



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

HISTORY PROGRAMME

HIST 215: Creating the United States, 1776-1890 20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2015

Important dates

Trimester dates: 13 July to 15 November 2015

Teaching dates: 13 July to 16 October 2015

Mid-trimester break: 24 August to 6 September 2015

Last assessment item due: 27 October 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: Tuesdays and Fridays, 2:10 to 3:00 pm

Venue: Murphy Building (MY)LT220

Tutorials: TBC

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Associate Professor Dolores Janiewski

Room No: OK 415

Phone: 463 6752

Email: Dolores.Janiewski@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: TBA

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 course examines the early history of the USA as it expanded across the North American continent, became an industrial power, emancipated slaves, and dispossessed native peoples. It looks at the effects of the United States' origins in an age of popular literacy as shaping a distinctive cultural, social and political system.

Course content

This course examines the early history of the USA as it expanded across the North American continent, became an industrial power, emancipated slaves and dispossessed native peoples to arrive on the verge of global power as its frontier expansion came to an end in 1890. It looks at the effects of the United States' origins in the age of popular literacy. One major theme will cover the way media, including documentaries, help to produce and shape American identity. Students will undertake research projects utilising the visual, printed and virtual primary sources available to document the history of the United States in the period covered by the course.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students passing the course will be able to:

1. analyse visual, newspaper and documents available in virtual archives such as Proquest Historical newspapers, JStor and Project Muse.
2. more confidently analyse primary (original) sources, secondary sources (scholarly interpretations based upon the analysis of primary sources), and distinguish these from each other and from tertiary (historiographical analysis/synthesis such as textbooks).
3. discuss the specific historical development of the United States of America between 1776 and 1890, as well as questions of evidence and historical issues in small groups;
4. develop a research topic and write both a historiographical essay and a research essay.

HIST 215 contributes to the development of **Graduate Attributes in History**:

History graduates will be able to:

- 1) read with accuracy and discrimination
- 2) distinguish fact from opinion
- 3) weigh up evidence
- 4) come to terms with conflicting or different arguments
- 5) formulate arguments convincingly and concisely
- 6) write in a clear, logical and lively way
- 7) present an oral argument with lucidity and conviction
- 8) use information resources efficiently and constructively
- 9) understand the nature and development of history as a discipline

Teaching format

HIST 215 is delivered through two 50-minute lectures each week and one small group session per week beginning in week 2.

Mandatory course requirements

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

- 1) Participate in at least 6 out of 11 Virtual Discussions of the Lectures and Tutorial questions using the Discussion Board in the HIST215 Website in the Groups section in order to develop your knowledge of US history and historiography and prepare for the tests (CLOs 2, 4 & 5);
- 2) Attend 8 out of 11 small group discussions including the completion of assigned tasks and the bringing of assigned work to the specific tutorial as outlined in the tutorial schedule in order to learn the necessary skills for interpreting historical evidence, historiography, and writing historiographical and research essays.(CLOs 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5)
- 3) Obtain at least 40% in each piece of assessment worth more than 20% in order to demonstrate achievement of all CLOs in the course.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

Workload

In accordance with University Guidelines, this course has been designed on the assumption that students will devote approximately 200 hours to it throughout the trimester. This is an average of 14 hours per week across the 14 weeks of the trimester (inclusive of the mid-trimester break). This includes attendance at 24 lectures. The remainder of your time will need to be shared between small group preparation and making progress on assignments.

Some things to consider when planning your time:

- HIST 215 involves careful reading of set texts for meaning and argument, as well as note-taking and preparation of responses to discussion questions. As you become more skilled throughout the trimester this may take fewer hours each week, but in the first instance allow one hour per reading.
- Written assignments require substantial preparation time for locating, retrieving and reading a range of sources. Note-taking, planning, drafting, proof-reading and editing the draft will all be necessary before writing up a final version.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1 Historiographical analysis 1000 words	20%	2	Monday 10 August
2 Mid-trimester test, 50 minutes	25%	2, 3	Friday 21 August
3 Research essay (3,000 words)	30%	1, 2, 3, 4	Tuesday 27 October
4 End of trimester test	25%	2, 3	Friday 16 October

Marking criteria and grading schemes are available along with full details of assessment on Blackboard.

Submission and return of work

Essays should be submitted in hard copy through the History office essay drop-off point, Old Kirk Room 405, together with completed cover sheet which is available from the office. All assignments are due by **noon** on the due date.

When marked, assignments will be returned to you in tutorials. Marked essays and tests will be available from the History Office, OK 405, between 1.00-2.00 pm.

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 as soon as a problem emerges. Extension forms are available from the History Programme office, or electronically via the course Blackboard site.

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.

Set texts

All students must have a 2015 edition of the HIST 215 Book of Readings. The Book of Readings will be available from Vicbooks before the beginning of the trimester. See www.vicbooks.co.nz.

Note: Seminar readings that are available electronically have not been included in the Book of Readings but are available via links on the course Blackboard site.

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 to this course include the use of digital resources and digital communication via Blackboard.

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: 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