



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

HISTORY PROGRAMME

HIST 421: A Topic in European History 2: The European Outreach into the Atlantic 30 POINTS

TRIMESTERS 1 & 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.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Seminar: Tuesdays 2:10-4:00
Venue: OK 406 (Wood seminar room)

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Steve Behrendt
Room No: OK 504
Phone: 463 6757
Email: steve.behrendt@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Monday 2:15-4:00

Communication of additional information

Additional information will be advised by email and announced at seminars.

Prescription

This course considers the European outreach into the Atlantic in early modern history, 1400-1800. We examine the development of major Atlantic trades, including the Newfoundland fishing industry, whaling, the slave trade, and trades in cash-crops and other consumer goods.

Course content

This honours course on the European outreach into the Atlantic, 1400-1800, focuses on maritime and social/economic history. The first two seminars examine the late medieval background to Europe's Atlantic outreach. Subsequent classes analyse the development of Atlantic history through the late eighteenth century. There will be a mix of primary and secondary source readings, the primary sources, available via the Victoria Library website, compiled in: British History Online; British Library 17th-18th Burney Collection Newspapers; British Periodicals; EEBO (Early English Books Online); ECCO (Eighteenth Century Collections Online); Eighteenth Century Journals I, II & III; Slavery, Abolition and Social Justice; and The Making of the Modern World (MMW). Students will have the opportunity to construct their own historical databases.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students passing this course should be able to:

1. Judge the merits of an article under consideration for publication and recommend ways to strengthen the essay;
2. Interpret and critique a primary source in its historic context;
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the software program SPSS and apply that understanding quantitatively;
4. Apply sound essay-writing practice in all submitted written work;
5. Demonstrate changes in Atlantic history over time;
6. Demonstrate an ability to conduct independent research.

Teaching format

HIST 421 is a seminar course; two-hour seminars meet, on average, once a fortnight over the 24-week period of Trimesters 1 and 2. There are fifteen seminars, including two quantitative seminars held in computer labs and two essay-writing seminars.

Mandatory course requirements

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

1. Submit the written work specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work);
2. Attend at least twelve seminars.

Workload

This course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote a total of 300 hours to HIST 421 over the two trimesters, an average of 12.5 hours per week.

The total of 300 hours includes attendance at 15 seminars (30 hours in total), completion of seminar readings and preparation (80 hours), and the approximate assessment items' workload:

1. Manuscript review	30 hours
2. Primary source exercise	30 hours
3. English-African trade essay	40 hours
4. Research essay	90 hours

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Manuscript review (1500 words)	15%	1, 4, 6	31 March, 5.00 pm
2	Primary source exercise (1500 words)	15%	2, 4, 6	19 May, 5.00 pm
3	English-African trade essay (2,000 words)	20%	3, 4, 5, 6	18 August, 5.00 pm
4	Research essay (5,000 words)	50%	4, 5, 6	17 October, 5.00 pm

Marking criteria.

For all written work in HIST 421, marking criteria include **essay-writing skills**: your ability to give your reader information in a logical, clear and concise way. Your written work will be judged, in particular, on your choice of verbs and your paragraph structures. You want to ensure that you write in the active voice, limit your use of vague verbs/words, write paragraphs on single topics totalling 150-200 words, and group related paragraphs into sections. For all written work, marking criteria also include the ability to conduct **independent primary- and secondary-source research**.

In addition, each assessment includes marking criteria pertinent to that assessment:

(1) Manuscript review: your ability to critique an essay submitted for consideration by:

- a) placing the essay in historiographical context;
- b) recommending ways to strengthen the essay's structure;
- c) recommending ways to strengthen essay sentences.

(2) Primary source annotation: your ability to:

- a) place the primary source passage in historic context;
- b) introduce the primary source passage in 1000 words;
- c) identify the key information that warrants referencing;
- d) use 'footnoteland' to add pertinent primary and secondary-source information.

(3) English-African trade essay: your ability to:

- a) use the features of SPSS to discern secular (long-term) trends;
- b) use the features of SPSS to produce meaningful tables and figures;
- c) 'write quantitatively' by having ideas (not data) drive paragraphs.

(4) Research essay: your ability to:

- a) state an argument and support that argument with evidence;
- b) prioritise primary and secondary sources;
- c) write manageable sections;
- d) write transitional paragraphs.

Submission and return of work

Essays should be submitted through the History Office essay drop-off point, Old Kirk Room 405, together with a completed cover sheet, which will be distributed during the first seminar. Essays will be returned in seminar or by arrangement with the Course Coordinator.

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.

Set texts

Copies of seminar readings will be provided by the Course Coordinator in advance of each seminar and may be collected from the History Office. A photocopying fee of \$15 will be levied by the History Programme (arrangements for payment will be advised in Week One).

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

Based on feedback from previous HIST 421 courses, in 2014 the course has changed the first assessment.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at 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
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: 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
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz