



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

**HISTORY PROGRAMME**

**2010 TRIMESTERS 1 and 2**

**HIST421**

**A TOPIC IN EUROPEAN HISTORY:**

**THE EUROPEAN OUTREACH INTO  
THE ATLANTIC, 1400-1800**

**CRN 4921**

**Trimester dates**

Teaching dates: 1 March 2010 – 4 June 2010 (trimester one)  
12 July 2010 - 15 October 2010 (trimester two)

**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)

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**Office hours**

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

**Seminar times and venues**

Mondays, 2:10-4:00 (Old Kirk 406), beginning 1 March 2010. Yearlong honours courses in History do not meet weekly; a specific seminar schedule will be distributed during the first seminar and emailed to enrolled HIST421 students.

### **Course delivery**

HIST421 is a seminar course, which meets, on average, every fortnight. It is expected that students attend all fifteen two-hour seminars over the 24-week academic year. Students should participate fully in seminars; the lecturer, in many instances, will function as facilitator. There will be two quantitative learning sessions in the Library, Room RB901.

### **Communication of additional information**

Additional course information will be announced in seminars and communicated via your preferred email account.

### **Course content**

This honours course on the European outreach into the Atlantic, 1400-1800, focuses on maritime and economic history. The first section of the course examines the late medieval background to Europe's Atlantic outreach. Subsequent sections analyse the development of Atlantic history through the late eighteenth century. Most readings will be English-language primary sources compiled in the EEBO (Early English Books Online), ECCO (Eighteenth Century Collections Online, and the Making of the Modern World, Goldsmith-Kress collection (MMW) databases, available via the VUW Library website. We also will examine eighteenth-century newspapers (shipping gazettes), and students will have the opportunity to construct their own historical databases. The course will teach essay-writing by example.

### **Learning objectives**

Students passing the paper will understand major themes in Atlantic history, 1400-1800. The course is designed so that students should be able to: evaluate the value of primary source evidence; use the functionality of Excel and SPSS; construct a historical database; incorporate primary source evidence effectively in formal written essays; write quantitative information to read like an essay and not like a report; annotate primary source passages to a standard that would be accepted by an editor of an historical journal; and structure essays in sections by writing transitional paragraphs.

### **Graduate attributes**

As with all HIST courses, learning objectives of HIST421 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 300 hours in total.

### Group work

Students will pair to locate 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century primary sources on EEBO, ECCO, and MMW, details of which will be announced in advance.

### Readings

Readings for each Monday seminar will be available from the History Office at least one week before that seminar meets.

### Essential texts

None

### Recommended readings

None

### Assessment requirements

Monday, 22 March	Atlantic history essay (1,500 words)	15% of course mark
Monday, 10 May	Primary source exercise (1,500 words)	15% of course mark
Monday, 9 August	England-Africa customs essay (2,000 words)	20% of course mark
Monday, 18 October	Research essay (5,000 words)	50% of course mark

### Relationship of assessments to learning objectives

#### 1. Atlantic history essay (1,500 words)

Assessment one will help students learn major themes in Atlantic history, 1400-1800.

#### 2. Primary source exercise (1,500 words)

Assessment two will help students learn how to write a concise introduction and annotate primary source passages to a standard that would be accepted by an editor of an historical journal.

#### 3. England-Africa customs essay (2,000 words)

Assessment three will help students learn the functionality of Excel and SPSS, how to construct a historical database, and how to write quantitative information to read like an essay and not like a report.

#### 4. Research essay (5,000 words)

Assessment four will strengthen student skills in independent historical research, in evaluating and incorporating primary source evidence effectively in formal written essays, and in writing transitional paragraphs. The research essay also will help students learn major themes in Atlantic history.

#### **Penalties**

Students will be penalised for late submission of essays—a deduction of 5% per day up to a maximum of 5 working days. Work that is more than 5 working 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 will be necessary) or similar other contingencies. In such cases, prior notice will be necessary, unless exceptional circumstances make this impossible. You must complete an extension form, available from the History Office (Old Kirk Room 405), and agree to a new due date with your lecturer. A photocopy of the extension form (approved and signed by the lecturer) must be submitted with the essay.

#### **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 four essays.

#### **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)