



## FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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

#### HISTORY PROGRAMME

#### **HIST 331: THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE 20 POINTS**

#### TRIMESTER 2 2015

### Important dates

**Trimester dates:** 13 July–15 November 2015  
**Teaching dates:** 13 July–16 October 2015  
**Mid-trimester break:** 24 August–6 September 2015  
**Last assessment item due:** In-class test, Friday 16 October 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:** Fridays, 3:10–4:00 pm  
**Venue:** Hugh Mackenzie Lecture Theatre 104

### Seminars

Two-hour seminars begin Week 2. Please see the Academic Timetable 2015 [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/timetables](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/timetables)

### Names and contact details

**Course Coordinator:** Steve Behrendt  
**Room No:** Old Kirk 504  
**Phone:** 463 6757  
**Email:** [steve.behrendt@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:steve.behrendt@vuw.ac.nz)  
**Office hours:** Wednesday, 3:10-4:00 pm 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

The history of the transatlantic slave trade, 1519–1867, and its impact on Europe, Africa and the Americas. Seminars discuss slavery in the early modern world, the commercial organisation of the slave trade, shipboard disease and mortality, the development of the plantation complex in the Atlantic islands and Americas, and abolition and slave emancipation.

## Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

- 1) recognise major terms, concepts and themes in slave trade studies;
- 2) interpret documents in their historic and historiographical context;
- 3) demonstrate concise essay writing, which includes the ability to paraphrase secondary source information and differentiate between proper paraphrasing and unacceptable plagiarism;
- 4) demonstrate research skills, including skills in evaluating history-content websites;
- 5) implement research skills in a formal academic essay;
- 6) demonstrate presentation skills orally and visually via PowerPoint.

## Teaching format

HIST 331 is taught in one 50-minute lecture per week and one two-hour seminar per week.

## Workload

HIST 331 assumes that students will devote 200 hours to the course throughout the trimester. The 200-hour total includes attendance at lectures and seminars. Share the remainder of your time between lecture and seminar preparation, studying for the two tests and making progress on your research essay.

To consider when planning your time:

- Lecture and seminar preparation requires careful reading of set texts, note-taking and preparation of responses to discussion questions. Budget one hour per reading.
- Essays require extensive research to locate relevant sources. Note-taking, planning, drafting and editing the draft are necessary before writing and submitting your final version.

## Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLOs	Due date	
1	1,250-word essay section and bibliography	10%	1–5	Friday 31 July (Week 3)
2	12–15 minute PowerPoint seminar presentation on your research essay topic	10%	6	Weeks 4, 5, 7
3	50-minute test	20%	1, 2	Friday 21 August (Week 6)
4	4,000-word research essay	40%	1–5	Tuesday 15 Sept (Week 8)
5	50-minute test	20%	1, 2	Friday 16 October (Week 12)

## Marking criteria

Tests 1 and 2 contain multiple-choice and short-answer questions that cover material from lectures, and lecture/seminar readings in Weeks 1–6 (Test 1) and 7–12 (Test 2). Short answers require 3–4 sentences of historical information (and not vague answers) to earn full marks.

The 1,250-word essay section and bibliography require: 5 draft paragraphs on any aspect of your research essay topic (1,000 words); an A-Z bibliography listing **ten** sources referenced in your five paragraphs (250 words). Marking criteria: 1) paraphrasing in own words; 2) writing clarity and concision; 3) well-structured paragraphs; 4) your ability to format your bibliography following standard History conventions.

The 12–15 minute research essay presentation should summarise, using **eight** PowerPoint slides, historical and historiographical themes and sources you have identified. Marking criteria: 1) the quality of your preliminary research; 2) historical and historiographical content; 3) your ability to present information effectively in eight slides. A model eight-slide PowerPoint presentation is on Blackboard.

The research essay requires: 1) paraphrasing in own words; 2) a formal argument supported by historical evidence; 3) writing clarity and concision; 4) well-structured paragraphs and sections; 5) sufficient research to support 4,000 words (without reference material).

## 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 sheets available on Blackboard or from the office. We reserve the right to ask for an electronic copy of any essays 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)).

When marked, assignments will be returned to you first in lectures or seminars. Afterward, marked essays and tests will be available from the History Office, Old Kirk 405, between 1.00 and 2.00 pm, Monday–Friday.

When marked essays are available, students will be notified via Blackboard or email.

## Extensions and penalties

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 doctor should note the number of days the illness has prevented students from undertaking any university work.

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 late may not be marked.

## Set texts

HIST 331 Book of Readings, available at Vic Books.

See [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) for details on buying Books of Readings.

## Recommended reading

None

## 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 and details placed on Blackboard.

Class Rep name and contact details:
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## Student feedback from HIST 331 Transatlantic Slave Trade (2014)

Sample size: 49/76 students

	5	6	7	8	9	10	11 (seminars)
Optimal number of 2-hour seminars:	1	2	4	<b>22</b>	4	11	5

Mandatory seminar attendance? Yes = 18; No = **31**

12–15 minute seminar presentations? Yes = **44**; No = 5

Seminar presentations: Marked = 14 students favoured; unmarked = 6 students favoured

Essays: One 5,000-word essay = 9 students favoured. Most students favoured: the essay being due after Week 9; and/or 1-2 essays with shorter word counts; and/or one essay of 4,000 words.

Examination instead of tests? Yes = 10; No = 32

Given that the majority of students prefer an internally assessed course (no examination), and because we must have 70% of the course assessed by Week 9, it is not possible to set the major essay due date in Weeks 10–12.

Based on the feedback above, in 2015 HIST 331 will: convene eight two-hour seminars; not make seminar attendance mandatory; will again include seminar presentations, but in 2015 they will be marked and will be on your research essay topic; will reduce the word-count for the major essay from 5,000 to 4,000 words.

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: [library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian](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)