **From:** LAC 268: *History of Mexico.* 3 hours, 3 credits. Major themes in Mexican history: development of pre-Colombian civilizations; environmental and demographic impact of the Conquest; Spanish colonial period; wars of independence of the nineteenth century; nation building, the Mexican Revolution, dictatorship, and one-party democracy; and the political, cultural, and economic relationship between Mexico and the United States.

3. **To:** LAC (HIS) 268: *History of Mexico.* 3 hours, 3 credits. Major themes in Mexican history: development of pre-Colombian civilizations; environmental and demographic impact of the Conquest; Spanish colonial period; wars of independence of the nineteenth century; nation building, the Mexican Revolution, dictatorship, and one-party democracy; and the political, cultural, and economic relationship between Mexico and the United States.

4. **Rationale:** The Department cross-lists courses when appropriate to maximize students’ exposure to the broad range of topics included within the curriculum. Cross-listing LAC 268 with HIS 268 follows the precedent of the pre-existing cross-listed courses, PRS (HIS) 212 (“History of Puerto Rico”) and LAC (HIS) 225 (“History of the Dominican Republic”).

5. **Date of History Departmental Approval:**
   - May 9, 2012

   **Date of Latin American & Puerto Rican Studies Department Approval:**
   - May 15, 2002