



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 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 29 February to 29 June 2016

Teaching dates: 29 February to 5 June 2016

Easter break: 24–30 March 2016

Mid-trimester break: 25 April to 1 May 2016

Study period: 6–9 June 2016

Examination/Assessment Period: 10–29 June 2016

Note: students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

Class times and locations

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Lectures: Tuesday, 2:10-4:00pm

Venue: Hugh Mackenzie (HM) Lecture Theatre (LT) 002

Tutorials: Eight 50-minute tutorials will be held Tuesday afternoon (4:10-5:00; 5:10-6:00) and Thursday afternoon (2:10-3:00) beginning the second week of term.

Tutorials

Please see the Academic Timetable 2016 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
Office hours: Thursday 3:10-4:00

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 writing, 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 (eight tutorials over the twelve-week trimester). 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.

Workload

In accordance with Faculty 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, 29 February–3 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).

To consider when planning your time:

- Tutorial preparation requires careful reading of set texts for meaning and argument, as well as note-taking and preparation of responses to discussion questions. ‘Budget’ for at least one hour per reading, including additional internet research to help understand the historic and/or historiographical context of readings.
- Essays and other written assignments require time to locate, retrieve and read a range of sources. Note-taking, planning, drafting and editing the draft are necessary before writing a final version. Begin assignments early.
- Revision and preparation should reflect that the in-class test is worth 25% of your course mark.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	1,250-word skills essay	25%	2, 3, 5	Fri 1 April
2	2,500-word research essay	50%	2, 4, 5	Thu 12 May
3	In-class test (100 minutes, during lecture time, 2:10-4:00)	25%	1	Tue 31 May

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

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 completed cover and marking sheets, which will be distributed in class and are available on Blackboard. 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).

Essays will be returned at class times to be advised, generally within two weeks of essay submission. If students do not attend these times, they may collect their essay from the History

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.

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 doctor 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 late will be marked at the discretion of the course coordinator.

Set texts

A book of readings for HIST 232 will be available from Vic Books. Please see their website: 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 in The Glass Room, Level 2 (Closed Reserve) at the VUW 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.

Student feedback

As recommended by students: HIST 232 now includes one additional primary-source-based tutorial; lectures on academic research/writing occur two weeks earlier. 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
- 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

- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf
- 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
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- 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