







# History (HIST) 404

## Historical Foundations of Modern Science (Revision 4)

<b>Status:</b>	Replaced with new revision, see the <a href="#">course listing</a>  for the current revision 
<b>Delivery mode:</b>	<a href="#">Individualized study online</a> 
<b>Credits:</b>	3
<b>Areas of study:</b>	Arts or Humanities
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	None. HUMN 202 is strongly recommended.
<b>Precluded:</b>	None
<b>Challenge:</b>	HIST 404 has a challenge for credit option.
<b>Faculty:</b>	<a href="#">Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences</a> 

## Overview

HIST 404 is designed primarily for science students in the last year of a BSc program, and for history students in the last year of a BA (History) program. As such, HIST 404 uses a range of primary and secondary materials as well as visual media, notably, the thirteen episodes that make up the lecture series *A History of Science in Society*.

## Learning outcomes

After completing HIST 404 you should be able to

1. recognize, interpret, and contextualize the main historical currents and developments in the history of science.
2. understand and apply different approaches to the study of science and the scientific method.
3. describe and discuss the connections between science and society.

## Outline

- Unit 1: What Is Science?
- Unit 2: The Origins of Natural Philosophy or Why the Greeks?
- Unit 3: Science in the Roman and Islamic Worlds and the 12th Century Revival in Western Europe
- Unit 4: Science in the Renaissance
- Unit 5: The Scientific Revolution
- Unit 6: Science and the Enlightenment
- Unit 7: Science and the Age of Empire
- Unit 8: The End of Certainty: Science, War, and the Onset of the Atomic Age
- Unit 9: Discovering DNA
- Unit 10: Hypatia's Heritage: Women's Role in Science
- Unit 11: The Shrinking World

## Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) for HIST 404, you must achieve a course composite grade of at least **D (50 percent)** [📄](#) and a grade of at least 50 percent or better on the final examination. The weighting of the course assignments is as follows:

Activity	Weight
Assignment 1	15%
Assignment 2	20%
Assignment 3	25%
Final Exam	40%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

The **final examination** for this course must be requested in advance and written under the supervision of an AU-approved exam invigilator. Invigilators include either ProctorU or an approved in-person invigilation centre that can accommodate online exams. Students are responsible for payment of any invigilation fees. Information on exam request deadlines, invigilators, and other exam-related questions, can be found at the **Exams and grades** [↗](#) section of the Calendar.

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's **online Calendar** [↗](#).

## Materials

### Physical course materials

The following course materials are included in a course package that will be shipped to your home prior to your course's start date:

Alic, Margaret. *Hypatia's Heritage: A History of Women in Science from Antiquity to the Late Nineteenth Century*. London: The Women's Press, 1986.

Ede, Andrew, and Lesley B. Cormack. *A History of Science in Society: From Philosophy to Utility*. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 2009.

Watson, James D. *The Double Helix: A Personal Account of the Discovery of The Structure of DNA*. New York: Touchstone Edition, 2001.

## Other Materials

All other course materials will be found at your online course site. Key course materials include the Course Information manual, the Study Guide, and various assignments.

## Challenge for credit

### Overview

The challenge for credit process allows you to demonstrate that you have acquired a command of the general subject matter, knowledge, intellectual and/or other skills that would normally be found in a university-level course.

Full information about **challenge for credit** [↗](#) can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

### Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) for the HIST 404 challenge registration, you must achieve a grade of at least **D (50 percent)** [📄](#) on the examination.

[📄](#) **Challenge for credit course registration form**

## Important links

- › [Academic advising](#) [↗](#)
- › [Program planning](#) [↗](#)
- › [Request assistance](#) [↗](#)
- › [Support services](#) [↗](#)

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

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*Updated January 10, 2025*

View **previous revision** 

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