



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

**HISTORY PROGRAMME**

**HIST331: THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE**

**CRN 8624**

**2010 TRIMESTER 1**

**1 March – 4 July 2010**

**Trimester dates**

Teaching dates: 1 March 2010 – 4 June 2010

Mid-trimester break: 5 April – 18 April 2010

Study week: 7 June – 11 June 2010

Examination/Assessment period: 11 June – 4 July 2010

**Withdrawal dates**

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

**Course coordinator and lecturer**

Steve Behrendt

**Education/qualifications**

BA Kenyon College (1984); MA University of Wisconsin-Madison (1988); PhD University of Wisconsin-Madison (1993)

**Office**

Old Kirk 503

**Phone**

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steve.behrendt@vuw.ac.nz

**Office hours (weeks 1-5; 9-12)**

Tuesday 2:10-3:00; Wednesday 12:10-1:00; or by appointment

**Lecturer (weeks 6-8)**

Nick Radburn

**Education/qualifications**

BA (Hons 1<sup>st</sup> class) Victoria University of Wellington (2008); MA (distinction) Victoria University of Wellington (2010)

**Room**

Old Kirk TBA

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**Office hours (weeks 6-8)**

TBA

**Lecture times and venue**

Tuesday, 11:00-11:50, Hugh McKenzie Lecture Theatre 003

**Seminar times and venues**

SEMINARS: (1) Tuesday, 3:10-5:00 (Easterfield Building, Room 026);

(2) Wednesday, 10:00-11:50 (Murphy Building, Room 105);

(3) Wednesday 1:10-3:00 (Easterfield Building, Room 004)

**PLEASE NOTE: SEMINARS WILL COMMENCE IN THE SECOND WEEK OF TRIMESTER**

**Course delivery**

HIST331 includes ten lectures and ten seminars. Lectures present background information on the transatlantic slave trade in the context of African, New World (the Americas) and European history. Seminars introduce upper-level history students to important topics in slave trade studies. HIST331, as a third-year paper, is seminar-intensive. Students should be prepared to participate fully in seminars. HIST331 includes one 'thinking seminar' to teach the historic context of primary source passages (gobbets) and to make connections between seemingly unrelated terms. During the second half of the course, each student will present one 15-20 minute seminar on a slave trade topic, topics to be distributed before the midterm break in April.

**Communication of additional information**

Additional course information will be announced in lectures and communicated via email and Blackboard.

**Course content**

HIST331 examines the development of the transatlantic slave trade, *ca.* 1450-1850. It discusses medieval slavery and the slave trade; the shift to enslaved African labour; the organisation of the slave trade in Europe, Africa and the Americas; the Middle Passage; and strategies employed by abolitionists. Lectures present background information on the transatlantic slave trade in the context of African, New World and European history. Seminars focus on primary source documents, including material produced by slave traders and by abolitionists.

**Learning objectives**

Students passing HIST331 should have:

- understood major themes in slave trade studies
- understood historiographical developments in slave trade studies
- strengthened skills in evaluating primary source documents
- strengthened historical research skills
- strengthened skills in evaluating history-content websites
- improved skills in writing fully-developed introductions and transitional paragraphs

### **Graduate attributes**

As with all HIST courses, learning objectives of HIST331 contribute to the attainment of understanding the development of the historical discipline and these specific attributes:

#### Critical Thinking

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

#### Creative Thinking

- Synthesise information in a clear, logical and lively way
- Create well-documented interpretations of historical events
- Search for patterns in historical processes over time and space

#### Communication

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

#### Leadership

- Pursue and manage independent research
- Develop critical citizenship
- Develop confidence through public speaking
- Strengthen decision-making capabilities

### **Expected workload**

In accordance with Faculty of Humanities and Social Science guidelines, the overall workload for this course is 200 hours in total.

### **Group work**

In Seminar 10, HIST331 students will review for the terms test by doing group exercises.

### **Readings**

All course readings will be available in electronic format, either via the VUW Library online databases, public access databases, or via HIST331 Blackboard attachments. There is no Book of Readings in HIST331.

### **Essential texts**

None

### **Recommended readings**

None

### **Assessment requirements**

- 50-minute in-class midterm test, Tuesday 30 March (20% of course mark)
- Research essay, 3,500-4,000 words, due Friday 14 May (50% of course mark)
- 50-minute in-class terms test, Tuesday 1 June (30% of course mark)

## Relationship of assessments to learning objectives

### 1. In-class mid-term test, Tuesday 30 March (20% of course mark)

The midterm test will contain multiple-choice questions covering the range of HIST331 readings/topics in weeks 1-4. The test is designed to meet the course objective of learning major themes in slave trade studies.

### 2. Research essay, 3,500-4,000 words, due Friday 14 May (50% of course mark)

Your essay topic can cover any time period, but it must pertain to the transatlantic slave trade, and should include primary and secondary source material. You may pursue a non-History focus—eighteenth century poems on the slave trade, for example. Discuss all essay topics/questions with the course coordinator. You should begin thinking about potential topics early. Completing significant background essay research during the mid-term break will place you in a good position to complete the essay by the **Friday 14 May** due date.

The research essay is designed to meet the course objectives of strengthening skills in: evaluating primary source documents (and, in general, historical research skills); and writing fully-developed introductions and transitional paragraphs. The research essay also will enable students to improve their skills in determining whether to place material in main text or footnotes.

### 3. In-class final test, Tuesday 1 June (30% of course mark)

The final test will contain multiple-choice questions and short essay questions, covering the range of HIST331 readings/topics. It is designed to meet the course objective of learning major themes and historiographical developments in slave trade studies.

## 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—such as illness (presentation of a medical certificate will be necessary) or similar other contingencies. In such cases prior information will be necessary. You must complete an extension form, available in the History Office (Old Kirk Room 405), and agree to a new due date with your lecturer.

## Mandatory course requirements

To gain a pass in this course each student must 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). You must complete the research essay and sit the two tests.

## Class representative

We will elect a class representative during the first lecture period, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative will provide a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

## 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>

The AVC (Academic) 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. This website can be accessed at:

[http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/avcademic/Publications.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcademic/Publications.aspx)