

GMST 424 Drugs, Dams and Aliens: Engineering Dreams and Cosmic Conspiracies

The course will concentrate on a strange mix of conspiracy theories and outlandish mega-projects that emerged in the early 20th century. Some were ridiculous, some explicitly genocidal; some have disappeared, others are still with us or have recently returned. We will discuss their cultural and historical origins and how they are related to totalitarian visions of control and a radical reconstruction of the world and even life itself. Case studies include:

- * The Coldest Cosmology: World Ice Theory 1900-1945
- * Leo Perutz, *Saint Peter's Snow* (1933): Fascism and Religion as early collective LSD Trips
- * Breeding Back the Aryan Aurochs: De-Extinction in the Third Reich
- * Terraforming the East: The *Generalplan Ost*
- * Draining the Mediterranean: The Atlantropa Project
- * Rocket Dreams: Cosmism, Nazi UFOs and the Interplanetary Resurrection of the Dead

Note: This course is taught in English. As GMST 424 is the permanent replacement for GERM 408, students can receive credit for only one of the two.