



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

HISTORY PROGRAMME

HIST 419: A TOPIC IN HISTORIOGRAPHY AND HISTORICAL METHOD 1: HISTORY AND THEORY

30 points

TRIMESTER 1 AND 2 2015

Important dates

Trimester dates: 2 March to 15 November 2015
Teaching dates: 2 March to 16 October 2015
Easter/Mid-trimester break: 3–19 April 2015
Mid-year break: 2–12 July 2015
Mid-trimester break 2/3: 24 August to 6 September 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

Seminar time: Thursdays, 2:10-4.00 p.m.
Old Kirk 406

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Associate Professor Anna Green
Room No: 101, The Stout Centre, 14 Waiteata Road
Phone: (04) 463 6885
Email: anna.green@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Wednesday, 2 - 4 p.m. or 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

This is a historiographical and theoretical course. This means that we will examine both the philosophical bases for understanding the past and the ways in which history has been (and currently is) practised.

Course content

The word history carries two meanings: it refers to what has actually happened in the past, and to the representation of the past through the work of historians. This course is an engagement with history in terms of the latter definition, and is designed to strengthen your grasp and understanding of history and its different methodologies and theoretical bases. We will also consider new and exciting developments in studying recent challenges to Western historiography and 'alternative' ways of knowing and remembering the past.

Specifically, we will explore the following questions:

- What is the goal of historical research and writing?
- Should historians be reflexive and consider their own cultural subjectivity or habitus?
- Are there multiple temporal frameworks through which we can approach the past?
- What have historians identified as the agents or drivers of change in the past?
- In what ways do historians approach the mentalités or subjectivities of those they study?
- And finally, what are the implications of different ways of communicating historical information?

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. understand specific key concepts and theories drawn from the Humanities and Social Sciences
2. explain the relationship between research questions and conceptual tools
3. identify the advantages and disadvantages of different analytical and interpretive approaches
4. apply this knowledge to specific works of history or historiographies
5. construct and defend a clear and substantiated argument in both oral and written forms.

Teaching format

This course will be taught in two-hour seminars held fortnightly, a total of thirteen seminars over the 24-week teaching period.

Honours courses are not lecture courses in which students are presented with information that has been collected, organised and interpreted by the lecturer. At Honours level, these tasks are required of the students, who are expected to prepare seminar discussions on a specified topic. With the seminar format, the course convenor will act as a moderator, who will select the main topics for investigation, but expects the students to carry the bulk of the discussion, whether by presenting papers to the class, by commenting on those papers, or by presenting their own views on a particular topic.

Your preparation for each seminar is expected to be of a consistent level throughout the year, irrespective of the proximity of essay deadlines. The important point to remember is that seminars are not lectures and should not be treated as a substitute for your own independent course of reading.

The seminars will comprise a two-hour meeting on a specific topic, and written guidelines for each seminar will be provided at the beginning of the course. Readings for each meeting will be drawn

from book chapters on Blackboard or articles from journals available on online. All students are expected to read the material and come to the class prepared to make a contribution to the discussion.

There is no assessed group work in this course, although students will be asked to work together in the context of specific seminar tasks.

Mandatory course requirements

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

1. submit the work specified for this course (three essays and one annotated bibliography) on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work); AND
2. attend at least 75% of the scheduled seminars. Extra absences will result in a student failing mandatory course requirements, except in cases of exceptional circumstance. An example of an exceptional circumstance would be SERIOUS illness supported by a letter from a medical practitioner. 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 for any reason you are unable to attend seminars or to complete work on time, you must discuss this with the course convenor well before the due date.

Workload

In accordance with University Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 300 hours to HIST 419, approximately 13 hours a week across the year. This total includes the following:

- 27 hours for fortnightly seminars and meeting with course tutor;
- 4 hours a week (or 8 hours a fortnight) reading, taking notes, and preparation for the fortnightly seminars, and
- 177 hours divided between three assignments, allocated proportionately to the grade percentage, e.g. around 70 hours for the final essay, which is worth 40% of the total grade.

Assessment

This is an internally assessed course and every student will be expected to complete four assignments, as follows:

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1 Essay, 1,500 words	20%	1, 2, 5	1 May, 12 noon
2 Essay, 2,000 words	25%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	31 July, 12 noon
3 Annotated Bibliography, 1,000 words	15%	1, 3, 4	18 September, 12 noon
4 Essay, 4,000 words	40%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	16 October, 12 noon

Marking criteria

The marking criteria for each assignment will be specified as part of the detailed instructions for each assignment posted on Blackboard.

Submission and return of work

All assignments are due before 12 noon on the due date.

All work submitted for assessment must be dropped off in **HARD COPY** at the History Office, Old Kirk room 405, in the slots provided, and with an essay cover sheet. You must **ADD** the name of your tutor and the course code. You will also be asked to send an **ELECTRONIC COPY** of the essay, attached to an email, to the course tutor.

Graded essays will be returned through the History Office, OK 405, where they can be collected between the hours of 1.00-2.00 pm, Monday to Friday. Students will be notified via Blackboard when graded essays are available (generally between 2-3 weeks after the date submitted).

Please remember to keep a back up and/or hard copy of all your assignments.

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

Honours students are expected to manage their workloads sufficiently to submit assignments on time. If you have any problems please see your course coordinator, the Honours Coordinator, or the Head of Programme, as soon as possible.

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.

Materials and equipment and/or additional expenses

There is an Honours Lab, Old Kirk room 401, which contains a small number of desks and computers. However, the number of students enrolled in the Honours programme exceeds the capacity of this room, and therefore it is strongly advised that students acquire their own laptop.

Set Text

There is no set text for this course. A full reading list, and copies of required readings, will be provided on Blackboard.

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

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be discussed at the beginning of the course.

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-progress (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