



History 2124A

Sounds, Sights & Bits: Explorations in 20th Century Canadian Popular Culture

Contact / Class Information

Thursday 2:30 - 4:20

Instructor: Dr. Peter V. Krats

Office: Stevenson Hall 2123

Telephone: 661-2111 (X84983) / messages: 661-3645

Lecture room: SSC 2024

Office hours TBA

e-mail: pkrats@uwo.ca

Office Hours / Contacting Me:

My Office Hours Tuesday 1:30-4:30 and Thursday 1:15-2:20. I will be in at other times; feel free to speak with me about appointments. If you “catch” me at my office, I will gladly discuss matters time permitting. I make an effort to respond to e-mails within 24 hours. Be sure to include a clear subject heading. Phone mail messages face a longer “turn-around.” Or, speak to me at class – I usually have time before or after !!

Course Description

Canadian popular culture is sometimes derided as “inferior mimicry” and “derivative” of “pop culture” from south of the 49th parallel. Was (is ?) that the case ? We trace the evolution of “Canadian popular culture,” offering glimpses into music, film and television, sport and more. What was enjoyed, why, and was it “Canadian ?” Scrutiny of “voices, images, and more reveal histories little appreciated, with both impressive originality and sycophantic imitation readily found. We will examine *popular* culture in various guises – from radio and television to film to music, sports and more. The character of that cultural product; the role of changing tastes and technologies; the influence of regulation versus free enterprise; national versus international perspectives; and the changing “mass” market all come into play. History 2124 challenges notions about Canadian popular culture, suggesting that “our” culture is more multifaceted than the caricatures provided by either nationalist “cheerleading” or dismissive rejection.

Course Learning Outcomes :

- T identify key elements in the history of Canadian popular culture, including forces of continuity versus change; in doing so, better understanding some of forces shaping history overall
- T recognize both strengths and weaknesses in historical assessment *and* cultural views of history – learning that “the” past reflects both conventional data and a lend of myth, imagination and more
- T show an ability to assess written historical work and cultural products and to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of both conventional and cultural historical sources
- T summarize their ideas by synthesizing issues within reports, essays and examinations
- T develop verbal and presentation skills, including both presentation and reaction to class materials
- T begin to see the relevance of “pop culture” in understanding earlier and contemporary Canada

Course Requirements

Detailed explanation of these requirements below

Participation:		20 %
Group Effort on OWL		10
Individual Comments on Lectures	15	Due : class & Turnitin Oct. 30, 2014
Thoughts on a Cultural Element	20	Due : in class & Turnitin Nov. 27, 2014.
Final Exam :		35

Given the brevity of the writing assignments, extensions will need to meet the University criteria provided at the end of the syllabus. There are suggestions about “good” writing practice on OWL under the “Resources” section (alongside course “headers” and copies of the Power point slides.)

Class Participation : [20 %]

History is inherently interpretive, so during most classes groups will discuss issues arising from lectures. After in-group discussion, ideas will be shared with the whole class. Discussions evaluated as follows:

Overall quality of shared classroom discussion :	4 %	
Four (4) Individual Website assignments (randomly assigned) :	12 %	[3 % each]
* postings due no later than Sunday noon once assigned		
“Group comments” sheets handed in weekly :	4 %	

* If you miss discussions postings contact me **within a week** – I will consider any reasonable explanation.

Group Effort on OWL : [10 %]

Each Participation Group will create one element on the OWL site. As a **GROUP**, you will post a series brief comments on the evolution of Canadian popular culture as “unravelling” in the course. The postings are the responsibility of **all** group members. Various formats are possible – a “dialogue” or a blog or some other technique is fine. If in doubt, consult with me.

Comments on Lectures : [15 %]

What do **you** see as **ONE** key theme within the evolution of Canadian popular culture **by 1939** ? Be concise --s the discussion need only be 3 double spaced pages. No outside research required, but if used, it must be properly cited. Proper English is expected. **Due : in class and on Turnitin October 30, 2014.**

Thoughts on a Cultural Element : [20 %] :

Students are expected to provide a well written discussion on **ONE** cultural element – be it a performer, a programme, a sport, a product, a business or more. Discuss your topic in light of ideas and trends emerging from the broader study of Canadian popular culture. What makes your choice “Canadian” ? What impact has it had on Canadian popular culture ? Does it share in a long tradition, or is it unique ?

Four pages, double spaced. You will likely need to do some research to supplement lecture materials. Proper citations (in any standard format) are expected. Your writing should be to university standards. [There are some hints about common writing errors on the OWL site under “Resources.”]

Due : in class and on Turnitin November 27, 2014.

Note : Because to give you maximum time, this paper is due in the last class, I will make arrangements to return them in the exam period; I will also provide the grade on OWL.

Final Examination : [35 %]

- ◆ Two hours
- ◆ emphasizes broad issues, not the minutia of history
- ◆ Date : during the time period set by the University Registrar

There are few secrets to success on an exam. But there are ways to struggle:

T Trying to “catch up” at the last minute only creates substantial stress [I set the exam, not the textbook – so going to class is an excellent means of gaining insights into exam issues]

T Memorizing “all data” is also ineffective. History exams assess student understanding: do you know why events occurred, what events led up to/ followed from events? The degree of continuity and/or change?

Lecture Topics :

* several topics extend beyond one week; subject to change

1. Introductions / Contexts of Canadian Culture / Culture Contemplated
 2. Glimpses of 19th Century Popular Culture
 3. Popular Culture Meets Urban-industrial Capitalism
 4. Tiddly Winks to “Reaching for a Lucky”: Popular Culture as Control & as Site of Contention
 5. Music & Machines → Mesmerizing the Masses
 6. Entertaining Canadians : Expanding Media
 7. Sporting Spectacles in a Modernizing Canada
 8. Contexts of “Modern” Popular Culture: W.W. II to the 1980s
 9. Consuming as Progressive Popular Culture
 10. *Seeing Things* : Images & Popular Culture in Canada, 1939-1990s
 11. “Bits” of Canadian Popular Culture since the 1990s
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ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

Prerequisites and Antirequisites:

Unless you have either the requisites for this course, as described in the Academic Calendar description of the course, or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites. The Academic Calendar description of each course also indicates which classes are considered antirequisites, i.e., to cover such similar material that students are not permitted to receive academic credit for both courses.

Academic Offences:

Scholastic Offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitute a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

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).

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>).

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 Issues:

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. This site provides links the necessary forms. 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 should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

SUPPORT SERVICES:

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western, <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

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.

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