

History 2120B (001) [2017-18]

Northern Enterprise :
Canadian Business & Labour History
[TENTATIVE]



Time: tba

Instructor: Dr. Peter V. Krats

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Location: tba

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Office Hours / Contacting Me:

My Office Hours tba; feel free to ask 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 & Goals:

BUSINESS : “heroes and scrooges”; LABOUR : “troublemakers and social activists” ? Popular perceptions of heroes and villains abound; history offers more nuanced images. This course examines Canadian both business and labour history within the framework of Canadian economic history. Key themes include changing business conduct, the varying fortunes of Canadian labour, the evolution of state roles, and implications of these changes. Ideally, students will add understanding of this history, while strengthening analytical and communications (written/oral) skills. Ideally, come with an interest in how Canada’s economic development was shaped by the joint effort of entrepreneurs and workers.

Course Learning Outcomes :

- identify key developments in the history of Canadian business and labour, including emerging concepts, changes to economic production, and interrelationships between capital and labour
- recognize both strengths and weaknesses in historical assessment – the utility of “knowing” the past blended with an awareness of subjective and other potential errors
- show an ability to assess written historical work and to summarize and evaluate ideas emerging from lectures
- summarize ideas by synthesizing issues within an essay examination
- begin to recognize the relevance of history in dealing with modern business/ labour settings

Course Reading:

there is no Course text; very basic “notes” reflecting the lectures are available on the OWL site

Course Requirements: Detailed explanations below

Participation:	20 %	[ongoing]
Group Effort in class / on OWL	10	"
Thoughts on lectures	15	Due : tba
History Suggests ? : idea piece	20	Due : tba
Final Exam :	35	

Detailed explanation below. 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 Notes and copies of the Power point slides.)

Class Participation: (20 %)

History is inherently interpretive, so students should think, not just listen to a litany of the "facts." During most classes we will break into set groups to discuss issues arising from lectures and reading. Group discussion in class will be graded based on regularity and frequency of comments during class and the spontaneous comments handed in at the end of class. Individual participation relies upon your comments, uploaded to OWL, as randomly assigned.

Overall quality of shared classroom discussion :	4 %	
Four (4) Individual Website assignments:	12 %	[3 % each]
* postings due Friday after being assigned [one second before Saturday at latest]		
"Group comments" sheets handed in weekly :	4 %	

** If you miss discussions postings, do not just post them late – you MUST contact me – I will consider any reasonable explanation

Group Participation Requirement: (10 %)

On OWL, each group will have to submit ONGOING "discussion" in the FORUM section of OWL – the grade is based on both the quality of the discussion and your personal contributions. Adding numerous posts in one "block" is not the route to a good grade – I'm looking for consistent effort through the term. Obviously, a good Group grade does not guarantee a student a good grade if they were not involved . The day of the last class is the last day that entries will count.

Thoughts on Lectures : (15 %)

Students are expected to consider lectures up to the week prior to the due date. Your paper should briefly explain why you see the key themes / issues that are emerging. Why do you see these as major issues? Are they issues that you anticipated?

No outside research is required, but is permitted. If used, it must be properly cited. Specifics from class can be cited by class date or lecture title (see Tentative Lecture list for lecture titles).

Length : 750 words. [3 pages normal fonts / margins] Due : tba

History Suggests ? : Idea Piece (20 %)

This is a small piece seeking your analysis – what does History tell us about the Canadian business-labour-relationship? What insights have you gained concerning the interaction of business, labour and government? Highlight examples from class materials in making your case. I want to read what you think History can teach us. If that is nothing, make that case.

Length : 1000 words. [4 pages normal fonts / margins] Due : tba

Final Examination: (35 %)

- ◆ Two hours // based on both lectures and texts // emphasizes broad issues, not 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:

- Trying to “catch up” at the last minute only creates substantial stress [I set the exam, so going to class is an excellent means of gaining insights into potential exam issues]
 - 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?
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Lecture Topics

1. Introduction // Early Staples & Colonial Beginnings
2. Staples, Regional Economies & Infrastructures in British North America

3. "Manufactures" & Labour in British North America to 1870
4. National Policy & the "Great Transformation"
5. Labour and the "Great Transformation"
6. The Great War and the 1920s
7. Economic Crisis
8. Wartime Developments Take Two
9. "Big is In" : Business, Labour & Government to the 1970s [probably 2 classes]
10. Toward a Global Economy: to the 1980s
11. Into Neo-Conservative Times