

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S. 84-18

MEMORANDUM

To..... SENATE

From..... SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Subject..... CHANGES - HISTORY

Date..... FEBRUARY 14, 1984

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of February 7, 1984 gives rise to the following motion:

MOTION:

"That Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.84-18 , the proposed

New course - HIST 402-3 - Progress and Decline: Ideas and Realities"

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**

*SCUS 84-3*

**MEMORANDUM**

To Mr. H. Evans  
Secretary  
S.C.U.S.

From Sheila Roberts  
Secretary, Faculty of Arts  
Curriculum Committee

Subject New Course Proposal: HIST 402-3

Date January 20, 1984

The Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee approved the following course for permanent inclusion in the Calendar at its meeting of January 12, 1984.

HIST 402-3 Progress and Decline: Ideas and Realities

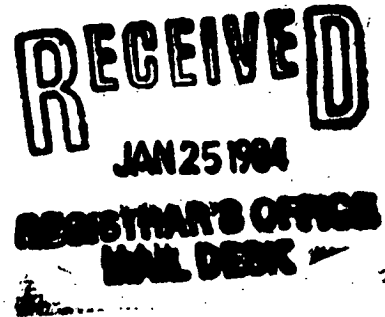
Would you please place this on the next agenda of S.C.U.S. Thank you.



S. Roberts

SR/md  
Attachments

c.c. History



SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL FORM

1. Calendar Information

Department History

Abbreviation Code: HIST Course Number: 402 Credit Hours: 3 Vector: 1-2-

Title of Course: Progress and Decline: Ideas and Realities

Calendar Description of Course: From the ancient world to the modern, men have been quick to conclude that their time was either advancing or regressing in learning, in creativity and in political position. In this course students will undertake to investigate, through the reading of primary texts, the western awareness of historical progress and decline. Emphasis will be placed upon the historical context of these ideas.

Nature of Course seminar

Prerequisites (or special instructions): HIST 105 and 106 strongly recommended.

What course (courses), if any, is being dropped from the calendar if this course is approved: None.

2. Scheduling

How frequently will the course be offered? once every two years.

Semester in which the course will first be offered? spring 1985.

Which of your present faculty would be available to make the proposed offering possible? P.E. Dutton

3. Objectives of the Course: to familiarize students with one of the main currents of western historical thought and to lead them to analyze notions of progress and decline critically.

4. Budgetary and Space Requirements (for information only)

What additional resources will be required in the following areas: None.

Faculty

Staff

Library See attached

Audio Visual

Space

Equipment

5. Approval

Date: 5/12/83 17/01/84

B. G. Smith  
Department Chairman

R. C. Brown  
Dean

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Chairman, SCUS

SCUS 73-34b:- (When completing this form, for instructions see Memorandum SCUS 73-34a. Attach course outline).

Progress and Decline: Ideas and Realities

In this course students will undertake to investigate, through the reading of primary texts, the western awareness of historical progress and decline. Emphasis will be placed upon the historical context of these ideas. Students will be required to submit one essay of 15-20 pages (worth 60% of the final grade), to present one seminar (30%), and to participate in all seminars (10%).

Required Texts

The Awareness of Historical Decline in the West, ed. P.E. Dutton: photocopied primary texts to be purchased from the S.F.U. History Department.

The Idea of Progress, eds. F.J. Teggart and G.H. Hildebrand (rev. ed., Berkeley, 1949), subject to availability: primary texts.

The Idea of Progress since the Renaissance, ed. W.W. Wagar (Major Issues in History; New York, 1969): primary texts.

Robert Nisbet, History of the Idea of Progress (New York, 1980).

Course Outline

1. An introduction to perceptions of progress and decline.
2. Greek notions of progress and decline from Homer to Plato and Aristotle.
3. The Fall of Republican Rome.
4. The Fall of Imperial Rome.
5. Western History and the example of Rome.
6. Early medieval history and the appearance of the Carolingian empire.
7. The fragmentation of the Carolingian empire.
8. The Later Middle Ages and the Apocalyptic tradition.
9. Renaissance notions of progress and decline.
10. The Enlightenment.
11. The nineteenth century: Decadents and Victorians.
12. The twentieth century
13. Conclusion.

Supplementary Bibliography on

Decline:

- Burke, Peter, 'Tradition and Experience: the Idea of Decline from Bruni to Gibbon', in Edward Gibbon and the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, eds. G.W. Bowersock et al. (Cambridge, 1977) 87-102.
- Carter, A.E., The Idea of Decadence in French Literature, 1830-1900 (Toronto, 1958).
- Dutton, P.E., Awareness of Historical Decline in the Carolingian Empire, 800-877 (Ph.D. thesis, Toronto, 1981).
- Gilman, R., Decadence: the Strange Life of an Epithet (New York, 1979).
- Mazzarino, S., The End of the Ancient World, trans. G. Holmes (London, 1966).
- Nisbet, R.B., Social Change and History: Aspects of the Western Theory of Development (Oxford, 1968).
- Starn, R., 'Meaning-Levels in the Theme of Historical Decline', History and Theory 14 (1975) 1-31.
- Swart, K., The Sense of Decadence in Nineteenth-Century France (The Hague, 1964), esp. pp.1-17.
- Vyverberg, H., Historical Pessimism in the French Enlightenment (Cambridge, 1958).
- Williams, G., Change and Decline: Roman Literature in the Early Empire (Berkeley, 1978).

Progress:

- Buckley, J.H., The Triumph of Time. A Study of the Victorian Concepts of Time, History, Progress and Decadence (Cambridge, Mass., 1966).
- Bury, J.B., The Idea of Progress: an Inquiry into its Origin and Growth (London, 1932).
- Dodds, E.R., 'The Ancient Concept of Progress', in E.R. Dodds, The Ancient Concept of Progress and Other Essays on Greek Literature and Belief (Oxford, 1973) 1-25.
- Doren, C. Van, The Idea of Progress (Concepts in Western Thought Series, New York, 1967).

Edelstein, L., The Idea of Progress in Classical Antiquity (Baltimore, 1967).

Frankel, C., The Faith of Reason: the Idea of Progress in the French Enlightenment (New York, 1948).

Tsanoff, R.A., Civilization and Progress (Lexington, 1971).

Muvenson, L., Millennium and Utopia: a Study in the Background of the Idea of Progress (Berkeley, 1949).

#### HIST 402-3

A fine collection of secondary and primary materials has been acquired by the library to support the Department of History's PhD programme which began in 1970.

The philosophy of history has been a part of the undergraduate curriculum for some time. It is presently included in Hist 495 which examines various philosophies of history; these, Hist 402 proposes to treat in greater depth.

The library holdings, bolstering, as they do, the PhD programme, do not need to be expanded for this course. They are further aided by the philosophy's and political sciences interest in the subject and their relevant materials.