H400/590 30440 Large-Scale Social Phenomena
Simon DeDeo
Informatics East, Room 122
Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:00-5:15pm

Course description: What has become of human society since its emergence ten thousand years ago? What will come next? This course will develop the concepts and tools necessary to understand the emergence and dynamics of large-scale social phenomena including cultural practices and social norms, revolutions and market crashes, and conflict in both war and peace. We will take as case-studies both modern (21st Century), historical (17th-20th Century), ancient (3rd-7th Century BCE), and evolutionary-time sociotechnical systems.


Prerequisites: programming skills and initiative sufficient to work with real-world data (sample question: what is the variance in the end-of-day S&P 500 for 2005). Basic understanding of probabilities (conditional, joint). Strong interest in the topic. Course content is expected to be complementary to Fall 2013 offerings “Collective Intelligence” and “Data Visualization”.