

READ: Rules, Regs and Policies

HISTORY 60

Course Description

In this class, you will learn principles that will help you to make sense of Greco-Latin scientific, medical, and technical vocabulary; as the straightforward meaning of this terminology becomes transparent, you will find it easier to remember definitions, assimilate new vocabulary and construe meanings of new words when you encounter them. The class will also introduce you 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 you 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 one module 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 your mastery of the vocabulary component of the course on the basis of successful and incremental completion of online exercises and quizzes. You may repeat these quizzes until the material is mastered, and only your 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, you 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 you 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 the online discussion groups is mandatory; each week you 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 two other students' contributions. If an instructor or TA poses a question in response to your post, you are expected to respond!

Your mastery of the history of science element of the course is also assessed by the quality of your participation in a peer- and instructor-reviewed writing assignment: a short essay that asks you 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 then you will comment on your group members' submissions, and then reevaluate your own, according to a rubric created by the instructors and posted with the original assignment. You can then resubmit a final draft of your own essay. Your 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 you to analyze a piece of scientific or technical writing or to read and analyze your 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 your final grade:

Repeatable vocabulary exercises	20%
Quizzes on overviews and scholarly essays	20%
Peer-reviewed writing assignment	20%
Participation in discussion groups	20%
Final written project	20%

All assignments have a posted due date. PLEASE NOTE THESE AS YOU BEGIN WORKING ON EACH MODULE!

In general:

- The first module opens on Monday, April 2 at midnight.
- Modules 2-9 open on Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m.
- Assignments for modules 1-9 are due to be finished eight days after each module opens, on **Mondays at 8 am**. So there's a little overlap between when the work is due for one module and when

the next opens.

- Work for module 10 is due on the last day of class, **Friday, June 8 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 **Monday, May 21 at 8 a.m.** and your group's work is due on **Wednesday, June 13 at 7:30 p.m.**, when the course closes.

The course is fast-paced, and you need to be sure to keep up. Any late work will be accepted at the instructors' discretion. Late submissions will be penalized 5% per day or part thereof (up to a maximum penalty of 25%). If an emergency will cause your work to be late, please contact an instructor before the due date.

An Important Note on Grades

We do not grade on a curve. We hope that all of you achieve As in the course; and if you do, we will have no hesitation in giving all As. This is a course in which every one of you should be able, if you put in the work, to achieve an A; and if you do, we will be thrilled. We are mainly interested that you master the material, not in making grades correspond to a bell curve.

Calculation of final grades for the class follows the traditional scales: a final score of 80-82 is an B-, 83-86 is a B, 87-89 is a B+; and so on. We do round marginal scores: so for example 82.5 counts as an 83; 82.499999... counts as an 82. A few of you will inevitably fall on the lines, or very close to them; please keep in mind that we have to draw lines in order to give grades, and moving the line simply creates another division further down (or up) the scale.

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:



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 

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	● ✓

Lateness :(

Please note that while we try to accommodate special circumstances and late submissions in various ways, slack evaporates at the end of the term. You should note carefully the due dates of the later assignments. In particular, note that

- Work in module 10 is due on the last day of class, which is a Friday. You will not have the weekend to do the work, as you do for the other modules.
- The Final Project is due on the day of the class final (for the purposes of this online course, that date corresponds to the registrar's notation of the time for an "irregular class")
- **All** work for the class **must** be completed by the due date of the Final Project. We are UNABLE to give exceptions, no matter the reason, because the registrar closes access to the course at that time.

Office Hours

We 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.