



SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

History Programme

2008 TRIMESTER 2

HIST232: THE WORLDS OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

CRN 9157

Teaching staff

Lecturer: Steve Behrendt
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Lecture time: Thursday 3:10-5:00
 Venue: Maclaurin (MC) LT103

Office hours: Tuesday, 2-3pm; Wednesday, 5-6pm; or by appt

Contacting staff

For any enquiries you may have about your work for HIST232 contact your course coordinator during office hours or by email.

Tutorial times and rooms

Eight 50-minute tutorials will be held on Thursdays and Fridays in Old Kirk (OK) room 501, beginning the second week of term.

Tutorial groups will be posted on the History Programme noticeboard (4th floor Old Kirk Building) and on Blackboard.

Course content

HIST232 examines the life of Christopher Columbus (1451-1506) in the context of Medieval and early modern world history, 1000-1650. We focus on Columbus's life as a mariner, chartmaker, explorer, imperialist and diplomat, and the historical processes set in motion by his four voyages to the Americas. Readings include extracts from the ship's 'log' of Columbus—a daily record of the Voyage of Discovery that some argue is a singular, documentary link between the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. We conclude with discussions on the 'Columbian' exchange of peoples, plants, diseases and animals, and assess the changing historical interpretations of the life and legacy of the man first called Cristoforo Colombo.

Course objectives

HIST232 will analyse the life of Christopher Columbus (1451-1506) as an historical figure bridging Medieval and Renaissance worlds and the processes set in motion by his four voyages to the Americas.

Lecture topics emphasize the importance of **historic context**— understanding the actions of Christopher Columbus and his contemporaries in the context of late Medieval and early Renaissance Europe. Close attention is paid also to **primary source material**, including the journal of Christopher Columbus, 1492-93.

Assessments will teach students how to write concise and clear sentences and paragraphs, how to structure History essays, and will give students historical background to some key issues in recent European and world history. Assessments are designed to develop a number of specific writing, verbal and independent thinking skills, to prepare students for upper-level papers in the Humanities and for employment outside the university. The principal course objectives:

1. to learn early modern world history
2. to understand the importance of historic context
3. to learn how to evaluate primary and secondary sources
4. to learn how to formulate a convincing argument
5. to strengthen paragraph structures and topic sentences
6. to strengthen independent research skills

Relationship between assessment and course objectives

The three assessments in HIST232 meet the course objectives by teaching essay-writing skills and testing lecture and tutorial material. Assessment 1 is a history essay writing exercise. The principal learning objectives are to teach students how to paraphrase secondary sources properly, and to write concise sentences and fully developed paragraphs introduced by strong topic sentences. Students will learn how to formulate an argument and identify the best historical evidence to support their argument. The exercise also teaches students how to limit their reliance on quotes and evaluate conflicting or different arguments. The research essay (assessment 2) requires students to undertake independent historical research to find sufficient evidence to support fully a thesis statement. The terms test assesses

students' general knowledge of course material presented in lectures and tutorials.

Expected workload

In accordance with Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 15 hours per week to HIST232. This includes twenty-two 50-minute lectures and eight 50-minute tutorials.

Group work requirements

None.

Readings

HIST232 Book of Readings

Recommended reading

William D. Phillips, Jr. and Carla Rahn Phillips, *The Worlds of Christopher Columbus* (New York, Cambridge University Press, 1992), 322pp, eight copies of which are available at the VUW Library (and some copies may be available at the VUW Bookstore or bookstores downtown).

Other materials/equipment

None.

Assessment requirements

Students are required to write a 1,000-1,250 skills essay, write a 2,000-2,500 word essay, and complete an in-class terms test. The relative weighting of the assessment is:

Essay, 1,000-1,250 words, due Friday 8 August, 5pm (25%)

Essay, 2,000-2,500 words, due Friday 19 Sept., 5pm (45%)

Terms test, Thursday 9 Oct., 1:10-3:00pm (in-class) (30%)

There is no scheduled make-up terms test date

There is no registry examination for HIST232

Submission of written work: special requirements

The essays you submit must have a cover sheet (available in OK405 and on Blackboard) that contains the following information:

- Student name
- Title or topic of the assignment
- Tutor's name
- Date of submission
- Word count

Your work should be double-spaced, either typed or hand-written. You should photocopy all hand-written work. **Make sure that you save copies of computerised essay files.**

Indent all paragraphs five spaces, to enable your marker to identify paragraphs. Do not add a line-space between paragraphs, unless you want to indicate a section break (major transition).

Note: Please deposit your exercise in the appropriate pigeon hole outside the History Programme office, Room 405, Old Kirk. Do not submit written work at lectures or tutorials. **Do not e-mail your essay to the course coordinator.**

Penalties

History Programme policy stipulates that students will be penalised for late submission of essays – a deduction of 5% for the first weekday late and then 2% per each additional weekday, up to a maximum of ten days, from marks awarded to such a late essay. Penalties may be waived, however, if there are valid grounds, for example, illness (presentation of a medical certificate is required) or similar other contingencies. In such cases prior information will be necessary.

Extension forms are available in the History Programme office. If granted an extension by the course coordinator, students are required to agree to a new assessment due date.

Mandatory requirements

To pass HIST232 each student must:

- 1) Complete the assignments specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as stated for late submission of work)
- 2) Gain an overall grade of C, 50% for the work, which is specified as contributing to this final grade

Additional information

General notices will be given in lectures and posted on Blackboard. Marks will be posted on the main History Programme noticeboard, 4th floor Old Kirk.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are

expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were ones own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is, however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct. All cases will be recorded on a central database and severe penalties may be imposed. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx

GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html

Information on the following topics is available electronically under "Course Outline General Information" at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

- Student and Staff Conduct
- Academic Grievances
- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

HIST232 TRIMESTER OUTLINE

I. INTRODUCTION to 200-level History courses

- Thu, July 10 1. Historiography and historic context
2. Essay writing

No tutorials

II. THE WORLDS OF COLUMBUS

- Thu, July 17 3. Columbus and the impact of his four
 voyages: overview
4. Columbus: source material and historiography

Recommended text reading

Worlds of Christopher Columbus, 1-12, 85-94

Tutorial 1. Essay writing

Tutorial reading

“Essay Writing: General Instructions” (in the HIST232 reader)

III. MYTHS, FABLES AND FANTASY IN MEDIEVAL EUROPE

- Thu, July 24 5. Pre-Columbian voyagers to the West?
6. Others worlds and other peoples

Recommended text reading

Worlds of Christopher Columbus, 13-43

Tutorial 2. Pre-Columbian voyagers to the West?

Tutorial readings

Wahlgren, *Vikings and America*, 99-120

Van Sertima, *They Came Before Columbus*, 19-36, Plates 3-7,
10-13, 18

IV. THE EXPLORATION, TRADE, CONQUEST: 1400s-1480s

- Thu, July 31 7. Tools of expansion
8. Europeans and Africa

Tutorial 3. Conquest and colonisation in the Canary Islands

Tutorial reading

Fernández-Armesto, *Before Columbus*, 203-22

V. MILITANT CHRISTIANITY AND THE RECONQUISTA

- Thu, Aug 7 9. Crusades and Military Orders
10. Christians, Jews, Moors and the Inquisition

Recommended text reading

Worlds of Christopher Columbus, 44-84

Tutorial 4. Columbus as Christ-bearer?

Tutorial reading

West and Kling, *Libro de las profecías*, 46-77

Essay, 1,000-1,250 words, due Friday 8 August, 5pm (25%)

VI. COLUMBUS: 1485-1493

- Thu, Aug 14 11. Seeking sponsorship, 1485-1491; organising the voyage, 1492
12. The first voyage, August 1492-March 1493

Recommended text reading

Worlds of Christopher Columbus, 94-193

No tutorials

MID-TRIMESTER BREAK, 18-29 AUGUST

VII. THE COLUMBUS VOYAGES, 1493-1504

- Thu, Sept 4 13. The second voyage, 1493-1496
14. The third and fourth voyages, 1498-1504

Recommended text reading

Worlds of Christopher Columbus, 193-240

Tutorial 5. The logbook of Columbus

Tutorial readings

"Digest of Columbus's Log-Book," 37-76

Columbus, *Life of the Admiral*, 48-67

VIII. SPANISH AMERICAS: FOUNDATIONS OF EMPIRE

- Thu, Sept 11 15. Explorers, conquistadors and colonists
16. Labour systems and the slave trade

Tutorial 6. Columbus and public history

Tutorial readings

Bushman, "America Discovers Columbus," 1-21

Summerhill and Williams, "Sinking Columbus," 150-78

IX. THE SPANISH CONQUISTADORS, 1519-1540s

- Thu, Sept 18 17. Cortés and Montezuma
 18. Pizarro and the Incas

Recommended text reading

Worlds of Christopher Columbus, 241-56

Essay, 2,000-2,500 words, due Friday 19 Sept, 5pm (45%)

No tutorials

X. THE SPANISH EMPIRE, 1540s-1604

- Thu, Sept 25 19. Gold and silver, God and glory
 20. European imperial rivalries

Text reading

Worlds of Christopher Columbus, 256-61

Tutorial 7. The Black Legend, Las Casas,
 Sepúlveda and Indian rights

Tutorial readings

Sullivan, *Indian Freedom*, 1-9

Hanke, *Spanish Struggle for Justice*, 113-32

Quirk, "Some Notes," 356-64

XI. THE GLOBAL IMPACT OF THE COLUMBUS VOYAGES

- Thu, Oct 2 21. The Columbian Exchange
 22. The wealth of nations

Recommended text reading

Worlds of Christopher Columbus, 261-73

Tutorial 8. Columbus: hero or villain?

Tutorial readings

Lawrence, "Mystery of Columbus," 728-40

Sale, *Conquest of Paradise*, 92-122

XII. TERMS TEST

Thu, Oct 9 **Terms test (in-class) (30%)**