



## FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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

#### HISTORY PROGRAMME HIST 232: THE WORLDS OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS 20 POINTS

#### TRIMESTER 1 2015

##### Important dates

**Trimester dates:** 2 March to 1 July 2015

**Teaching dates:** 2 March to 5 June 2015

**Easter/Mid-trimester break:** 3–19 April 2015

**Last assessment item due:** 3 June 2015

**Withdrawal dates:** Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds). If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

##### Class times and locations

Lectures: Wednesday, 3:10-5:00

Venue: Hunter (HU) Lecture Theatre (LT) 220

Tutorials: 50-minute tutorials will be held Thursday (12:10-12:50; 2:10-3:00) for eight weeks beginning the **second** week of the trimester.

##### Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Steve Behrendt  
Room No: Old Kirk (OK) 504  
Phone: 463 6757  
Email: [steve.behrendt@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:steve.behrendt@vuw.ac.nz)  
Office hours: Wednesday, 5:10-6:00; Thursday 1:10-2:00

##### Communication of additional information

HIST 232 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 if you do not regularly access your student email account.

Additional information and any changes to the timetable or lecture and tutorial programme will be advised by email via Blackboard, which uses your student email addresses, announced in lectures, and posted on the HIST 232 Blackboard site.

## **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.

## **Course content**

HIST 232 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.

## **Course learning objectives (CLOs)**

Students who pass this course should be able to:

- 1) recognise major terms, concepts and themes in Columbus and early Atlantic studies;
- 2) demonstrate concise essay writing, which includes the ability to paraphrase secondary source information and differentiate between proper paraphrasing and unacceptable plagiarism;
- 3) state an argument and support that argument with historical evidence;
- 4) demonstrate research skills, including skills in evaluating history-content websites;
- 5) implement research and referencing skills in a formal academic essay.

## **Teaching format**

HIST 232 is taught in two 50-minute lectures per week that run sequentially and one 50-minute tutorial per week. A detailed lecture and tutorial programme is included in the HIST 232 Book of Readings and on Blackboard.

**Lectures:** The lectures provide a core foundation for examining the life of Christopher Columbus (1451–1506) in the context of Medieval and early modern world history, 1000–1650.

**Tutorials:** The tutorials reinforce the lecture experience and teach research and writing skills appropriate to 200-level History courses and to writing formal academic essays.

## **Mandatory course requirements**

There are no mandatory course requirements.

## **Workload**

In accordance with University Guidelines, HIST 232 has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 200 hours to the course throughout the trimester, approximately 15 hours per week, 2 March–5 June. This 200-hour total includes:

- attending lectures and tutorials (30 hours);
- completing tutorial readings and answering written tutorial questions (30 hours);
- research and writing for assessment tasks and revision for, and completion of, the in-class test (140 hours).

## Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	1,250-word skills essay	25%	2, 3, 5	26 March
2	2,500-word research essay	50%	2, 4, 5	14 May
3	In-class test (100 minutes, during lecture)	25%	1	3 June

### Marking criteria

The skills and research essays require: 1) paraphrasing in own words; 2) writing clarity and concision—in particular, avoiding reliance on the vague ‘this’ and actionless verb ‘to be’; 3) well-structured paragraphs and sections; 4) sufficient research to support 1,250 and 2,500 words, respectively; 5) referencing that follows academic conventions.

The test contains multiple choice and short answer questions that cover all material from lectures, tutorials and readings. Short answer questions require 3–4 sentences of historical information (and not vague answers) to earn full marks.

### Submission and return of work

#### Submission

All assignments are due before 5:00pm on the due date.

Submit essays in hard copy through the History office essay drop-off point, Old Kirk Room 405, together with a completed cover sheet available on Blackboard or from the office.

We reserve the right to ask for an electronic copy of any assessable work for checking in Turnitin.com (see [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin))

#### Return

When marked, HIST 232 assignments will be returned to you in tutorials or lectures. Afterward, marked essays will be available from the History Office, Old Kirk 405, between 1.00 and 2.00 pm. Students must show their Student ID card before collection in the History Office.

### Extensions and penalties

#### Extensions

The development of work discipline and time management skills are an important part of the education process and it is expected that each student takes responsibility for allocating sufficient time for their studies.

The course coordinator may grant extensions if exceptional and unforeseen circumstances arise, for example, illness or a family emergency. **You must inform the course coordinator as soon as a problem emerges, complete a Request for an Extension form (available in the History office Old Kirk 405), and agree to a new due date.** For instances of illnesses, presentation of a medical certificate will be necessary, and the medical practitioner should note the number of days the illness has prevented students from undertaking any university work.

#### Penalties

Students will be penalised for late submission of assignments – **a deduction of 5% for the first weekday late, and 2% per weekday thereafter, up to a maximum of 10 weekdays.** Work that is more than 10 weekdays may not be marked.

### Materials and equipment and/or additional expenses

None

## Practicum/placement/field trip/internship arrangements

None

## Set texts

A book of readings for HIST 232 will be available from Vic Books. Please see their website: [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) for details on buying Books of Readings. We will advise enrolled students via Blackboard when the Book of Readings are available to purchase.

## Recommended reading

William D. Phillips, Jr. and Carla Rahn Phillips, *The Worlds of Christopher Columbus* (New York, Cambridge University Press, 1992), 322pp, six copies of which are available on Closed Research at the Victoria University Library.

## Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may want to write the Class Rep's name and details:

Class Rep name and contact details:
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## Student feedback

HIST 232 now includes one additional primary-source-based tutorial, as recommended by students in 2012. Student feedback on University courses may be found at [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php).

## Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades)
- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract)
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- Victoria graduate profile: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)