READ: Rules, Regs and Policies

HISTORY 60

Scientific Vocabulary and the Roots of the European Scientific Tradition

Course Description

In this class, students will learn principles that will help them to make sense of Greco-Latin scientific and technical vocabulary; as the straightforward meaning of this terminology becomes transparent, they will find it easier to remember definitions, assimilate new vocabulary and construe meanings of new words when they encounter them. The class will also introduce students to Greco-Roman natural philosophy and its general cultural context, and explain the historical relationship of that tradition to the emergence of modern European experimental science and technology and its language. Thus, the course aims to provide students with both tools and context to understand the historical roots of modern science and its language.

Course Requirements

Course work is organized by module, and we will be completing two modules per week; you are required to complete the assignments in order, and to finish one module before going on to the next one (with the exception of the final project module...more on this later).

We will evaluate student mastery of the vocabulary component of the course on the basis of successful and incremental completion of online exercises and quizzes. Students may repeat these quizzes until the material is mastered, and only their highest grade will be entered in the Canvas gradebook. Exercises are numerous, and quizzes are generated randomly from a bank of questions, so that they vary when repeated.

For the historical component of the course, students are required each week to read a series of "Overviews" written by the instructors of the course, and one more in-depth scholarly essay each week. Mastery of these readings is tested by completion of a series of online quizzes intended to guide students through the reading; these quizzes may be repeated once, and the higher score will be recorded in the Canvas gradebook. Note that when a question asks for a written response, you are expected to respond *in your own words*.

Participation in small online discussion groups is mandatory; each week students are required to post at least one response to the week's topic (usually a reading or video segment followed by a question for discussion) and to respond thoughtfully to at least one other student's contribution. If an instructor or TA poses a question in response to your post, you are expected to respond!

Student mastery of the history of science element of the course is also assessed by the quality of students' participation in a peer- and instructor-reviewed writing assignment: a short essay that asks them to discuss a topic related to the readings for the course. The Canvas LMS assigns peer groups after the first draft of the essay is due, and students comment on their group members' submissions, and then reevaluate their own, according to a rubric created by the instructors and posted with the original assignment. Students then resubmit a final draft of their own essay. Students' work in both the writing assignment and the peer-review process will then be assessed by the instructors or TAs.

Finally, there is a group project which requires students to analyze a piece of scientific or technical writing or to read and analyze their peers' contributions to one of our weekly discussion topics. Signup for this group project begins between modules 6 and 7, and the final project is due at the end of the quarter.

Grades and Due Dates

Assignments will be weighted as follows to determine the final grade:

Repeatable vocabulary exercises	20%
Non-repeatable quizzes on overviews and scholarly essays	20%
Weekly writing assignments	20%
Participation in discussion groups	20%
Final written project	20%

All assignments have a posted due date. In general:

- odd-numbered modules open Saturdays at 12:00 midnight and work is due the next Thursday at 8 a.m.
- even-numbered modules open Wednesdays at 12:00 midnight; and work is due the next Sunday at 11:59 p.m.

Work on the final project (which is housed in its own module between modules 6 and 7) begins after module 6; you will sign up for your final project group by Thursday, August 24 at 8 a.m. and your group's work is due on September 1 at 11:59 p.m., when the course closes.

Summer-session courses are fast-paced, and you need to keep up. Any late work will be accepted at the instructors' discretion. If the instructors accept your late work, 10% will be deducted from the grade of anything that is a week late, and 20% from anything that is more than a week late. If an emergency will cause your work to be late, please contact the instructors before the due date.

An Important Note on Grades

When you look at your grades, you will notice a little checkbox marked "Calculate based only on graded assignments." When this box is checked, the grade you see will be calculated on the basis of only the assignments (quizzes, discussions, projects, etc.) which you have already submitted and we have graded. Uncheck this box, and the grade you see will be calculated on the basis of **all** the assignments due over the course of the quarter...even the ones that aren't due yet. Naturally, at the beginning of the term, unchecking this box will show that you are failing, because there's a lot of stuff you haven't done yet! But remember that at the end of the term, any required work that you have not submitted **will** count against you. See the example below:

Print grades

Due	Score	Out of
Apr 10 by 8am	20	20
Apr 10 by 8am	15.75	16
Apr 10 by 8am	18.17	19
Apr 10 by 11:59pm	6	6
Apr 17 by 8am	17	20
Apr 17 by 8am	11.7	13
Apr 17 by 8am	16.2	18
Apr 17 by 8am	3.6	4

Total: 89.83%

Show All Details

Assignments are weighted by group:

Group	Weight
Discussions	10%
Assignments	0%
Reading Quizzes	20%
Vocabulary Quizzes	30%
Readings	0%
Writing Assignments	20%
Final Project	20%
Total	100%

☑ Calculate based only on graded assignments

Office Hours

All instructors and TAs will hold regular live online office hours using Zoom, the UC-sanctioned teleconferencing tool. Office hours are posted at the beginning of each week, and you can join by clicking the "Office Hours" link in the menu at the left during the scheduled office hours.