



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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

HISTORY PROGRAMME

HIST 425: A Topic in European History 3: Witnessing Europe

TRIMESTER 1 AND 2 2013

4 March to 17 November 2013

Trimester dates

Trimester dates: 4 March to 17 November 2013

Teaching dates: 4 March to 18 October 2013

Easter break: 28 March to 3 April 2013

Mid-trimester break 1/3: 22–28 April 2013

Mid-year break: 4–14 July 2013

Mid-trimester break 2/3: 26 August to 8 September 2013

Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Dr Simone Gigliotti
Room No.: OK 505
Email: simone.gigliotti@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Thursday 12.00-1.00pm

Class times and locations

Can be found on the Victoria website at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/subjects/coursecatalogue>

It is advisable to check the above for any changes to the timetable programme.

Seminar Time: Thursday 10am-12pm

Seminar Venue: Old Kirk 406

Teaching/learning summary

HIST 425 is delivered through two-hour seminars throughout Trimester 1 and 2. Students are expected to regularly attend fortnightly seminars, and the total number of seminars will not exceed twelve throughout the year. The meeting schedule may be varied throughout the year, and students will be advised of such changes in advance via Blackboard and/or email.

Communication of additional information

This course uses Blackboard and presumes that all enrolled students have valid myvuw.ac.nz addresses. Please check that this account is active and you have organised email forwarding. Additional information and any changes to the timetable or lecture and seminar programme will be advised by email, announced in lectures, and posted on the HIST 425 Blackboard site.

Course prescription

Is this the 'era of the witness'? This thematic research seminar considers the historical and social utility of the witness in modern European history from the mid-19th century to the present. It focuses on how the witness has enveloped as a philosophical, evidentiary and truth-telling subject, and examines various contributions that documented tumultuous historical events, traumas and revolutions in the making and destabilising of Europe.

Learning objectives

Students passing the course should be able to:

1. Demonstrate familiarity with different sources and genres of witnessing in the historiography of modern and contemporary Europe;
2. Demonstrate a critical aptitude in relation to identifying and analysing a range of witnessing genres and sources;
3. Conduct independent research on topics of relevance to a witnessing history of twentieth-century Europe;
4. Demonstrate familiarity with methodological debates about the social and epistemological utility of the witness as an individual, group, institution and media form in European history and more generally;
5. Develop a sophisticated level of oral articulation of historical concepts, and be able to engage in intelligent, informed discussion of them;
6. Demonstrate their analytical and interpretive skills through the completion of set writing assessment tasks.

Graduate attributes

As with all History courses, learning objectives of this course contribute to the attainment of specific graduate attributes. For more details please consult our website:

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

Expected workload

In accordance with the Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote a total of 300 hours to HIST 425, including two hours of seminars per fortnight. Over the 24 teaching weeks of the academic year, that is an average of 12.5 hours per week.

Readings

Seminar readings will be available on E-Reserve at the VUW library.

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre Foyer from 11 February to 15 March 2013, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from vicbooks' new store, Ground Floor Easterfield Building, Kelburn Parade. After week two of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks, Easterfield 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:

All of the following items are on three-day or closed reserve in the library:

Sarah Barber and Corinna Penniston-Bird (eds.) *History Beyond the Text: a Student's Guide to Approaching Alternative Sources* (London, New York: Routledge, 2009)

Kelly Oliver, *Witnessing: beyond recognition* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2001)

Elaine Scarry, *The Body in Pain: the making and unmaking of the world* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1985)

Jerold Seigel, *The Idea of the Self: Thought and Experience in Western Europe since the Seventeenth Century* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005)

Annette Wieviorka, *The Era of the Witness* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2006)

Assessment requirements

This course is 100% internally assessed through three pieces of work, and is outlined as follows:

1. Review Essay; due 13 May, 5pm, 20% of the final grade; min/max 2000 words
2. Research Essay; due 12 August, 5pm, 50% of the final grade; min/max 4500 words
3. Reflective Essay; due 7 October, 5pm, 30% of the final grade; min/max 2500 words

Assessments 1 and 2 ask for the voluntary submission of abstracts and proposals related to each essay. While not mandatory, doing so will ensure you develop a clear research plan with the guidance of the coordinator, and will avoid last-minute changes and unviable/unworkable essay topics.

Assessed work is to be submitted to me by email and also in hard copy to the History Office, OK 405, by no later than 5pm on the due date. I welcome early submissions. Please attach a HIST cover sheet to your work (available to download from Blackboard), and keep a backup print and e-copy of all submitted work.

Outline of Assessment:**Assessment 1: Review Essay: Sources and genres in history.**

Proposal due: 1 April, 5pm

Essay due: 13 May, 5pm

This assessment task is designed to develop and assess your ability to conduct research into the debates among historians regarding the utility of different sources or genres in representing political and social events in nineteenth and/or twentieth-century European history. Please design your own question and submit it to me with a 300-word abstract, and tentative bibliography, by no later 1 April, 5pm, for feedback.

Learning objectives: see 1 and 2.

Marking Criteria:

- Ability to develop a workable question based on reading of debates about sources and genres of representation;
- Evidence of informed analysis, coherent structure and integration of historiographical debates into the essay as relevant to the question;
- Ability to find relevant sources to your widely about your question and correct bibliographic citation.

HIST 425: Assessment II: Research Essay: Individuals in History: Agents of Knowledge, Change, and Conflict

Proposal due: 17 June, 5pm

Essay due: 12 August, 5pm

Your task is to develop a question around the theme of witnesses in European history in our time frame, restricted to continental Europe, for example their role as agents of change (positive and/or negative), historians' debates about that person and their role, and sources that person and others produced as evidence of their contribution, or denial of it. Such examples of change could include

uprisings, insurgencies, revolutions, or, as victims of persecutions that narrate injustice and violations. Please submit a question that you have formulated, a 500-word abstract, and tentative bibliography, by no later 1 April, 5pm, for feedback.

Learning objectives: see 3 and 4.

Marking Criteria:

- Ability to articulate a plausible research question;
- Ability to reply critically to your own question, developing an argument, and using a range of primary and secondary sources;
- Capacity to critically appraise the impact of your chosen individual in their historical and social contexts;
- Evidence of critical thinking about structure and methodology for your essay (appearance of coherence, sound argument and use of different sources as support and context);
- Evidence of mature and sound writing practices, including clear structure, and adherence to history style guide.

HIST 425: Assessment III

Reflective Essay: This will be a take-home essay for you to reflect on theme addressed in the readings. Set questions will be issued.

Due: 7 October, 5pm

Learning objectives: see 5 and 6.

Marking criteria:

- Ability to respond critically to your chosen question;
- Capacity to integrate seminar reading material, and other related literature, in your response
- Evidence of critical thinking about structure for your essay (appearance of coherence, sound argument and use of different sources as support and context);
- Evidence of mature and sound writing practices, including clear structure, and adherence to history writing style guide.

Penalties

Students will be penalised for late submission of assignments – **a deduction of 5% for the first weekday late, and 2% per day thereafter, up to a maximum of 10 weekdays**. Work that is more than 10 weekdays late can be accepted for mandatory course requirements but may not be marked. Penalties may be waived if there are valid grounds (for example, illness [presentation of a medical certificate will be necessary] or similar other contingencies). In all such cases, prior information will be necessary.

Mandatory course requirements

To gain a pass in this course each student must:

- Submit the essays on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work);
- Attend 75% of scheduled seminars.

Submission of work

All written work must be submitted to me via email (MS word .docx format) **AND** in hard copy to the History Programme office with a HIST 425 cover sheet attached. These will be available to download from Blackboard.

Return of marked course work

Essays and tests will be returned in seminars. I will email students as to when uncollected essays are available for collection from the History Office, Room 405, Old Kirk Building between the hours of 2.00 and 3.00 pm from Monday to Friday. Students must show their Student ID to collect them.

Class representative

A class representative will be elected in the first week, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides 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>

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 (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the Academic Office website, at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic.