



## FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

### SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

#### HISTORY PROGRAMME

#### HIST 318: SPECIAL TOPIC: EARLY MODERN SCIENCE: POSSESSING NATURE'S SECRETS 20 POINTS

#### TRIMESTER 1 2014

### Important dates

**Trimester dates:** 3 March to 2 July 2014

**Teaching dates:** 3 March to 6 June 2014

**Easter/Mid-trimester break:** 18 April to 4 May 2014

**Last assessment item due:** 4 June 2014

**Withdrawal dates:** Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds). If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

### Class times and locations

Lectures: Mondays 10:00-10:50

Venue: Laby (LB) LT118

### Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Dr Catherine Abou-Nemeh

Room No: OK 423

Phone: 463 9497

Email: [catherine.abou-nemeh@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:catherine.abou-nemeh@vuw.ac.nz)

Office hours: TBA

### Communication of additional information

This course uses Blackboard and presumes that all enrolled students have valid myvuw.ac.nz addresses. **Please check that this account is active and you have organised email forwarding.** Additional information and any changes to the timetable or lecture and seminar programme will be advised by email, announced in lectures, and posted on the course Blackboard site.

## Prescription

Students in this course will research and examine the various intellectual and empirical traditions that shaped how people gathered knowledge about nature and the cosmos in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, a period that saw the birth of modern science in Europe.

## Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Critically analyse and evaluate primary sources within the historical context in which they were produced;
2. Integrate historical research of primary and secondary sources in clear writing;
3. Understand and connect key developments in the history of early modern science;
4. Discuss and critique primary and secondary sources in seminars.

## Teaching format

HIST 318 is taught in one lecture per week and a two-hour seminar discussions per week (one per week per student). Students are expected to attend lectures and seminars regularly, take part in class discussion, and keep up with the reading.

## Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1. Complete the (1) primary source analysis, (2) longer research essay, and (3) take-home test specified for HIST 318 and submit them on or by the due dates or within the History Programme's schedule of extensions and penalties;
2. Attend 8 of 10 seminar discussions convened from Week 2 to Week 11;

## Workload

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote between 200 to the course throughout the trimester. This includes weekly attendance in lecture and seminars, completion of all set weekly readings, and research and writing for set assessment tasks. On average, this equates to about 14 hours per week across the 14 weeks of term (inclusive of the midterm break).

Preparation and attendance at 11 lectures and 10 seminars	31 hours
Completion of seminar readings and preparation	50 hours
Primary source analysis: 1,250 words	35 hours
Research paper: 3,500 words	60 hours
Take-home test: 2,000 words	24 hours
	(Total: 200 hours)

Please note: In this course, students will work with primary documents that may be unfamiliar in format, sometimes of a technical nature or difficult to read, and may require extra time to interpret, contextualize and annotate. Accordingly, reading and researching for assignments may take up more of your workload 'budget' in this course. The weighting of primary source and research assignments reflects this extra workload.

## Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Primary source analysis, 1,250-words	30%	1, 2, 3,4	28/3/14
2	Research essay, 3,500 words	45%	1, 2, 3,4	9/5/14
3	Take-home test, 1 week to complete and submit, May 28-June 4 (due by 5pm on June 4)	25%	1, 2, 3	4/6/14

## Marking criteria

For essay marking criteria, please refer to the Course Learning Objectives listed above and the latest guidelines on writing essays from the History Programme:

[www.victoria.ac.nz/hppi/publications/writing\\_history\\_essays\\_july\\_2011.pdf](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/hppi/publications/writing_history_essays_july_2011.pdf)

The take-home test assesses students' knowledge of major historiographical debates and historical themes in early modern science examined in the lectures and in discussions of the reading assignments over the course of the whole trimester.

## Submission and return of work

Essays should be submitted through the office essay drop-off point, Old Kirk Room 405, together with a completed cover sheet, which is available on Blackboard and/or from the office.

Essays and tests will be returned at times to be determined. If students fail to attend these times, they may collect their essay from the Office, Old Kirk Room 405 between the hours of 1.00 and 2.00 pm from Monday to Friday and must show their Student ID card before collection.

## Extensions and penalties

### Extensions

Extensions may be granted in exceptional circumstances, but **all extensions require the student to provide documentation**. If granted an extension, students must agree to a new due date. Contact your tutor as soon as a problem emerges. Extension forms are available in the History Programme office.

### Penalties

History Programme policy stipulates that late submission of essays is penalised. Students lose 5% for the first day late and 2% thereafter for a maximum of 10 working days. After 10 days, work can be accepted for mandatory course requirements but will not be marked. Students should ensure that the length of each assignment they submit complies with the word limit for that assignment (max. 1,250 words for the first assignment; max. 3,500 words for the second assignment; max. 2,000 words for the take-home test. The word limit does not include footnotes or endnotes, appendixes, or images cited in the assignments.)

## Set texts

Students should purchase a Book of Readings for this course. It contains key primary and secondary texts in the history of early modern science. See [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) for details on buying Books of Readings.

## Recommended reading

The course coordinator will provide a selection of sources on the course's Blackboard page.

## Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

## Student feedback

HIST 318: Special Topic: Early Modern Science: Possessing Nature's Secrets is a new course and there is no student feedback.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php).

## Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades)
- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract)
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library/resources/subjectcontacts.html>
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)