



SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

HISTORY PROGRAMME

**HIST 407: A TOPIC IN EUROPEAN HISTORY 1: MAGIC, WITCHCRAFT, RELIGION AND
SCIENCE IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE**

FULL YEAR 2011

28 February to 12 November 2011

Trimester dates

Teaching dates: 28 February to 14 October 2011

Mid-trimester/Easter break: 18 April to 1 May 2011

Mid-year break: 4 to 10 July 2011

Mid-trimester break: 22 August to 4 September 2011

Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

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

LECTURER: DR GLYN PARRY
OK504
463-6776
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OFFICE HOURS: Monday 4-5pm

SEMINAR TIMES: FOLLOWING THE INITIAL MEETING, TWO-HOUR CLASSES AT APPROXIMATELY FORTNIGHTLY INTERVALS, ON DATES TO BE AGREED

TIME AND VENUE: MON 2.10pm – 4pm, OK406 (WOOD SEMINAR ROOM)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: via email and Blackboard

Course delivery

The ability to articulate a coherent intellectual argument is an essential historical and human skill. To that end, Seminars will encourage students to formulate oral discussion of and argument about shared readings and oral presentations. Initially, I will be introducing the readings and leading the discussions, but after the first third of the course the intention is that one of the group will present a paper which, together with associated readings, will form the focus of questions and discussion.

1. Organisation; Introduction to Primary Source Databases and Techniques for using them.
2. Further Introduction to Sources and Techniques

3. The framework of life in the period: *student presentations* on: Monarchy and monarchs, the Courts of Europe, representative assemblies, Reformation and Counter-Reformation attitudes to magic and witchcraft
 4. The framework of life: *student presentations* on: Social hierarchy and local government, 'popular' religion and beliefs, 'elite' beliefs, the early modern family, the Enlightenment
 5. Introduction to Palaeography (*Greek* = 'Old Writing'); historiographical issues
 6. Further work on Palaeography; more on historiographical issues
- 7-14: Subjects of classes to be determined by student choice of seminar presentation, at dates to be agreed.

Course content

The course examines how European views of the world changed between c.1500 and c.1750, through the lens of the changing status of magical beliefs and witchcraft accusations, in the context of religious changes and the emergence of early 'scientific' understanding.

The course will study that society's magical, religious and natural philosophical beliefs, as a product of that culture rather than from the retrospective perspective of our modern, 'scientific' culture. Its main aim will therefore be to cultivate that important quality without which no one can be a trained historian - the ability to use an informed and disciplined imagination to understand a past society in its own terms, and thus to decide which of a number of conflicting modern interpretations of that society is nearest to the truth.

In achieving this aim students need to bear three points in mind: first that we are dealing with a very different culture from our own, with a totally different way of looking at the world. Therefore a considerable effort of imagination is required to enable you to encompass that different mental outlook.

Secondly, we are dealing with ways of looking at the world which are probably unfamiliar to you, but with which you have to familiarise yourself quite quickly using databases that show printed and sometimes manuscript writing from the period. The course will emphasise the use of these primary sources.

Thirdly, we are dealing with ideas, not the more concrete historical 'facts' that might be the focus of courses at undergraduate levels, and therefore you must learn to discriminate between the two.

Consequently the first eight weeks of the course will be vital in establishing an overview of the subject area, and your particular areas of focus, partly through class discussion, but mainly through your independent reading. You must very quickly establish a steady routine of research that you can maintain throughout the year. This self-disciplined approach is the only way to succeed at Honours level, since the workload is far greater, and teaching staff have much higher expectations of the ability of students to conduct self-directed work.

Learning objectives

Students passing the course should be able to:

1. Work independently in researching and writing to deadlines
2. Demonstrate abilities in critical reading of primary and secondary sources
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the major developments in Western European magic, witchcraft, religion and natural philosophy in the period and the ability to relate those developments to the wider cultural background
4. Present their findings and interpretations fluently through oral, written and visual means.

Graduate attributes

As with all History courses, learning objectives of HIST 407 contribute to the attainment of specific graduate attributes. For more details please consult our website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/hppi/subjects/hist.aspx#Grad-attributes>

Expected workload

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences suggests that students should spend a total of 300 hours for this course. Careful study of the essential reading for each meeting is your obligation.

Readings

Essential texts

The HIST 407 introductory bibliography is available on the VUW Library catalogue under 'Course Reserve'

SELECTED INTRODUCTORY READING ON 'THE SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTION':

Q125 K89I	H. Kragh	<i>An Introduction to the Historiography of Science</i>
Q125 H174R	A.R. Hall	<i>The Revolution in Science 1500-1750</i>
Q125 K24S	H.F. Kearney	<i>Science and Change, 1500-1700</i>
Q127 E8 S642S	A.G.R. Smith	<i>Science and Society in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries</i> (1972)
BL245 K78S	A. Koestler	<i>The Sleepwalkers</i> (1959)
Q125 W658 S4	W.P.D. Wightman	<i>Science and the Renaissance</i> (1962)
GN357 T155M	S. Tambiah	<i>Magic, Science, Religion and the Scope of Rationality</i> (1990)
Q125 R288		<i>Reappraisals of the Scientific Revolution</i> eds. D.C. Lindberg & R.S. Westman (1990)
	J.D. North	<i>The Universal Frame: historical essays in astronomy, natural philosophy and scientific method</i> (1989)
Q175 L879P	J. Loslee,	<i>Philosophy of Science and historical enquiry</i> , (1987)
pQ175 M6685	E. McMullin	'The history and philosophy of science: a taxonomy', in <i>Historical and Philosophical Perspectives of Science</i> ed. R.H. Stuewer, (1970)
Q175 K92S	J. Krige	<i>Science, revolution and discontinuity</i> (1980)
rQ126.9I43	P. Corsi	<i>Information Sources in the History of Science</i>
*Q125 H477	A. Hellemans	<i>The Timetables of Science: a chronology</i>
pQ125 5933	(Journal)	<i>Studies in history and philosophy of science</i>

pQ125 H673	(Journal)	<i>History of Science</i>
Q125 R768C	C.A. Ronan	<i>The Cambridge Illustrated History of the World's Science</i> (1983)
rQ174.7 D953	P.T. Durbin	<i>Dictionary of concepts in philosophy</i>
refZ7401 I181	(Journal)	ISIS: Cumulative bibliography

The Course Reserve list and the above list are only the beginning of your work, and you are expected independently to use the many bibliographical aids available through the library to discover additional sources for each topic, both to read around this subject to achieve an overview, and to read more deeply in specific areas which interest you. Reading designated texts for each seminar is the bare minimum of preparation. Relevant new books and databases arrive all the time – find them!

It is very important to note that the Turnbull Library has 18,000 books published before 1800, and microfilms of all books printed in English from Caxton to 1700. Some of these books are still not available on EEBO. In the event one of your sources is only available on microfilm at the Turnbull I will give you advice on how to obtain it.

Assessment requirements

30% Seminar paper of 2,000 words. Assesses your ability to work independently on a limited relevant research project of your choosing and to respond to oral discussion of the topic with a fluent written discussion based on critical reading of primary and secondary sources.

Date due: 2 weeks after your seminar presentation, and in all cases before Friday, 14 October 2011.

70% Major Research Essay of 4,000 - 5,000 words. Assesses your ability to work independently on a major relevant research project of your choosing and to respond to oral discussion of the topic with a fluent written discussion based on critical reading of primary and secondary sources.

Date due: by 5pm, Friday, 14 October 2011.

Lateness or plagiarism: These should not be encountered at Honours level.

SUBMISSION OF PAPERS

On the day your seminar topic is being discussed you must bring copies of a summary (one side of A4) of your **opinions** on the topic for distribution to the class.

You must then introduce the topic, usually for 20 minutes only, speaking to your one-page.

Do **not** read a finished paper verbatim. The point of the presentation is to identify strengths and weaknesses in your research and argument, to enable you to improve your draft before submitting your final version.

After the seminar you have two weeks to complete your paper, to be handed in at the next meeting of the class.

Follow the following rules when submitting your paper. If you do not, your paper will be returned unmarked until it does conform.

1. Use 12-point Times New Roman
2. DOUBLE-SPACE all main text typing
3. Use footnotes, not end notes
4. Use *Writing History Essays* for all formatting and style issues (available from Student Notes)

History Programme Policy: **Written work that fails to abide by History's guidelines, as set out in *Writing History Essays*, will be penalised, and may be failed.**

Penalties for late submission of work

Students will be penalized for late submission of essays - a deduction of:

5% for the first day late and, 2% thereafter for a maximum of 8 days thereafter work 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 information will be necessary.

History Programme policy stipulates that late submission of essays is penalised. Students lose 5% for the first day late and 2% thereafter for a maximum of 8 days. After 8 days, work can be accepted for mandatory course requirements but will not be marked. Extensions may be granted in exceptional circumstances, but **all extensions require the student to provide documentation**. If granted an extension, students must agree to a new due date. Contact your tutor as soon as a problem emerges. Extension forms are available in the History Programme office.

Note that **Friday 14 October 2011** is the final date on which any written work can be accepted by the Programme, because this is the date on which we must certify whether students have met the course requirements. The provision for late submission with penalty does not apply beyond this 14 October date.

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.**

Mandatory course requirements

To gain a pass in this course each student must:

- a) 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); AND
- b) Attend at least 75% of the scheduled seminars;

Faculty guidelines permit you to miss up to 2 seminars without penalty. Extra absences will result in a student failing terms, except in cases of serious illness (supported by a medical certificate), or serious personal crisis. THERE IS NO PROVISION IN THIS COURSE FOR MAKE-UPS 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. **If you are not able to attend any seminar, phone (463-6776), or email glyn.parry@vuw.ac.nz**

Return of assignments

Essays and tests will be returned during lectures and or tutorials. If students fail to attend, they may collect their essay from the History Programme Office in level 4, Old Kirk Building between the hours of 2 and 3pm from Monday to Friday and must show their Student ID card before collection.

Class Representative

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator, tutors and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

Statement on legibility

Students are expected to write clearly. Where work is deemed 'illegible', the options are:

- the student will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame after which penalties will apply;
- the student will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) and lateness penalties apply;
- if the student does not transcribe it to an acceptable standard, the work will be accepted as 'received' (so any associated mandatory course requirements are met) but not marked.

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>

Use of Turnitin

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted material on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions is not made available to any other party.

WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study. Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress. Most statutes and policies are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic.