

The University of Western Ontario  
Department of History  
Fall 2017

**French Canada**  
9207A

**DRAFT**

Dr. Jeffery Vacante  
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*Office hours:* Thurs. 12:30-2:00  
*in Lawson Hall 2218*

Tues. 1:30-3:30  
*in Lawson Hall 1218*

This seminar explores the development of modern Quebec society. The emphasis this term will be on the social, cultural, and political evolution of the province since the late nineteenth century. Our weekly discussions will focus on key themes such as the rise of Quebec nationalism in the early twentieth century, the province's reaction to modernity, the changing role/function of the Church/religion, gender, the development of the modern bureaucratic state, as well as the Quiet Revolution and its aftermath. We will also devote considerable time discussing the major historiographical debates that have shaped both the writing of history as well as the modern Quebec mind

***Readings:***

- Ronald Rudin, *Making History in Twentieth-Century Quebec*
- Michael Behiels, *Prelude to Quebec's Quiet Revolution*
- Michael Gauvreau, *The Catholic Origins of Quebec's Quiet Revolution*
- Sean Mills, *The Empire Within*
- Graham Fraser, *René Lévesque and the Parti Québécois in Power*
- Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois, *In Defiance*

Other readings to be made available online or on reserve at the Weldon Library

***Course Requirements:***

Seminar(s)	10%
Essay Proposal	15%
Research Essay	50%
Participation	25%

***Requirements:*** Students will prepare a major **research essay** (25 pages). Students are to select, in consultation with the instructor, a topic that deals with some aspect of French Canada's history since the late nineteenth century. The essay is to have an argument and be based on primary and secondary sources. Students are also expected to position their research and argument within the historiography of their chosen field. This paper is to follow the usual scholarly conventions and include footnotes as well as a bibliography. The final essay is **due December 5**.

Since it is expected that this research essay will be a major piece of work that you develop throughout the semester you will be asked to start thinking about your topic soon. You will thus be asked to write a brief (2-3 pages) **proposal** of your topic along with a one-page bibliography. This proposal should demonstrate deep engagement with the topic and provide evidence that you have begun to seriously think about and read about your chosen field. This proposal and bibliography is **due October 17**.

Students are expected to come to the seminar every week prepared to discuss the readings. Effective **participation** is achieved when a student demonstrates a full understanding of the week's readings, is willing to engage critically with these readings, and can effectively situate a particular text within a larger context. True participation occurs when a student can move beyond merely summarizing an argument to critically engage with a particular text. An effective participant is also someone who is capable of listening while others talk and of considering as well as respecting the views of other members of the seminar.

In addition to participating every week, each student will be asked to lead the discussion for at least one seminar during the semester. In this **seminar** students are to provide an opening presentation (10-15 minutes) that introduces the readings for that week and provides possible questions for discussion. Presenters are asked not simply to summarize the readings. Rather, they are to situate the material broadly within the larger themes of the course and to analyze its significance. Students not presenting on a particular week are expected to do the readings for that week and to come prepared to discuss them.

### ***Seminar Schedule***

**Sept. 12:** Introduction

**Sept. 19:** French Canadian Society

- Mills, *The Empire Within*, 3-39.
- Behiels, *Prelude to Quebec's Quiet Revolution*, 8-19.
- Pierre Elliott Trudeau, "The Province of Quebec at the time of the Strike."

**Sept. 26:** Remembering (Montreal)

- Behiels, *Prelude to Quebec's Quiet Revolution*, 20-60, 97-120.
- Rudin, *Making History in Twentieth Century Quebec*, 3-128

**Oct. 3:** Forgetting (Laval)

- Behiels, *Prelude to Quebec's Quiet Revolution*, 61-96, 121-84.
- Rudin, *Making History in Twentieth Century Quebec*, 129-221.

**Fall Break:** Oct. 9-13

**Oct. 17:** Church and Society

- Gauvreau, *The Catholic Origins of Quebec's Quiet Revolution*, 3-174.

**Oct. 24:** The State

- Behiels, *Prelude to Quebec's Quiet Revolution*, 185-276.

- Gauvreau, *The Catholic Origins of Quebec's Quiet Revolution*, 247-359.
- Kenneth McRoberts, "The Quiet Revolution: The New Ideology of the Quebec State," in *Quebec: Social Change and Political Crisis* (Toronto 1988):128-72.
- Hubert Guindon, "Social Unrest, Social Class and Quebec's Bureaucratic Revolution," *Queen's Quarterly* 71 (Summer 1964): 150-162.

**Oct. 31:** Decolonization

- Mills, *The Empire Within*, 40-118, 163-216.
- Michael Gauvreau, "Winning Back the Intellectuals: Inside Canada's 'First War on Terror,' 1968-1970," *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association* 20, no. 1(2009): 161-90.

**Nov. 7:** Gender

- Katherine A. Roberts, "Making Women Pay: Revolution, Violence, Decolonizing Quebec in Hubert Aquin's *Trou de mémoire*," *Québec Studies* 30 (Fall/Winter 2000): 17-27.
- Mills, *The Empire Within*, 119-37.
- Gauvreau, *The Catholic Origins of Quebec's Quiet Revolution*, 175-246.

**Nov. 14:** Language

- Graham Fraser, *René Lévesque and the Parti Québécois in Power*, 91-112.
- Sean Mills, *The Empire Within*, 138-62.

**Nov. 21:** Sovereignty Association

- Graham Fraser, *René Lévesque and the Parti Québécois in Power*, 2-90, 113-358.

**Nov. 28:** Generational Change

- Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois, *In Defiance*.

**Dec. 5:** Conclusion