TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI
VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

HISTORY PROGRAMME

HIST 318: SPECIAL TOPIC: EARLY MODERN SCIENCE: POSSESSING NATURE'S SECRETS

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. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Lectures:	Wednesdays 11:00-11:50
Venue:	HULT 119
Tutorials:	Wednesdays 13:10-15:00 in MY631
	Wednesdays 16.10-18:00 in MY105

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator:	Dr Catherine Abou-Nemeh
Room No:	OK 423
Phone:	463 9497
Email:	catherine.abou-nemeh@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours:	Thursdays 11:00-12:00 and by appointment

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 course Blackboard site.

Prescription

Students in this course will research and examine the various intellectual and empirical traditions that shaped how people gathered knowledge about nature and the cosmos in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, a period that saw the birth of modern science in Europe.

Course content

A hard copy of the detailed course outline, complete with assignment descriptions, due dates, and information about lectures and tutorials, will be distributed by the course coordinator on the first day of class. An electronic copy of the same course outline will be made available on Blackboard before the first day of the course.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. critically analyse and evaluate primary sources within the historical context in which they were produced;
2. integrate historical research of primary and secondary sources in clear writing;
3. understand and connect key developments in the history of early modern science;
4. discuss and critique primary and secondary sources in seminars.

Teaching format

HIST 318 is taught in one lecture per week and a two-hour seminar discussion per week. Lectures provide contextual background for the weekly themes and lay the basis for tutorial discussions. Tutorial discussions of the reading materials reinforce and deepen historical themes and questions raised in lecture. Students are expected to attend lectures and seminars regularly, take part in class discussion, and keep up with the readings and assignments.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1. complete the (1) primary source analysis, (2) longer research essay, and (3) in-class test specified for HIST 318 and submit them on or by the due dates or within the History Programme's schedule of extensions and penalties;
2. attend at least 7 of 9 seminar discussions convened from Week 2 to Week 11.

Workload

In accordance with University Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote approximately 200 hours to the course throughout the trimester. This includes weekly attendance in lecture and seminars, completion of all set weekly readings, and research and writing for set assessment tasks. On average, this equates to about 14 hours per week across the trimester (including the mid-trimester break). This total includes the following:

Preparation and attendance at 11 lectures and 10 seminars	31 hours
Completion of seminar readings and preparation	50 hours
Primary source analysis: 1,250 words	35 hours
Research essay: 3,500 words	60 hours
In-class test	24 hours

(Total: 200 hours)

Please note: In this course, students will work with primary documents that may be unfamiliar in format, sometimes of a technical nature or difficult to read, and may require extra time to interpret, contextualise and annotate. Accordingly, reading and researching for assignments may take up more of your workload 'budget' in this course. The weighting of primary source and research assignments reflects this extra workload.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Primary source analysis, 1,250 words	30%	1, 2, 3,4	30/3/15
2	Research essay, 3,500 words	45%	1, 2, 3,4	11/5/15
3	In-class test (duration: 50 min.)	25%	1, 2, 3,4	3/6/15

Marking criteria

For essay marking criteria, please refer to the Course Learning Objectives listed above, the detailed course outline posted on Blackboard (and/or received in hard copy in class), and the latest guidelines on writing essays from the History Programme: www.victoria.ac.nz/hppi/publications/writing_history_essays_july_2011.pdf

The in-class test assesses students' knowledge of and ability to synthesise major historical themes and developments in early modern science, examined in the lectures and in tutorial discussions of the reading assignments, over the course of the whole trimester.

Submission and return of work

Essays should be submitted in HARD COPY at the History Office in the slots, Old Kirk Room 405, together with a completed cover sheet, which is available on Blackboard and/or from the office. You must ADD the name of your tutor and the course code. 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).

Graded essays and tests will be returned to you in tutorials in the first instance. If students fail to attend these times, they may collect their essay from the Office, Old Kirk Room 405 between the hours of 1.00 and 2.00 pm, from Monday to Friday, and must show their Student ID card before collection. We will notify students via Blackboard when graded essays are available (generally between 2-3 weeks after the date submitted).

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Extensions may only 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 course coordinator/tutor as soon as a problem emerges. Extension forms are available from the History Programme office.

Penalties

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 10 working days. After 10 days, work can be accepted for mandatory course requirements but will not be marked. Students should ensure that the length of each assignment they submit complies with the word limit for that assignment (max. 1,250 words for the first assignment; max. 3,500 words for the second assignment). The word limit does **not** include footnotes or endnotes, appendixes, or images cited in the assignments. Any images discussed in research essays that are central to your historical analysis must be printed and included with your submitted work.

Set texts

Students should purchase a Book of Readings for this course. It contains key primary and secondary texts in the history of early modern science. See www.vicbooks.co.nz for details on buying Books of Readings.

Recommended reading

Primary sources

Malcolm Oster (ed.), *Science in Europe, 1500-1800: A primary source reader* (Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire; New York: Palgrave, 2002)

Peter Elmer and Ole Peter Grell (eds.), Health, disease and society in Europe, 1500-1800: A source book (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2004)

Edward Grant, *A source book in medieval science* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1974).

Secondary sources

Katharine Park and Lorraine Daston (eds.), *Cambridge history of science: Early modern science*, vol. 3 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008)

R. C. Olby, G. N. Cantor, J. R. R. Christie and M. J. S. Hodge (eds.), *Companion to the history of modern science* (London and New York: Routledge, 1990).

David C. Lindberg, *The beginnings of Western science* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992).

Edward Grant, *The foundations of modern science in the Middle Ages: Their religious, institutional, and intellectual contexts* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996).

Peter Dear, *Revolutionizing the sciences* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2001).

Steven Shapin, *The Scientific Revolution* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996).

David C. Lindberg and Robert S. Westman (eds.), *Reappraisals of the scientific revolution* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990).

Pamela O. Long, *Artisan/Practitioners and the rise of the new sciences, 1400-1600* (Corvallis, OR: Oregon State University Press, 2011).

Lawrence I. Conrad, et al. (eds.), *The Western medical tradition, 800 BC to AD 1800* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995).

Stephen Pumfrey, Paolo L. Rossi and Maurice Slawinski (eds.), *Science, culture, and popular belief in Renaissance Europe* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1991).

David C. Lindberg and Ronald L. Numbers (eds.), *God and Nature: Historical essays on the encounter between Christianity and science* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1986).

Daniela Bleichmar and Peter C. Mancall (eds.), *Collecting across Cultures: Material exchange in the early modern Atlantic world* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011).

Anthony Grafton, *New Worlds, Ancient Texts: The power of tradition and the shock of discovery* (Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1995).

Pamela H. Smith and Paula Findlen (eds.), *Merchants and marvels: Commerce, science, and art in early modern Europe* (New York: Routledge, 2002).

Lisa Jardine, *Ingenious pursuits: Building the scientific revolution* (London: Abacus, 1999).

David Gooding, Trevor Pinch, and Simon Schaffer (eds.), *The uses of experiment: Studies in the natural sciences* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989).

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 like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

HIST 318: Special Topic: Early Modern Science: Possessing Nature's Secrets is being taught for the second time this trimester. Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the first lecture on 4 March 2015.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at 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
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progess (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: 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
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz