

University of western Ontario
Department of History

History 3203E – French Canada

Professor Timothy G. Pearson

Course Description

This is a seminar-style course that focuses on themes in the history of French Canada from the early modern period to the late twentieth century. The course will follow a rough chronological development as we delve deeply into selected themes such as French-Native relations, religion and the church, the economy, daily life, historiography, and memory. While the focus naturally falls on New France and Quebec, we will also discuss other areas of French settlement in Canada, and the French empire in the Americas including Acadia, Ontario and western Canada, as well as Louisiana and the Caribbean. Seminar discussions will focus on interpretations, sources, and historical methodologies.

Class Format

The professor will introduce the theme for each class with a short lecture which will be followed by student presentations and discussion of assigned readings. Presentations will be based around a selected book and the presenter will be expected to lead the discussion by posing questions relating to the subject of the book, class, and the weekly readings. All students are expected to come prepared to discuss the weekly readings and each student will present two books for discussion (one each semester). Two classes (three if necessary) will be set aside in the winter semester for students to present and discuss their research.

Required Texts

Course pack

Evaluation

2 book reviews (10% each)	20%
2 seminars 7.5% each	15%
Total	35%
Major research paper	30%
Proposal and Annotated Bibliography (1 st semester)	10%
Presentation of research in class (2 nd semester)	10%
Total	50%
Participation (pop quizzes on readings + in-class discussions)	15%

Course outline
Fall Semester

Week 1. *Introduction*

Themes and Historiography

Week 2. *An Introduction to Sources and Methods, Part I (no seminar)*
Discussion of Selected Document

Week 3. *Historiography (no seminar)*
Discussion of Readings

Early Contact

Week 4. *Contact and Missions*
Seminars and book presentations begin

Week 5. *The Pays d'en Haut: Allies War and Diplomacy*

Week 6. *Migrants and Settlers*

Government

Week 7. *Power and Authority*

Week 8. *Building an Empire*

Daily Life in New France

Week 9. *The Habitants*

Week 10. *The Economy*

Week 11. *Religion and the Church*

French North America

Week 12. *Acadia, Newfoundland, Louisiana and the Caribbean*

Week 13. *Conquest and its Aftermath*

Winter Semester

Week 1. *Art and Material Culture (no seminar)*
Discussion of readings

Frenchness After France

Week 2. *Religion and the Church*
Seminars resume

Week 3. *French Canada under British Rule*

Industrialization

Week 4. *Life in Industrial Montreal*

Week 5. *The Church in Modern Society*

Daily Life in Modern French Canada

Week 6. *War and Society*

Week 7. *The Modern City*

Presentations of Research

Weeks 8, 9, and 10 (if necessary)

Minorities

Week 10. *Aboriginal Peoples in Modern Quebec*

Week 11. *French outside Quebec*

History and Memory

Week 12. *Constructing the past in 19th Century Quebec*

Week 13. *Making History in the Twentieth Century*