

# HPSCM007 Advanced Topics in History of Science (Masters Level)

## Course Syllabus

2011-12 session | Dr Andrew Gregory | [andrew.gregory@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.gregory@ucl.ac.uk)

### Course Information

This course examines topics in the history of science in depth, with special emphasis on evaluation of primary documents and larger interpretative contexts. Attention also is given to methodological issues and current trends in the field.

Explores the changing relationship between astrology, alchemy, magic and science from the ancient Greeks to the present day. Topics include: magic and science in the ancient world, Christian attitudes to magic and witchcraft, the origins and development of astrology and alchemy, the anthropology of magic, magical world views.

### Basic course information

Course website:	See Moodle site
Moodle Web site:	<a href="http://moodle.ucl.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=816">http://moodle.ucl.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=816</a>
Assessment:	One 3,000 word essay = 50%, one three hour exam = 50%
Timetable:	<a href="http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/hpsc">www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/hpsc</a>
Prerequisites:	None
Required texts:	None
Course tutor:	Dr. Andrew Gregory
Contact:	<a href="mailto:ucrhadg@ucl.ac.uk">ucrhadg@ucl.ac.uk</a>   t: 020 7679 2490
Web:	<a href="http://www.ucl.ac.uk/silva/sts/staff/gregory">www.ucl.ac.uk/silva/sts/staff/gregory</a>
Office location:	22 Gordon Square, Room 2.1
Office hours:	Thursdays, 11-1

## Schedule

UCL Week	Topic	Date	Activity
20	No lecture	13/01/12	
21	<b>1 – Introduction: Science and the Nature of the Natural.</b>	20/01/12]	Lecture reading, see Moodle site
22	<b>2 - Magic, Science and Rationality in the Ancient World.</b>	27/01/12	Lecture reading, see Moodle site
23	<b>3 - Ancient Astrology and Ancient Alchemy.</b>	03/02/12	Lecture reading, see Moodle site
24	<b>4 - Anthropological and Religious Approaches to Magic and Science.</b>	10/02/12	Lecture reading, see Moodle site
25	<b>Reading Week</b>		
26	<b>5 - Kepler: A New Astrology and Cosmology</b>	24/02/12	Lecture reading, see Moodle site
27	<b>6 - The Renaissance Natural Magic Tradition.</b>	02/03/12	Lecture reading, see Moodle site
28	<b>7 – The Witch Hunt.</b>	09/02/12	Lecture reading, see Moodle site
29	<b>8 – Mages and Practices: Paracelsus, Bruno, Dee, Lull.</b>	16/02/12	Lecture reading, see Moodle site
30	<b>9 – Hermeticism, Magic and the Scientific Revolution: The Hidden Newton</b>	23/02/12	Lecture reading, see Moodle site

## Assessments

### Summary

	Description	Deadline	Word limit
Essay	One essay, title chosen from essay list	23.59 pm Fri 23rd March	3,000

### Assignments

Essays must be submitted via Moodle

In order to be deemed 'complete' on this module students must attempt both the essay and the exam

### Criteria for assessment

The departmental marking guidelines for individual items of assessment can be found in the STS Student Handbook.

## Aims & objectives

The most general aim of this course is to chart the relationship between science and magic from the beginnings of science up to the enlightenment. This involves examining a number of topics, both historically and as they arise now, notably;

- Scientific and magical views of the nature of the universe.
- The nature of rationality and its relation to science and to magic.
- How science can be demarcated from non-science.
- Science-like activities outside of the Western tradition.

Ultimately this course aims at producing a better and more sophisticated understanding of;

- The history of science, and the changing relationship between magic and science.
- What science is now, and what it considers the nature of the universe to be.
- Of what alchemy, astrology and magic are and what their influence on science has been.
- The current debates between science and mysticism.
- The status of science relative to other activities.

## Reading list

Please see the Moodle site for the reading list, which has many links to on-line readings.

## Course expectations

Students are expected to attend lectures.

Students are expected to read the lecture readings on Moodle.

Students are expected to use the Moodle site.

Students are expected to do the essay.

Students are expected to sit the exam.

Students are expected to attend the tutorial and discuss the lecture readings.

## Additional information

## Important policy information

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Below are listed some important points of policy. Further details of all these policies can be found in the STS Student Handbook [www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/handbook](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/handbook)

### Late submission of coursework

Penalties for late coursework submission are as follows:

- loss of 5 marks for work submitted less than 24 hours late
- loss of 15 marks for work submitted between 1 and 7 days late

- loss of all marks (i.e. work is graded 0) if submitted more than 7 days late  
These rules are statutory and non-negotiable.

### **Coursework word limits**

Penalties for over-length coursework are as follows:

- Assessed work should not be more than 10% longer than the prescribed word count. Assessed work with a stated word count above this maximum cannot be accepted for submission, but will be immediately returned to the student with instructions to reduce the word length. The work may then be resubmitted, except insofar as penalties for late submission may apply.
- If submitted work is subsequently found to have an inaccurately stated word count, and to exceed the upper word limit by at least 10% and by less than 20%, the mark will be reduced by ten percentage marks, subject to a minimum mark of a minimum pass assuming that the work merited a pass.
- For work which exceeds the upper word limit by 20% or more, a mark of zero will be recorded.
- Footnotes and endnotes **do** count as part of the word limit
- Bibliography, tables, pictures and graphs **do not** count as part of the word limit.

### **Extensions**

If unforeseeable circumstances prevent the completion of a piece of coursework, students may request an extension to the set deadline. Please consult the STS Student Handbook for further guidance on acceptable grounds for requesting an extension. Extensions must be negotiated in advance with the course tutor. Students to whom STS is parent department may also request an extension from their Personal Tutor. No extension is considered official without written approval.

The request for extension form can be found at: [www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/study](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/study)

### **Plagiarism**

The *UCL Student Handbook* defines plagiarism as “the presentation of another person’s thoughts or words or artefacts or software as though they were [your] own”. Students are expected to know the College and Department policies in detail and to avoid even the appearance of inappropriate behaviour. In the first demonstrated instance of plagiarism or other irregularities in this course, students normally will receive a 0 F for the course and will be referred to the department and College officials for further action. All course work is subject to scrutiny against past papers and other materials for irregularities. Electronic and other checks will be conducted; see the *STS student handbook* for additional information.

### **Attendance**

Regular attendance is mandatory.

### **Requirements to complete modules**

Students are required to be ‘complete’ in all modules. Normally all assignments must be attempted in order for students to be considered complete. This is different from ‘passing’ a module which requires a minimum overall module mark of 40%.

### **Assessment and additional examiners**

Assessed materials are marked by the course tutors. These provisional marks will be distributed to students at the first opportunity. To ensure fairness, materials subsequently are scrutinised by a second examiner within the Department, and a consensus is reached on these separate assessments. All assessed materials and the consensus marks are made available for scrutiny by an examiner external to UCL. Marks are considered final only after the Board of Examiners for Science and Technology Studies has approved them in their annual meeting near the close of Term three.

### **Disputed marks**

Students must endeavour to discuss any grievances over marks informally with the course tutor in the first instance. If informal discussion fails to resolve the matter satisfactorily and there appears to be genuine and substantive grounds for appeal, the student should submit a written explanation of their grievance to the chair of the board of examiners. A final formal written appeal can be made to the College Registrar.

### **Mechanisms for student feedback**

Students have a variety of means for commenting on the module and module tutor. These include written module evaluations at the end of term, regular lecture assessments offered by the module tutor, and in-session opportunities. Students are welcome to bring comments and criticisms to the module tutor in the first instance, by anonymous note if necessary, then to their personal tutor or the STS undergraduate tutor. The department schedules regular meetings of the Undergraduate Student Staff Consultative Committee to which all students are invited.

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