



SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**HISTORY PROGRAMME  
TRIMESTER 1, 2009**

[Monday 2 March 2009 – Wednesday 1 July 2009]

**HIST 218: HISTORICAL METHODS  
CRN 6085**

**COURSE COORDINATOR** Dr Glyn Parry  
**ROOM:** OK 504  
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**GUEST LECTURERS** Dr Giacomo Lichtner  
Dr Jim Urry

**LECTURE TIMES:** Mondays & Thursdays  
12.00 – 12.50pm

**VENUE:** Hugh Mackenzie Lecture Theatre 001  
(HMLT001)

**COMPUTER LABS:**

(held instead of tutorials for the weeks beginning 9, 16 and 23 March):

(1) Monday 9, 16, and 23 March	1.10 - 2.00pm KK217
(2) Monday 9, 16, and 23 March	3.10 – 4.00pm KK217
(3) Thursday 12, 19, and 26 March	1.10 – 2.00pm KK216
(4) Thursday 12, 19, and 26 March	3.10 – 4.00pm KK217

**TUTORIALS:**

(1) Monday	1.10 – 2.00pm MY219
(2) Monday	3.10 – 4.00pm OK406
(3) Thursday	1:10 – 2:00pm MY404
(4) Thursday	3:10 – 4:00pm MY219

Information about changes will be announced in lectures, and posted on the noticeboard and the course electronic *Blackboard*,

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**TUTORIALS WILL COMMENCE IN THE SECOND WEEK OF TERM**

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Will be announced at the first lecture. You are also welcome to telephone or email me.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Information about any changes to the timetable or programme will be announced in lectures and posted on the History notice board.

**Special Notice:**

**The shape and content of this course will, to a certain extent, be determined by student response to the material. That means that your feed-back is not only invited but is regarded as an essential part of the course. In fact, your discussion of the content of the course via e-mail and the course e-mailing list with myself and other students is part of the continuous assessment process. The first week of tutorials will introduce you to the very simple process of using the course mailing list, and thereafter students will be expected to use this medium for communicating with me and with other students about course matters.**

**COURSE DELIVERY:**

HIST218 comprises two 50-min lectures per week on Mondays and Thursdays and one 50-min tutorial per week, commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> week of the trimester, as per tutorial timetable.

**GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES:**

As with all HIST courses, learning objectives of this course contribute to the attainment of specific attributes:

## Critical Thinking

- 1: Assess conflicting or different arguments
- 2: Develop understanding of historical events, context and change
- 3: Use appropriate methodologies to evaluate evidence

## Creative Thinking

- 1: Synthesise information in a clear, logical and lively way

- 2: Create well-documented interpretations of historical events
- 3: Search for patterns in historical processes over time and space

## Communication

- 1: Develop lucid historical arguments through writing and oral discussion
- 2: Use library print and online resources efficiently and constructively
- 3: Strengthen learning through collegial interchange

## Leadership

- 1: Pursue and manage independent research
- 2: Develop critical citizenship
- 3: Develop confidence through public speaking
- 4: Strengthen decision-making capabilities

## Other

- 1: Understand the development of the historical discipline

**COURSE AIMS**

This course introduces students to basic research skills, mainly using information technology, which can be applied to all their history courses and to most other courses in the humanities. Most importantly, these skills are becoming essential for successful careers in the new kind of economy which is emerging as a result of the Information Revolution.

The course first briefly surveys the history of history writing from its origins, mainly focussing on the Western traditions but also paying some attention to attitudes towards the past in Islamic and Asian societies. Finally, the course surveys contemporary developments in historical methods, including the application of the social sciences to historical study, the interpretation of oral, pictorial and filmic evidence, and the methods and approaches of some distinctive 'schools' of historical study in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The course has **four** objectives:

- i) To develop students' competence in using some of the very simple but powerful software currently available for historical research, discussion, writing, and the interpretation of historical evidence.
- ii) To ensure that students have a clear understanding of the history of history writing and historical thinking and can relate the sources they read to the historical context which conditioned them. Students should end the course with an appreciation of the historical origins of historians' biases, differences and debates.
- iii) To make students aware of the variety of approaches in contemporary historical writing, both in the definition of 'historical evidence' itself and in its interpretations and discussion. The strengths and weaknesses of various approaches will be the focus of this part of the course.
- iv) To introduce students to the basic skills of archival historical research.

Throughout the course the intention will be to consolidate and build on the skills introduced in stage one History courses, specifically:

- reading with accuracy and discrimination
- being able to distinguish opinion from fact
- the ability to weigh up evidence
- the ability to come to terms with different or conflicting arguments
- the ability to formulate arguments convincingly and concisely
- the ability to write in a clear, logical and lively way
- the ability to present an oral argument with lucidity and conviction
- the ability to use information technology resources efficiently and constructively
- the ability to understand the nature and development of history as a discipline

This is an internally-assessed course, and attendance at lectures and tutorials is therefore recommended, both for the development of the intended knowledge and skill, and **to prepare students for the Terms Test, which will cover material from each week of the course.**

## COURSE CONTENT

See Lecture Programme below.

## READINGS

### Essential text:

HIST218 Book of Readings, available from Student Notes Bookshop.

### Prescribed text:

John Tosh, *The Pursuit of History*, 3rd edn., (1999, 2000 or 2002), or 3rd edn. reissued (2002) or 4th edn. (2005) (**do not buy the 1st ed.**)

### Recommended text:

Donald R. Kelley (ed.), *Versions of History from Antiquity to the Enlightenment* (1991), available at Student Book Shop (Short introduction and commentaries on the theme of the **conscious construction** of history for different purposes, interspersed with extracts from primary sources illustrating that theme). Second-hand copies may be available from previous years' students.

Textbooks can be purchased from Vicbooks located in the Student Union Building on Kelburn Campus. Books of Reading are distributed from the Student Notes Shop on the ground floor of the Student Union Building. Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz). Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from the shop the day after placing an order online.

Opening hours are 8.00am–6.00pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays) and 10.00am–1.00 pm Saturdays.

Phone: 463 5515

## ASSESSMENT

There are three items of assessment in HIST218 – (1) a research essay OR a reflective essay, and (2) an archival research project, and (3) an in-class test. Given that this is an Historical Methods Course it is especially important that essays be written according to the format outlined in *Writing History Essays* (available at Student Notes Shop or downloaded from the History website).

As an internally assessed course, fairness to all students requires that the following assessment requirements must be rigidly followed:

- (1) **An archival research project**, using the resources available on the internet in the University Library, and in the collections available in the National Library and National Archives to build up biographical information on an historical individual. Suitable names will be supplied and some indication given of the type of information in a project workbook, and students will be expected to attend familiarisation sessions at The National Library and Turnbull Library. **Due: Thursday 9 April. This project is worth 40% of your final grade**

**AND**

- (2) **EITHER A research essay of 2,500 words** on a particular period of historical writing before the 20th century. In this course especially a research essay is defined as a substantial piece of research relating a **primary source or sources** to its historical context as described in secondary sources. **NOTE:** That in HIST218 we consider only histories written in the past to be primary sources. **Due: Thursday 28 May. This essay is worth 40% of your grade.**

**OR A reflective essay of 2,500 words**, which reflects on the strengths and weaknesses of a particular type of historical evidence or particular historical approach, discussed in lectures and tutorials in the later part of the course. **Due: Thursday 28 May. This essay is worth 40% of your final grade**

Essays not handed in on or before the due date must be accompanied by an Extension Form available from the History Office and signed by me.

**AND**

- (3) **An in-class test** based on material covered in tutorials and lectures to be held on **Thursday 28 May 2009** during the normal lecture time. **This test is worth 20% of your final grade.**

### **Due dates:**

Students will complete the archival research project by **Thursday 9 April 2009**, and then write either the research essay or the reflective essay by **Thursday 28 May 2009**.

### **MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

To gain a pass in this course each student must:

- a) Complete the assignments specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work);

**AND**

- b) Attend all tutorials

**PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS NO PROVISION FOR MAKE-UP EXERCISES IN THIS COURSE 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.

### **ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS**

Electronic submission of written work is not normally acceptable, and is allowed **only with the prior permission of the Course Co-ordinator**. Exceptions may be granted where serious circumstances (e.g. illness) prevent you from submitting the essay in person. In this case a **paper copy** of the work must also be submitted by a date agreed with your lecturer.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENSURING THAT THE LECTURER RECEIVES A READABLE COPY OF WRITTEN WORK REMAINS WITH THE STUDENT.**

### **PENALTIES**

Students will be penalised for late submission of essays—a deduction of **5% for the first day late**, and **2% per day** thereafter, up to a **maximum of 8 days**. Work that is more than 8 days late can be accepted for mandatory course

requirements but will not be marked. However, penalties may be waived if there are valid grounds, e.g., illness (presentation of a medical certificate) or similar other contingencies. In such cases prior information will be necessary.

## WORKLOAD

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote an average of 15 hours per week to HIST218. This includes lectures, tutorials, research and writing time.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

## GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES

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* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

This website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates.

## COURSE READING

### Prescribed texts:

- i) John Tosh, *The Pursuit of History*, 3rd ed. (1999, 2000 or 2002), or 3rd ed. revised (2002), or 4th ed. (2005)
- ii) HIST218 Book of Readings, available at Student Notes Shop
- iii) HIST218 Archival Research Workbook, available through Student Notes

### Recommended books:

Keith Windschuttle, *The Killing of History* (1994): (Very intelligent assault on some of the follies and deficiencies of recent literary theories as applied to history).

Donald R. Kelley (ed.), *Versions of History from Antiquity to the Enlightenment* (1991): available at Student Book Shop (Short introduction and commentaries on the theme of the **conscious construction** of history for different purposes, interspersed with extracts from primary sources illustrating that theme. Useful for background understanding).

Norman F. Cantor, *Inventing the Middle Ages: The Lives, Works and Ideas of the Great Medievalists of the Twentieth Century* (1991): D116 C232 I. (Very well-written explorations of the connections between the political and

social outlooks of recent historians and their interpretations of medieval history. Very useful bibliography)

Herbert Butterfield, *The Origins of History* (1981): D13 B9880; (Well written and sweeping survey of the history of history writing, though has some inaccuracies)

Bernard Lewis, *History Remembered, Recovered, Invented* (1975): D13 L673 H; (Witty and acerbic little book on the way history has been misremembered, distorted and invented for contemporary purposes)

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### **Important Note:**

This bibliography is to be regarded as a research resource that has been especially prepared to assist students. The bibliography contains useful references for your assignment, but you are required to find at least three other relevant sources, using the electronic resources introduced in tutorials 2 and 3, and to list them in the bibliography of your submitted essay with their precise electronic identification, or URL

The bibliography is very extensive partly to enable the large number of students enrolled on the course to focus on particular areas and therefore have access to sufficient sources. *Please do not panic. It is not expected that students should consult all works listed!* This is a preliminary list with comments where appropriate. It can be updated on the HIST218 class discussion list and the HIST218 website as you use your research skills to find other sources in the Library: HINT: You will find other related books at the shelf-marks given here, many on the open shelves and some in 3-DL.

The Bibliography will be posted on Blackboard for you to consult and/or print off.

## LECTURE PROGRAMME

Week 1	<b>Mon 2 March</b> <b>Thu 5 March</b>	Persian, Jewish, Greek and Roman historiography Greek and Roman historiography	Week 7	<b>Mon 27 April</b> <b>Thu 30 April</b>	Postmodernism, structuralism and history Anthropology and history (Guest Lecturer: Dr Jim Urry)
Week 2	<b>Mon 9 March</b> <b>Thu 12 March</b>	Christian and Islamic historiography Renaissance and Enlightenment historiography	Week 8	<b>Mon 4 May</b> <b>Thu 7 May</b>	Oral history Oral History and Anthropology in <i>First Contact</i>
Week 3	<b>Mon 16 March</b> <b>Thu 19 March</b>	Asian historiography Nineteenth century historiography	Week 9	<b>Mon 11 May</b> <b>Thu 14 May</b>	Film and history (Guest Lecturer: Dr Giacomo Lichtner) The new 'popular' history
Week 4	<b>Mon 23 March</b> <b>Thu 26 March</b>	Twentieth-century historiography Nationalism and history	Week 10	<b>Mon 18 May</b> <b>Thu 21 May</b>	Gender and history The future of history
Week 5	<b>Mon 30 March</b> <b>Thu 2 April</b>	The Marxist historians The Environment and history	Week 11	<b>Mon 25 May</b> <b>Thu 28 May</b>	Summary and review <b>IN-CLASS TEST</b>
Week 6	<b>Mon 6 April</b> <b>Thu 9 April</b>	The Annales School No lecture	[Week 12	<b><u>Queen's Birthday Holiday Monday 1 June</u></b> ]	

## MID-TRIMESTER BREAK

## TUTORIAL PROGRAMME

<p>Week 1    <b>(2 / 5 March)</b>            <b>No tutorial</b>  <u>Note:</u> National Library and Turnbull Tour,  <b>10am Friday 6 March</b></p>	<p>Week 5    <b>(30 March / 2 April)</b>            Questions and Answers on the Archival Research Project            return to designated tutorial rooms            Group 1: Monday 1.10 – 2.00pm MY219            Group 2: Monday 3.10 – 4.00pm OK406            Group 3: Thursday 1.10 – 2.00pm MY404            Group 4: Thursday 3.10 – 4.00pm MY219</p>
<p>Week 2    <b>(9 / 12 March)</b>  <i>Blackboard</i> and student input, using 'Archway', Archives            NZ on-line database            Group 1: Monday 1.10 – 2.00pm KK217            Group 2: Monday 3.10 – 4.00pm KK217            Group 3: Thursday 1.10 – 2.00pm <u>KK216</u>            Group 4: Thursday 3.10 – 4.00pm KK217            Computer Labs (Cybercommons), New Kirk Building</p>	<p>Week 6    <b>(6 / 9 April)</b>            Nationalism and historiography</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MID-TRIMESTER BREAK</b></p>
<p>Week 3    <b>(16 / 18 March)</b>            Researching with electronic databases            Group 1: Monday 1.10 – 2.00pm KK217            Group 2: Monday 3.10 – 4.00pm KK217            Group 3: Thursday 1.10 – 2.00pm <u>KK216</u>            Group 4: Thursday 3.10 – 4.00pm KK217</p>	<p>Week 7    <b>(27 / 30 April)</b>            Race and historiography</p> <p>Week 8    <b>(4 / 7 May)</b>                    'Whig' v Marxist historiography</p> <p>Week 9    <b>(11 / 14 May)</b>                Oral History - fact or fiction?</p> <p>Week 10   <b>(18 / 21 May)</b>            Film and History</p> <p>Week 11   <b>(25 / 28 May)</b>            Gender and History</p>
<p>Week 4    <b>(23 / 26 March)</b>            Using the Web for Archival research            Group 1: Monday 1.10 – 2.00pm KK217            Group 2: Monday 3.10 – 4.00pm KK217            Group 3: Thursday 1.10 – 2.00pm <u>KK216</u>            Group 4: Thursday 3.10 – 4.00pm KK217</p>	<p>Week 12   <b>(1 / 4 June)</b>            <b>No tutorial</b></p>