

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
Winter 2012
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

History 9271B
Creating Postwar Canada: Themes in Canadian History Since 1945

Instructor: Professor Keith Fleming
Office: Lawson Hall, 2226
Office Hours: Wednesday, 2:30-5:00 p.m., or by appointment
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Email: kfleming@uwo.ca
Class time: Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Classroom: Lawson Hall, 1227

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will focus on recent literature dealing with the social, cultural, intellectual, economic and political history of postwar Canada. More specifically, it examines how historians interpret the opportunities and challenges posed by the prolonged period of economic prosperity Canada experienced following the Second World War, such as the rise of a consumer culture and its various regional manifestations. Other themes include the dramatic impact that massive increases in immigration had on the country's ethnic make-up, and how extensive urbanization and suburbanization reconfigured traditional views concerning home and work, the place of the welfare state, and shifting attitudes towards poverty, citizenship, and the proper role of the state. Also considered are Canada's complicated relationship with the United States, marked by resistance to American influences on Canadian culture, politics, and economic life, and the eventual integration of the continental economy. A wide array of social movements, including new expressions of nationalism in Quebec and English Canada, and the emergence of New Left, women's liberation, gay rights, student protest, and countercultural movements are all considered in the context of Canada's growing integration with the rest of the Western world. Through these and related themes of diversity and dissent, historians are challenging the conventional wisdom of postwar Canada's ideological homogeneity.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

As this is a reading intensive seminar, the writing requirements are comparatively light. Students will read one assigned book each week in preparation for seminar discussions. Since a single monograph cannot encapsulate adequately the range of historical and historiographical themes associated with each seminar's exploration of a specific facet of Canada's history since 1945, much attention will be given to contextualizing the books within the broader historical narrative of the weekly topic.

This is a graduate-level seminar and much is expected of the participants. Attendance is mandatory. Students will be assessed weekly on their level of preparedness and

knowledge as indicated by contributions to class discussions. **A passing grade (minimum 70%) for “Seminar Participation” is required in order to be eligible to receive a passing grade for the course.**

In preparation for the second session of the course (January 17th) students will read Philip Massolin, *Canadian Intellectuals, the Tory Tradition, and the Challenge of Modernity, 1939-1970* (2001) (**this book is available on-line**) and submit a scholarly review (maximum length, seven pages) discussing the book’s merits as an intellectual history of the many expressions of Canada’s postwar modernization that are the principal foci of the course. This assignment, in addition to establishing a framework for our seminar discussions on January 17th and the sessions to follow, will also enable the professor to assess each student’s writing and analytical skills early in the course. Additional details concerning this written requirement will be provided in class.

The second writing assignment is somewhat more ambitious. During the first session of the course (January 10th) students will be designated one seminar session for which they are to prepare and present a formal lecture (maximum 25 minutes in duration) positioning the assigned book within the broader historical narrative of the seminar theme for that week. Thus, the lecture will be designed to instruct others in the seminar about the book’s broader historical and historiographical context. The presenting student will also be responsible for leading the seminar discussion that week. Two weeks after the class presentation, a scholarly written report (maximum length, 20 pages) will be due incorporating both the substance of the student’s lecture as well as a concise review of the assigned book.

Additional details concerning this lecture and the accompanying written requirement will be provided in class.

The third writing assignment is quite straightforward. Each student will read Nancy Christie and Michael Gauvreau, eds. *Cultures of Citizenship in Post-war Canada, 1940-1955* (2003) AND Magda Fahrni and Robert Rutherford, eds. *Creating Postwar Canada: Community, Diversity and Dissent, 1945-75* (2008) and submit in class on March 20th a scholarly book review (maximum length, twelve pages) explaining the relative merits of each collection of articles as evidence of contemporary scholarship on the history of postwar Canada.

Additional details concerning this written requirement will be provided in class.

Evaluation:

Seminar Participation: 30%

Review of *Canadian Intellectuals, the Tory Tradition, and the Challenge of Modernity, 1939-1970* (**due 17 January 2012**): 15%

Lecture and written report (**latter due two weeks following presentation**): 30%

Comparative Book Review (**due 20 March 2012**): 25%

Any written assignments submitted after the due date will receive a grade of “0”.

Required Books: all are available for purchase at the UWO Bookstore (unless they are available on-line), and are on two-hour reserve at the D.B. Weldon Library)

- Christie, Nancy and Michael Gauvreau, eds. *Cultures of Citizenship in Post-war Canada, 1940-1955* (2003)
- Edwardson, Ryan. *Canadian Content: Culture and the Quest for Nationhood* (2008)
- Fahrni, Magda and Robert Rutherford, eds. *Creating Postwar Canada: Community, Diversity and Dissent, 1945-75* (2008)
- Gauvreau, Michael. *The Catholic Origins of Quebec's Quiet Revolution, 1931-1970* (2005). **(available on-line)**
- Igartua, José E. *The Other Quiet Revolution: National Identities in English Canada, 1945-71* (2006).
- Massolin, Philip. *Canadian Intellectuals, the Tory Tradition, and the Challenge of Modernity, 1939-1970* (2001) **(available on-line)**
- Muirhead, Bruce. *Dancing Around the Elephant: Creating a Prosperous Canada in an Era of American Dominance, 1957-1973* (2007)
- Owram, Doug. *Born at the Right Time: A History of the Baby Boom Generation* (1997)
- Palmer, Bryan D. *Canada's 1960s: the Ironies of Identity in a Rebellious Era* (2009)
- Parr, Joy. *Domestic Goods: The Material, the Moral and the Economic in the Postwar Years* (1999)
- Porter, Ann. *Gendered States: Women, Unemployment Insurance, and the Political Economy of the Welfare State in Canada, 1945-1997* (2003) **(available on-line)**
- Sangster, Joan. *Transforming Labour: Women and Work in Postwar Canada* (2010)

SEMINAR and READING SCHEDULE:

Session One: Tuesday 10 January 2012

Topic: Course Objectives and Procedures

Session Two: Tuesday 17 January 2012

Topic: Criticizing Postwar Modernity

Reading: Philip Massolin, *Canadian Intellectuals, the Tory Tradition, and the Challenge of Modernity, 1939-1970* (2001) **(available on-line)**

******* REVIEW OF *Canadian Intellectuals, the Tory Tradition, and the Challenge of Modernity, 1939-1970* DUE TODAY *******

Session Three: Tuesday 24 January 2012

Topic: Designing a Canadian Material Culture

Reading: Joy Parr, *Domestic Goods: The Material, the Moral and the Economic in the Postwar Years* (1999)

Session Four: Tuesday 31 January 2012

Topic: "Boomers" Rule

Reading: Doug Owram, *Born at the Right Time: A History of the Baby Boom Generation* (1997)

Session Five: Tuesday 7 February 2012

Topic: Labouring Lives

Reading: Joan Sangster, *Transforming Labour: Women and Work in Postwar Canada* (2010)

Session Six: Tuesday 14 February 2012

Topic: Women and the Welfare State

Reading: Ann Porter, *Gendered States: Women, Unemployment Insurance, and the Political Economy of the Welfare State in Canada, 1945-1997* (2003) (**available on-line**)

Session Seven: Tuesday 28 February 2012

Topic: Changing Ideas of Anglo-Canadian Identity

Reading: José E. Igartua, *The Other Quiet Revolution: National Identities in English Canada, 1945-71* (2006).

Session Eight: Tuesday 6 March 2012

Topic: Religion and Revolution in Quebec

Reading: Michael Gauvreau, *The Catholic Origins of Quebec's Quiet Revolution, 1931-1970* (2005). (**available on-line**)

Session Nine: Tuesday 13 March 2012

Topic: Crafting a Cultural Nationalism

Reading: Ryan Edwardson, *Canadian Content: Culture and the Quest for Nationhood* (2008)

Session Ten: Tuesday 20 March 2012

******* COMPARATIVE REVIEW OF Nancy Christie and Michael Gauvreau, eds. *Cultures of Citizenship in Post-war Canada, 1940-1955* AND Magda Fahrni and Robert Rutherford, eds. *Creating Postwar Canada: Community, Diversity and Dissent, 1945-75* DUE TODAY *******

Session Eleven: Tuesday 27 March 2012

Topic: A Pivotal Decade

Reading: Bryan D. Palmer, *Canada's 1960s: the Ironies of Identity in a Rebellious Era* (2009)

Session Twelve: Tuesday 3 April 2012

Topic: Canadian Prosperity Amidst American Domination

Reading: Bruce Muirhead, *Dancing Around the Elephant: Creating a Prosperous Canada in an Era of American Dominance, 1957-1973* (2007)

Session Thirteen: Tuesday 10 April 2012

Topic: Flotsam and Jetsam
Reading: to be determined

Please note: Students are reminded that **academic accommodation on medical grounds** can in most instances only be granted if supported by a University of Western Ontario Student Medical Certificate. This form can be accessed at the following website: https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/Imedical_document.pdf or be picked up at the Academic Counselling Office in the student's home faculty. (For Social Science students 2105 SSC.) Further details on medical accommodation can be found at the following website: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>.