

136-288 History of Astronomy

Credit Points:	12.500
Level:	Undergraduate
Dates & Locations:	2008, This subject commences in the following study period/s: Semester 1, - Taught on campus.
Time Commitment:	Contact Hours: Two 1-hour lectures and a 1-hour tutorial per week Total Time Commitment: Not available
Prerequisites:	Usually 75 points of first year study across any discipline area.
Corequisites:	None
Recommended Background Knowledge:	None
Non Allowed Subjects:	Formerly available as 136-028 and 136-101. Students who have completed either 136-028 or 136-101 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.
Core Participation Requirements:	<p><p>For the purposes of considering request for Reasonable Adjustments under the Disability Standards for Education (Cwth 2005), and Student Support and Engagement Policy, academic requirements for this subject are articulated in the Subject Overview, Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Generic Skills sections of this entry.</p> <p>It is University policy to take all reasonable steps to minimise the impact of disability upon academic study, and reasonable adjustments will be made to enhance a student's participation in the University's programs. Students who feel their disability may impact on meeting the requirements of this subject are encouraged to discuss this matter with a Faculty Student Adviser and Student Equity and Disability Support: http://services.unimelb.edu.au/disability</p></p>
Coordinator:	Dr Gerhard Wiesenfeldt
Subject Overview:	<p>In many cultures the study of celestial phenomena has taken a central role in the attempts to understand their surroundings. The apparent regularity of sun, moon and stars enabled observers to formulate rules for the behaviour of celestial bodies and derive predictions from them. Consequently, astronomy has not only become the oldest field in the systematic study of nature, it gives an opportunity to compare these studies among different civilizations. This subject investigates the development of astronomical thought in various cultures ranging from East and South Asia via the Middle East and Europe to Latin America. Central questions will be: How were the same phenomena interpreted in different cultures? How was the relation between sun, moon and earth regarded? How were astronomical observations done? What functions did astronomy have in culture? How was astronomical knowledge transmitted in cultural exchanges? Why did early modern Europe become the place that developed the idea of modern science? What was the relevance of the heliocentric planetary system - with the earth revolving around the sun \bar{A}, in this development? The subject will thus give an overview of the genesis of our modern world view while offering reflections on cross-cultural studies of science.</p>
Assessment:	Written work totalling 4000 words comprising a 1500-word essay 30% (due during semester) and a 2500-word essay 70% (due at the end of the examination period). A hurdle requirement of attendance at eight tutorials is applicable.
Prescribed Texts:	A subject reader will be available for purchase from the University Book Shop.
Breadth Options:	<p>This subject is a level 2 or level 3 subject and is not available to new generation degree students as a breadth option in 2008.</p> <p>This subject or an equivalent will be available as breadth in the future.</p> <p>Breadth subjects are currently being developed and these existing subject details can be used as guide to the type of options that might be available.</p> <p>2009 subjects to be offered as breadth will be finalised before re-enrolment for 2009 starts in early October.</p>

Fees Information:	Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees
Generic Skills:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # engage in critical reflection about the past and its connection to the present; # assess the diversity of cultural developments; # develop skills in written and oral communication; # conduct independent research; # make appropriate use of primary and secondary sources in mounting an argument; # form defensible judgements based on a critical evaluation of conflicting evidence.
Notes:	Students enrolled in the BSc (pre-2008 BSc), or a combined BSc course (except for the BA/BSc) will receive science credit for the completion of this subject.
Related Course(s):	Bachelor of Arts Diploma in Arts (History and Philosophy of Science) Graduate Certificate in Arts (Medieval and Renaissance Studies) Graduate Certificate in Arts (Renaissance and Early Modern Studies) Graduate Diploma in Arts (Medieval & Renaissance Studies) Graduate Diploma in Arts (Renaissance and Early Modern Studies)