

University of Western Ontario
Department of History
Fall 2011

THE HISTORY OF AVIATION IN CANADA

History 2215F

Instructor: Dr. Jeffery Vacante
Email: jvacant2@uwo.ca
Office hours: Tues. 1:30-3:30
in Lawson Hall 2245

Lectures: Weds. 1:30-3:30
in SH 2355

This course explores the idea of aviation from the mid-nineteenth century to the present day. The dream of flight is an old one and when men began to experiment with machines they were greeted both as visionaries and as cranks. For those who supported these experiments, flying machines represented humanity's technological achievement as well as the hope that science might bring the world together in peace. But the early promise of flight would be shattered by war as airplanes were shown to be efficient weapons, as well. The early dreams of flight persisted following the Second World War as aviation became more accessible and affordable to more travellers. And yet during the postwar years the Great Powers continued to use air power to showcase their military and cultural superiority. At the same time, deregulation of the skies meant that air travel would become even more accessible to the masses, transforming it into a rather prosaic means of transportation that has lost some of its former lustre. By the end of the twentieth century flying had come to be regarded by many people as something simply to be endured. The notion of flight as a modern and even romantic means of transportation has evaporated. This course traces this evolution, focussing on the key developments and personalities in the history of aviation and the key role that government and business has played in the history of aviation.

In this course students will, in addition to learning the broad outline of the history of aviation, sharpen their ability to read and think critically, develop their analytical skills, and learn to organize and present their thoughts and research in a formal academic essay. Throughout the course, students will also demonstrate their respect for the opinions of others as well as their own critical engagement with the course readings and the world around them.

Text:

Laurence Goldstein, *The Flying Machine and Modern Literature* (Indiana 1986)

Other readings to be made available online or on reserve

Mark Breakdown:

Midterm	30%
Essay	40%
Final Exam	30%

Requirements:

Students are to prepare a **research essay** (10 pages) that deals with a significant issue in the history of Canadian aviation. The essay offers students the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to exhibit their analytical skills and their proficiency in historical research methods. These essays are to be well-written, clearly-argued, and follow proper scholarly conventions (including Chicago citation style). Good essays will be firmly grounded in the larger themes of the course, demonstrate an awareness of historical context, offer a critical engagement with their sources, and draw upon at least six relevant sources. The essay is due **November 16**. An identical copy of the essay must be submitted to **turnitin** through the WebCT course page. Essays submitted after the due date will be subject to a late penalty of five percent the first day and one percent for every day thereafter (including weekends).

Students will select **ONE** of the following topics:

1. Identify the place that Billy Bishop occupies in the Canadian imagination and explore what this place tells us about the history of aviation.
2. In what ways did early bush pilots transform Canadians' relationship to the North and shape the public's perceptions of the Canadian aviation?
3. Explore the gendered dimension of aviation in Canada.
4. Explore why the cancellation of the Avro Arrow program has had such a profound impact on the Canadian imagination.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Students will also write a **midterm exam** on **October 19** and a **final exam** during the December exam period.

Lecture Schedule:

Week 1: Sept. 14 • Introduction

Week 2: Sept. 21 • The Idea of Flight
- Goldstein, *The Flying Machine*, 1-40

Week 3: Sept. 28 • Pioneers of Flight
- Goldstein, *The Flying Machine*, 41-62

Week 4: Oct. 5 • War in the Air
- Goldstein, *The Flying Machine*, 63-96

Week 5: Oct. 12 • The Heroic Age
- Goldstein, *The Flying Machine*, 97-130

Week 6: Oct. 19 • **Midterm Exam**

Week 7: Oct. 26 • The Bush Pilots
- Goldstein, *The Flying Machine*, 131-151

Week 8: Nov. 2 • Commercial Aviation
- William McAndrew, "The Evolution of Canadian Aviation Policy Following the First World War," *Journal of Canadian Studies* 16, no. 3-4 (Fall 1981): 86-99.
- Peter Pigott, "James Richardson and the Creation of Commercial Aviation in Canada," in *Wingwalkers: The Rise and Fall of Canada's Other Airline* (Madeira Park, B.C: Harbour Publishing, 2003): 13-35.

Week 9: Nov. 9 • The Jet Age I
- Stephen Bocking, "A Disciplined Geography: Aviation, Science, and the Cold War in Northern Canada, 1945-60," *Technology and Culture* 50, no. 2 (April 2009): 265-90.

Week 10: Nov. 16 • The Jet Age II
- Eva-Marie Kröller, "Fear of Flying? The Myth of Daedalus and Icarus in Canadian Culture," *Journal of Canadian Studies* 28, no. 4 (Winter 1993-94): 102-116.

Week 11: Nov. 23 • Flying in the Atomic Age
- Goldstein, *The Flying Machine*, 152-211

Week 12: Nov. 30 • Aviation in the Canadian Imagination
- Goldstein, *The Flying Machine*, 212-223

Week 13: Dec. 7 • Conclusion

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

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FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

PLAGIARISM

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

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the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

MEDICAL ACCOMMODATION

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. Please go to <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf> to download the necessary form. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation is warranted. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once a decision has been made about accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for term tests, assignments, and exams.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Rebecca Dashford, Undergraduate Program Advisor, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84962 or rdashfo@uwo.ca