



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

History Programme

HIST232: THE WORLDS OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

TRIMESTER 1 2012

5 March-4 July 2012

Trimester dates

Teaching dates: 5 March-8 June 2012

Mid-trimester break: 6-22 April 2012

Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

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

Staff names and contact details

Coordinator: Steve Behrendt

Lecturer: Steve Behrendt

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

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Office hours: Monday, 2-3, 5-6pm; Friday 2-3pm; or by appointment

Class times and locations

Lecture time: Tuesday 4:10-6:00

Venue: Hugh Mackenzie Lecture theatre 2

Seven 50-minute tutorials will be held mid-afternoons on Mondays, Thursday and Friday (Kelburn campus), beginning the second week of term. Tutorial groups, times and rooms will be posted on the History Programme noticeboard (4th floor Old Kirk Building) and on Blackboard.

Course delivery

Students are expected to attend twenty-one 50-minute lectures and seven 50-minute tutorials. The seven tutorials require students to discuss readings and the tutorial questions specified in the HIST232 Book of Readings.

Communication of 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.

Course prescription

A study of late Medieval Europe and the world during the time of Christopher Columbus, and the historical processes set in motion by his four voyages to the Americas.

Outline of 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, chart maker, 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.

Learning objectives

Lectures 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 to **primary source material**, including the journal of Christopher Columbus, 1492-1493. 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 early modern world history. Assessments are designed to develop a number of specific writing, verbal and independent thinking skills, to prepare students for upper-level courses in the Humanities and for employment outside the university. Students passing HIST232 should be able to

1. know important turning points in early modern world history
2. understand the importance of historic context
3. better evaluate primary and secondary sources
4. learn how to formulate a argument supported by detailed historical evidence
5. write stronger paragraph structures and topic sentences
6. have stronger independent research skills

Graduate attributes

All History courses contribute to understanding the development of the historical discipline. For more details please consult our website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/hppi/about/hist-overview.hist.aspx#grad-attributes>

Expected workload

Over the course of the trimester students are expected to spend 200 hours working on HIST232. This total includes: attending twenty-one 50-minute lectures, seven 50-minute tutorials, and the two hour test; and all the requisite reading, researching, writing and studying time.

Group work

None

Essential texts

HIST232 Book of Readings

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 13 February to 16 March 2012, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of Vicbooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two of the trimester, all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from Vicbooks on Level 4 of the Student Union Building.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from nominated collection points at each campus. Customers will be contacted when they are available.

Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

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).

Assessment requirements

Essay (1), 1,200-1,300 words (1,250 words +/- 5%),
due Thursday 5 April, 5pm (20%)

Essay (2), 2,375-2,625 words (2,500 words +/- 5%)
due Friday 18 May, 5pm (45%)

Test, Tuesday 5 June, 4:10-6:00pm (in-class) (35%)

There is no scheduled make-up test date

There is no examination for HIST232

Relationship between assessment and learning objectives

The three assessments in HIST232 are designed to meet the course learning objectives. Assessment 1, the history essay-writing exercise, teaches students how to: paraphrase secondary sources properly; write concise sentences and fully developed paragraphs introduced by strong topic sentences; formulate an argument and identify the best historical evidence to support their argument; limit their reliance on quotes; 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 research essay writing skills build upon Assessment 1. The test assesses students' general knowledge of course material presented in lectures and tutorials, including the importance of historic context and major turning points in early modern world history.

Submission of written work

Your work should be double-spaced, either typed or hand-written, and should be paginated. 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). Photocopy all work and/or **save copies of computerised essay files**.

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 essay
- Date of submission
- Tutor's name
- Word count
- Signature declaring non-plagiarism

Submit your exercise in the 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 or tutor**. You are responsible for the submission of your written work.

Penalties and late submission of work

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 weekdays**, from marks awarded to such a late essay. Essays submitted after ten weekdays will meet the mandatory course requirements, but will be marked only with the discretion of the Course Coordinator. 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.

Return of assessed work

The first point of return is during lectures. The tutor then will distribute uncollected work in tutorials. Thereafter, essays will be available at the History Office (OK405) for collection Monday-Friday 2:00-3:00pm until the final teaching week. Students must show their Student ID to collect their essays.

Mandatory requirements

To gain a pass in HIST232 each student must:

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

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 print neatly or type submitted work, and write clearly in in-class tests. 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

To preserve academic integrity, the Course Coordinator reserves the right to ask students for work submitted for assessment in HIST232 to be submitted for vetting to the website 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