Introduction

Many individuals have deposited their papers with the University; as a result it has acquired an unrivalled collection of material not solely relating to the history and culture of the north-east of Scotland but also of national and international importance.

Student lecture notes are indispensable resources to illustrate what was being taught at the University and also at other universities in Europe. The notes may be important for information on an individual student, but more often the notes are utilised for researching the teaching methods of famous teaching staff.

Please note that this factsheet should be consulted in conjunction with the factsheet QG HCOL040: University student resources in Special Collections.

University of Aberdeen lecture notes

Arranged by name of lecturer

Lecture notes of John Anderson, on logic (copy), taken by James Brodie: 1711 – 1712 (MS 3105).

Lecture notes of Alexander Bain, on logic, taken by unknown student: 1860 – 1861 (MS 3863).

Lecture notes of James Beattie, on moral philosophy, taken by various students: 1766 - 1780 (MSM 185, MSU 186, MSU 187).

Lecture notes of James Beattie, on ‘Elements of Moral Philosophy’, taken down by an unknown student: late 18th century (MS 2065).

Lecture notes of James Beattie, on moral philosophy, taken by Joseph Troup: 1796 – 1797 (MS 2901).

Lecture notes of James Beattie jr., on ancient history and natural history, taken by William Knight: 1799 - 1800 (MSM 188 – MSM 189).

Lecture notes of [James Beattie jnr.], on natural history, taken by David Shirrefs: 1806 - 1807 (MS 2781).

Lecture notes of William Black, on logic, taken by an unknown student: 1691 - 1692 (MSK 152).

Lecture notes of William Black, on metaphysics, ethics and geography taken by an unknown student: 1692 - 1693 (MSK 153).

Lecture notes of [William Black], on logic, taken by David Kinloch: 1702 – 1703 (MS 2859).

Lecture notes of [William Blackhall], on logic, taken by Andrew Cant: c. 1641 - 1642 (MS 3077).

Lecture notes of George Campbell, on theology, taken by Robert Eden Scott: 1786 – 1787 (MSM 190).

Lecture notes of Thomas Clark, on chemistry, taken by Alexander Bain: 1840 – 1841 (MSM 217 – 218).

Lecture notes of Patrick Copland, on natural philosophy, taken by Duncan Davidson: 1789 – 1790 (MS 2996).

Lecture notes of Patrick Copland, on natural philosophy, taken by William Knight: 1800 – 1801 (MSM 203 – 205).

Lecture notes of Patrick Copland, on natural philosophy, taken by Robert Wilson: 1803 (MS 438 – MS 439).

Lecture notes of Patrick Copland, on natural philosophy, taken by John Mitchell: 1807 – 1808 (MS 2944).

Lecture notes of Patrick Copland, on natural philosophy, taken by William Duncan: 1812 – 1813 (MS 3016).


Lecture notes of Patrick Copland, on natural philosophy, taken by William Strachan: 1819 – 1820 (MSM 205/3).
Lecture notes of John Cruickshank, on mathematics, taken by James Hay: 1836 – 1837 (MSM 176).


Lecture notes of James Davidson, on natural and civil history, taken by William Mercer: 1826 (MSM 178).

Lecture notes of James Davidson, on natural and civil history, taken by William Watson: 1833 – 1834 (MSM 207).

Lecture notes of Patrick Dun, on logic and physics, taken by an unknown student: 1610 – 1611 (MS 113).

Lecture notes of [James Dunbar], on natural philosophy, taken by William Munro: c. 1788 – 1789 (MSK 237).

Lecture notes of [James Dunbar], on moral philosophy, possibly Dunbar’s own copy: c. 1784 – 1809 (MS 3107/5/2/6).

Lecture notes of James Dunbar, on natural philosophy and arithmetic and algebra, taken by George Yeats: 1790 – 1792 (MS 3865).

Lecture notes of [James Farquharson], on natural history, taken by Alexander Warrack: 1852-1853 (MSM 358).

Lecture notes of John Fleming, on natural philosophy, taken by Patrick Smith: 1843 – 1844 (MSK 211).


Lecture notes of Patrick Forbes, on chemistry, taken by Charles Thurburn, Hugh Fraser and another: 1833 – 1838 (MSK 198).

Lecture notes of David Fordyce, on philosophy, taken by an unknown student: 1743 - 1744 (MSM 184).

Lecture notes of Alexander Fraser, on logic, taken by Kenneth Sutherland and others: 1694 (MS 3084).

Lecture notes of George Fraser, on ‘physics, astronomy, trigonometry and geometry’, taken by George Gordon and others: 1686– 1687 (MSK 151).

Lecture notes of George French, on chemistry, taken by William Knight: 1801 – 1802 (MSM 213).

Lecture notes of Alexander Gerard, on moral philosophy, taken by George Forbes: [1757 – 1758] (MSM 205/2).


Lecture notes of [George Glennie], on moral philosophy, taken by William Knight: [1801 – 1802] (MSM 158).

Lecture notes of [George Glennie], on moral philosophy, by [William Officer]: [1804 – 1805] (MS 3787).

Lecture notes of George Glennie, on moral philosophy, taken by Earnest Mearns: 1812 – 1813 (MSM 206).


Lectures notes of Thomas Gordon, on moral philosophy and logic, taken by unidentified student: 1780 (MS 301).

Lecture notes of [Robert Hamilton], on mathematics and geometry, taken by Alexander Paterson: 1792 (MSM 220).

Lecture Notes on [Robert Hamilton], on mathematics, taken by John Morrison: 1805 – 1806 (MSM 212).

Lecture notes of Matthew Hay and others, on medicine, taken by John Stuart and Frank Stuart: 1892 – 1917 (MS 3128).

Lecture notes of Matthew Hay and others, on medicine, taken by Alexander Anderson: 1907 – 1908 (MS 3327).

Lecture notes of Dr Robert Jamieson, Alexander Kilgour and Dr William Keith, on medicine, taken by Dr Robert Jamieson: 1861 (MS 2813).


Lecture notes of William Knight, on natural philosophy, taken by Alexander Brand: 1826 – 1827 (MS 3758).

Lecture notes of [William Knight], on natural philosophy, taken by Alexander Brand: 1828 – 1829 (MS 3060).

Lecture notes of William Knight on natural philosophy, by an unknown student: 1837 (MS 3513).

Lecture notes of William Knight, on natural philosophy, taken by Francis Aberdein: 1843 – 1844 (MS 3484).

Lecture notes on ‘psychology, theology, moral philosophy and logic’, taken by John Logie: 1766 (MS 2855).


Lecture notes of [Roderick MacLeod], on natural and moral philosophy, taken by [Robert Eden Scott] and Robert Hall: 1783 – 1785 (MSK 171 – MSK 173).

Lecture notes of William Martin, on moral philosophy, taken by John Brebner: 1851 – 1852 (MS 3821).

Lecture notes of [M. McKail], on mathematics, taken by John Cuming and Alexander Gordon: 1730 (MS 2003).

Lecture notes of Duncan Mearns, on divinity, taken by W. G. Blaikie: 1837 – 1839 (MSK 205).

Lecture notes of Alexander Muir, on metaphysics, taken by Patrick Simpson: 1706 (MS 3166).

Lecture notes by Alexander Ogston, on surgery, taken by Joseph Ellis Milne: 1888 (MS 3496).

Lecture notes of George Peacock, on logic, physics, ethics and politics, taken by Robert Gordon: c. 1698 (MS 182).

Lecture notes of George Peacock, on general physics, taken by John Stewart and Ludovick Reid: 1691 (MSM 183).

Lecture notes of George Peacock, on logic and metaphysics, taken by Patrick Forbes and others 1699 (MSM 175).

Lecture notes of Thomas Reid, on natural philosophy, taken by an unknown student: 1757 – 1758 (MSK 160).

Lecture notes of Patrick Sandilands, on logic, taken by James Wineram: 1669 (MSK 208).

Lecture notes of Hercules Scott, on moral philosophy and law and jurisprudence: 1848 – 1849 (MSK 196 – 197).


Lecture notes of Henry Scougal, on logic, taken by Alexander Bisset and George Gordon: 1670 – 1671 (MSK 157).

Lecture notes of Henry Scougal, on ethics, taken by Thomas Ogilvie and John Ogilvie: [1682 – 1683] (MSK 159).

Lecture notes of William Seaton, on Latin and natural philosophy and cartesian science, taken by John Syme and Thomas Udny: 1693 (MSK 3516).

Lecture notes of John Shier, on natural history, taken by James Dalgarno: 1838 – 1839 (MSK 3777).

Lecture notes of Francis Skene, on natural history, taken by William Paterson: 1768 (MSM 177).

Lecture notes of Francis Skene, on natural history, taken by an unknown student: 1775 (MSM 208).

Lecture notes of George Skene, on geography, taken by [Alexander MacLennan]: [1701 – 1704] (MS 2092).

Lecture notes of George Skene, on logic and geometry, taken by Alexander Abercrombie and Alexander Andrew: 1693 – 1694 (MSK 109).

Lecture notes of George Skene, on logic, taken by Thomas Ogilvie: 1701 – 1702 (MSK 154).

Lecture notes of George Skene, on general history, taken by Thomas Ogilvie and another: 1702 – 1703 (MS 141).

Lecture notes of George Skene, on geography, taken by [Alexander MacLennan]: [1701 – 1704] (MS 2092).

Lecture notes of George Skene and James Urquhart, on ethics, taken by Alexander Stewart: 1708 – 1709 (MSK 155).


Lecture notes of John Stuart, on greek grammar, taken by James Andrew: 1788 – 1789 (MSM 221).

Lecture notes of John Stuart, on Greek, taken by Alexander Middleton: 1815 – 1816 (MS 3141).

Lecture notes of [James Urquhart], on logic, taken by John Ogilvie: 1717 (MSK 158).
Lecturers not stated: arranged by student name

Beattie, James (Professor of Moral Philosophy and Logic), student notes on moral philosophy: 1761 – 1793 (MS 30/16).

Beattie, James (Professor of Moral Philosophy and Logic), student notes on moral philosophy: [1760s] (MS 555).

Campbell, George (Principal and Professor of Divinity), student notes on systematic theology: 1782 – 1789 (MSM 191 – 201).

Cant, Andrew, Aristotle's logic lecture notes: 1642 (MS 3077).

Copland, Patrick (Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy), student notes on natural philosophy: 1783 to 1807, compiled by Murchison in 1856 (MS 3123).

Cormack, Dr Gertrude, medical lecture notes: 1915 – 1920 (MS 3164).

Deans, Winifred M. and Maxwell D., lecture notes: 1910s – 1930s (MS 3359).

Dune, Robert and George Peacock, logic lecture notes: 1622 – 1623 (MS 151).


Forbes, Patrick (Professor of Humanity), student notes on latin: 1821 (MSK 199).

Garrow, Duncan, United Free Church minister: lecture notes: c.1910 (MS 2873).

Hamilton, Robert (Professor of Mathematics), student notes on natural philosophy and other subjects: 1779 – 1812 (MS 455 and MS 458).

Hadden, George, algebra lecture notes: 1792 (MS 202).


Knight, William (Professor of Natural Philosophy), student notes on natural history and botany: 1811 – 1839 (MSM 152 – 157).

Knight, William (Professor of Natural Philosophy), student notes on natural philosophy: 1816 – c.1820 (MSM 119 – MSM 140).

Knight, William (Professor of Natural Philosophy), student notes on natural philosophy, chemistry and natural history: c.1800 – c.1840 (MSM 141 – 151).

Lee, John (Professor of Moral Philosophy), own student notes on moral philosophy: 1820 – 1821 (MSK 206).

Lyall, Agnes, Master of Arts lecture notes: 1927-1930 (MS 3606).


Macpherson, Robert (Professor of Systematic Theology), student notes on theology: 1852 – 1865 (MSU 515, MSU 516, MSU 517, MSU 518, MSU 519, MSU 520, MSU 521).

Moir, William and John, physics and astronomy lecture notes: 1619 – 1620 (MS 150).

Riddell, Beatrice, Master of Arts (history) lecture notes: 1909 – 1910 (MS 3844).


Scott, Robert Eden (Professor of Moral Philosophy), student notes on various subjects: 1795 – 1801 (MSK 175 – MSK 192 and MS 659).

Stuart, Helena, zoology lecture notes: 1928 (MS 3281).

Stuart, John, student notes on greek grammar: 1782 (MS 365).

Thomson, David (Professor of Natural Philosophy), student notes on natural philosophy: 1850 - 1854 (MSU 479 – MSU 480 and MSU 503).

Watt, Archibald, english and education lecture notes: 1932 – 1938 (MS 3641).

Wright, John Milne, Master of Arts lecture notes: 1927 – 1929 (MS 3814).

Lecture notes from other universities

Arranged by name of lecturer

Lecture notes of Dr. J. Abernethy, physician, on medical practice: 1822 (MS 2220).


Lecture notes of Dr Joseph Black, on chemistry, mineralogy and coals, taken by David Skene: 1753 - 1770 (MS 478/37 and MS 478/47).

Lecture notes of Hermann Boerhaave, Professor of Medicine and Botany, University of Leiden: 1734 (MS 2127).

Lecture notes of Dr Hermann Boerhaave, Alexander Monro and others collected by James Thomson in Hadines [Haddington]: 1741 (MS 663).

Lecture notes of Alexander Cockburn, on physica, taken by Thomas Johnstoune: 1687 (MS 2187).

Lecture notes of William Cullen, Professor of medicine, University of Glasgow, on Chemistry: 1756 – 1757 (MS 469).

Lecture notes of Dr William Cullen and Dr James Gregory in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh taken by George French: 1769 – 1770 (MS 129).

Lecture notes of William Cullen, Professor of medicine, University of Glasgow, on Chemistry: 1756 – 1757 (MS 469).

Lecture notes of Dr William Cullen and Dr James Gregory in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh taken by George French: 1769 – 1770 (MS 129).

Lecture notes of Professor James Forbes, Edinburgh University, on natural philosophy, taken by George Burnett: 1840 – 1841 (MS 3564).

Lecture notes of David Gregory, astronomer, on trigonometry, astronomy, geometry and hydrostatics: late 17th century (MS 2171).

Lecture notes of James Gregory, Professor of Medicine at Edinburgh University, on medicine: early 19th century (MS 2789).

Lecture notes of John Gregory, Professor of Medicine, Edinburgh, on medicine: 1773 (MS 2784).

Lecture notes of Dr John Hope, Professor of Botany, University of Edinburgh, on Botany, farming and husbandry, taken by James Cunningham: 1774 – 1781 (MS 564).

Lecture notes of David Hume, Professor of Scots Law, Edinburgh University, on Scottish law, taken by Andrew Skene: 1808 (MS 1029).

Lecture notes of David Hume, Professor of Scots Law, Edinburgh University, on Scottish law, taken by A. Copland: 1811 – 1812 (MS 1030).

Lecture notes of Professor David Hume, on law, taken by unknown student at University of Edinburgh: early 19th century (MS 2759).

Lectures notes of P. Lemonnier, Professor of Physics at the College d’Harcourt, Paris: ‘Physica generalis et particularis’ (General and specific physics): 1731 (MS 111).

Lecture notes of David Masson, on rhetoric, taken by W. Humphries: 1884 – 1885 (MS 2972).

Lecture notes of Professor John Millar, Professor of Law, Glasgow University, on government: 1782 (MS 133).

Lecture notes by Alexander Munro, Professor of Anatomy, Edinburgh University, on surgery, taken by Alexander Gordon: mid 18th century (MS 636).

Lecture notes of Dr John Walker of Edinburgh, on natural history: 1782 (MS 3107/6/5).

Lecture notes of Peter Wesseling, Professor of Greek at the Academy of Trajectina (Netherlands): ‘Dictata in Tursellini Epitomen historiarum’ (lecture notes on Tursellinus’ summary of histories): 18th century (MS 369 – MS 373).

Lecturers not stated – arranged by student name

Elfynston, William, lawyer: collection of lecture notes taken at Louvain: 1433 (MS 195, MS 196 and MS 197).

Fordyce, George, physician: miscellanea from medical lectures: 1778 – 1779 (MS 505).

Fordyce, George, lectures on the Practice of Physic: late 18th century (MS 2872/14).

Grant, Alexander: lecture notes, from Utrecht: c.1695 (MS 3570).

Gregory family: notes, lectures and essays: De Febribus in Genere et Diversis Alis by Isbrandus de Diemerbrock: 17th century (MS 2206/22/2).

Scott, Robert Eden: lecture notes of various Edinburgh University professors: 1785 – 1786 (MS 189).

Printed collections

The Local Collection, accessible via the Reading Room, contains relevant printed material such as the University Calendar.

Access

Materials are available upon request for consultation in the Reading Room. Please search online catalogues to identify individual items:

www.abdn.ac.uk/library/about/special/search-catalogues/

Further reading

For further reading please also see the studies of a number of manuscripts, printed books and collections in the journals Aberdeen University Library Bulletin, Aberdeen University Review and Northern Scotland.