



## FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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

#### HISTORY PROGRAMME

#### HIST 419: A TOPIC IN HISTORIOGRAPHY AND HISTORICAL METHOD 1: HISTORY AND THEORY 30 POINTS

#### TRIMESTERS 1 AND 2 2014

### Important dates

Trimester dates: 3 March to 16 November 2014  
Teaching dates: 3 March to 17 October 2014  
Easter/Mid-trimester break: 18 April to 4 May 2014  
Mid-year break: 3–13 July 2014  
Mid-trimester break 2/3: 25 August to 7 September 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

Seminars: Thursdays, 2.10 – 4.00 pm  
Venue: Old Kirk 406 (Wood Seminar Room)

### Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Associate Professor Anna Green  
Room No: 101, Stout Centre, 14 Waiteata Road  
Phone: 463 6885  
Email: [anna.green@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:anna.green@vuw.ac.nz)  
Office hours: Thursday, 10.00 – 12.00 noon, or by appointment

### 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 seminars, and posted on the course Blackboard site.

## Prescription

This is a historiographical and theoretical course. This means that we will examine both the philosophical bases for understanding the past and the ways in which history has been (and currently is) practised.

## Course content

The word 'history' carries two meanings: it refers both to what has actually happened in the past and the representations of that past in the work of historians. This course is an engagement with history in terms of the latter, and is designed to strengthen your understanding of the discipline of history and its conceptual and methodological foundations. We will consider recent challenges to Western historiography and alternative ways of knowing and remembering the past. Specifically, we will explore the following questions:

- What is the goal of historical research and writing?
- Should historians be reflexive and consider their own cultural subjectivity or habitus?
- Are there multiple temporal frameworks through which we can approach the past?
- What have historians identified as the agents or drivers of change in the past?
- In what ways do historians approach the mentalités or subjectivities of those they study?
- And finally, what are the implications of different ways of communicating historical information?

## Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Understand specific key concepts and theories drawn from the Humanities and Social Sciences.
2. Explain the relationship between research questions and conceptual tools.
3. Identify the advantages and disadvantages of different analytical and interpretive approaches.
4. Apply this knowledge to specific works of history or historiographies.
5. Construct and defend a clear and substantiated argument in both oral and written forms.

## Teaching format

This course will be taught in two-hour seminars held fortnightly, a total of twelve seminars over the 24-week teaching period.

Honours courses are not lecture courses in which students are presented with information that has been collected, organised and interpreted by the lecturer. At Honours level these tasks are required of the students, who are expected to prepare seminar discussions on specified topics. With the seminar format, the course convenor will act as a moderator and select the main topics for investigation, but students will be expected to carry the bulk of the discussion through collaborative presentations or more generally contributing to an informed discussion.

The seminars will comprise a two-hour meeting on a specific topic, and written guidelines for each seminar will be provided at the beginning of the course. Readings for each seminar will consist of chapters from the course textbook, or from other books and available on Blackboard, or articles from journals available online through the library. At each meeting specific members of the class will collaboratively prepare an oral presentation, posing a series of questions for the seminar. All students are expected to complete the assigned readings in preparation for all the seminars and come to the class prepared to make a contribution to the discussion. Your preparation for each

seminar is expected to be of a consistent level throughout the year, irrespective of the proximity of essay deadlines.

There is no assessed group work in this course, although students will be asked to work together in the context of specific seminar tasks.

## Mandatory course requirements

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

1. submit the work specified for this course on or by the specific dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for the late submission of work); AND
2. Attend at least 75% of the scheduled seminars. Extra absences will result in a student failing mandatory course requirements, except in cases of exceptional circumstance. An example of exceptional circumstance would be serious illness supported by a letter from a medical practitioner. There is no provision in this course for 'make-ups' to compensate for additional absences except under those circumstances. You should allow for the possibility of unforeseen illness when using up your quota of permissible absences. If you are unable to attend seminars or complete work on time, you must discuss this with the course convenor well before the due date.

## Workload

The total number of hours of work expected for this course is 300 hours. Students should therefore expect to allocate their time during teaching terms as follows:

- 24 hours for fortnightly seminars
- four hours a week (or eight hours a fortnight) reading and taking notes in preparation for the fortnightly seminars, and
- 180 hours divided between three assignments, allocated proportionately to the grade percentage, e.g. around 70 hours for the final essay which is worth 40% of the total grade.

## Assessment

This is an internally assessed course and every student will be expected to complete four assignments, as follows:

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1   Essay, 1,500 words	20%	1, 2, 5	9 May, 5.00 pm
2   Essay, 2,000 words	25%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	18 July, 5.00 pm
3   Annotated Bibliography, 1,000 words	15%	1, 3, 4	12 September, 5.00 pm
4   Essay, 4,000 words	40%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	17 October, 5.00 pm

## Marking criteria

The marking criteria for each assignment will be specified as part of the detailed instructions for each assignment posted on Blackboard.

## **Submission and return of work**

Assignments should be submitted in hard copy through the office essay drop-off point, Old Kirk room 405, together with completed cover sheet, which is available on Blackboard and/or from the office.

Assignments will be returned in seminars or by appointment with the course coordinator.

**Please remember to keep a back up and/or hard copy of all your assignments.**

## **Extensions and penalties**

Honours students are expected to manage their workloads sufficiently to submit assignments on time. If you have any problems please see your course coordinator as soon as possible, or the Honours Coordinators, or the Head of Programme.

There are no penalties for the course other than the mandatory course requirements.

## **Materials and equipment and/or additional expenses**

There is an Honours Lab, Old Kirk room 401, which contains a small number of desks and computers. However, the number of students enrolled in the Honours programme exceeds the capacity of this room, and therefore it is strongly advised that students acquire their own laptop.

## **Set texts**

The set text is Anna Green and Kathleen Troup, *The Houses of History* (Manchester University Press, 1999). This book is available through Vic Books from their new store on the ground floor of Easterfield Building, Kelburn Parade. For information about when and where student notes can be purchased contact via phone: 463 5515 or email: [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz), or look at the website: [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz).

## **Recommended reading**

A full reading list will be provided on Blackboard.

## **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 Honours orientation on 24 February.

## **Student feedback**

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the course. 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)