



The University of Western Ontario
HISTORY 3813E
Public History
Fall/Winter 2018-2019
Mondays, 2:30pm – 4:30pm, STVH 2166

Instructor: Professor Mike Dove

Office Hours: 12pm – 2pm
Department of History, Office: Lawson Hall 1207
Email: mdove2@uwo.ca



Image: Overlaid London Streetscape

Copyright: W.J. Turkel

Course Description:

An exploration of history as it is understood by and interpreted for the public in varied venues and media, including museums, historic sites, historical fiction, the internet, and film. Topics include the history of public history, ethical practice, the relationships between form and content and between public and academic history.

Prerequisite(s):

1.0 course in History at the 2200 level or above; or History 2811F/G and enrolment in the Minor in Public History.

Unless you have either the requisites for this 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. The 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.

Course Syllabus:

[Please note that this is a draft syllabus. The final version, including a list of all reading assignments, will be available on the OWL-Sakai course website prior to the beginning of classes.]

This course provides an overview of public history- applied history, or the many and diverse ways in which history is put to work in the world. The theory and practice of public history will be examined through a variety of sources, including historical novels, websites, apps, television, film, exhibits, artifacts, graphic novels, computer games, guest speakers, and physical sites.

Students will be acquainted with the wide range of history-related professional opportunities available outside of academia, namely: archives and records management, film and documentary production, museums, parks, historic sites, historic preservation, heritage tourism, editorial services, digital history, oral history, genealogy, and public policy research and consulting. Students will meet practitioners in the field and visit several public history-related sites.

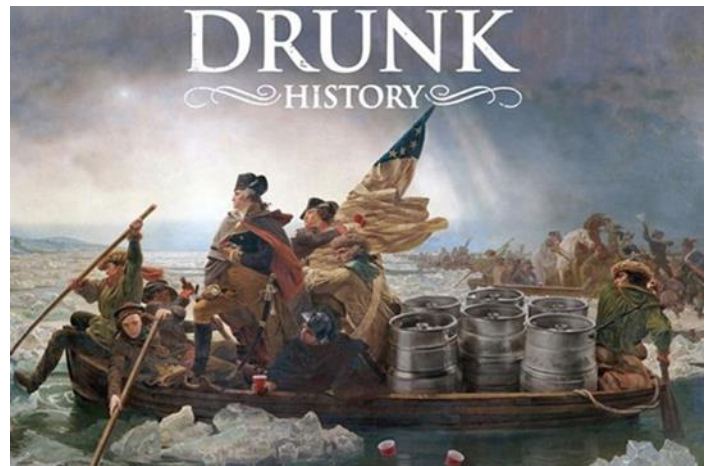


Image: Advertisement for Drunk History television series.

By the conclusion of this course, students should have:

- a sense of the origin, growth, and theory of public history;
- an understanding of the primary avenues for practicing public history;
- an awareness of the main issues and challenges faced by public historians;
- a familiarity with the variety of tools used by public historians;
- first-hand experience working with material culture objects;
- an ability to examine and critically assess various forms of historical media;
- the capability of delivering a short presentation of their work to their peers;
- the experience of working in small groups on a public history project;
- made contacts with public history professionals and institutions;
- experienced several local public history-related sites;
- and a clearer sense of the diversity of career options open to them.



Image: Students participating in the material culture workshop.

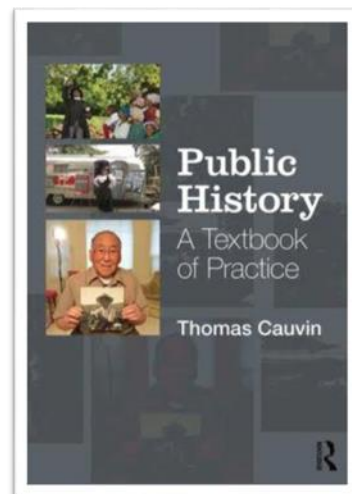
Students will be expected to attend all classes and site visits, complete the weekly readings, participate in weekly discussions, write an exhibit review and a midterm exam, and complete a small group project.

Electronic devices may be used in class for the taking of notes. To encourage civility and respect for one another in the classroom, the recreational use of lap-tops (ie. web browsing, emailing, etc.), as well as the use of all wireless handheld devices (ie. cell phones) is not permitted in the classroom during class. Filming of lectures is not permitted. Thank you for your cooperation.

Course Materials:

There is just one textbook for this course. It is available for purchase new or used at the Western University Book Store and on 2-HR reserve at DB Weldon Library. Other readings will be assigned for each week, all of which will be available online or via the course website (OWL Sakai) as indicated in the course syllabus.

Image: Thomas Cauvin, Public History: A Textbook of Practice (Taylor & Francis, 2016).



Methods of Evaluation:

Exhibit Review	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Small Group Project	40%
Class Participation	20%

Students will write a 4-5 page (1,000-1,250 word) critical review of an exhibition scheduled for Fall 2018 at Museum London about long-time *London Free Press* political cartoonist Merle Tingley. The class scheduled for 15 October will be devoted to viewing the exhibit and meeting its curator. More information about this assignment, including supporting resources, will be shared via the OWL course website.

Students will write a 2-hour midterm exam during the December examination period, as scheduled by the Office of the Registrar. The exam will cover all class and textbook material to that date. More information regarding the structure of the exam will be provided in class.

Experiential learning and group work are essential aspects in one's training to becoming a public historian. These are also factors particularly valued by employers and admission committees for graduate and professional programs. The Small Group Project is designed to provide students with such prized skills and experiences. Groups of between three and four members will propose a topic for a public history project, give a 30-minute presentation of the project to the class, and ultimately produce a 10-12 page final written proposal. The project may take several forms, examples include the creation of a documentary film, a museum exhibit, an oral history project, an historical walking tour, or a heritage website. Although this project is designed to give students practical experience in the field of public history, students are not meant to bring the proposal to fruition. It should be kept in mind, however, that student proposals could very well be of interest to those in the public history community and may lead to future collaboration. Students are therefore encouraged to consult with individuals and/or institutions whose work is particularly relevant to group proposals.

A group contract and brief summary of the intended proposal will be due on 04 February and the final proposal will be due on 09 April. Groups will deliver a 30-minute presentation of their work during classes scheduled for the closing weeks of the Winter term. The class scheduled for 18 March will be set aside for students to work in their groups. The week previous to their presentation, groups will suggest 1-2 “readings” for the class to encourage questions and discussion. These will be posted on the course website by the professor. The entire project is weighted at 40% of the final grade (the group contract and initial proposal is valued at 10%; the presentation is valued at 10%; and the final proposal is valued at 20%). To assist students in this project, we will devote a class early in January to a discussion of the importance of group-work in the public history workplace, where we will focus on group-building techniques and developing effective presentation skills. More information about the small group project will be provided on the course website.

Because collaborative effort and oral communication are key elements to practicing public history, classes will often take the form of a combined lecture-seminar format. Participation in discussions is essential to having a quality learning experience. Students are expected to regularly contribute informed and thoughtful opinions on assigned readings. To better prepare students for each discussion, several questions relating to the readings will be posted on the course website. Students are expected to be attentive, make comments, and ask questions, especially during site visits and student presentations. Students are also invited to share their personal stories and news of any recent events that relate to a particular week’s topic. To help students better gauge their performance, participation updates and suggestions for improvement will be given at intervals over the year.

Requests for make-up exams in this course will only be granted for documented medical reasons or family emergencies. If documentation is required for either illness or non-illness academic accommodation, then such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean’s office and not to the instructor. It will be the Dean’s office that will determine if accommodation is warranted. If it is warranted, then the instructor will be notified and the student and the instructor will arrange a make-up exam date. Please refer to the following website for more information about Western’s Policy Accommodation for Illness: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf

Barring the above conditions, late assignments and late small group projects will be penalized 2% each day thereafter, including weekends.



Image: Students leading an historical walking tour.

Tentative Course Schedule:

[Please note that assigned readings from the textbook and other sources will appear on the final version of the course syllabus, which will be posted on the OWL-Sakai course website prior to the beginning of classes.]

FALL 2018

SEPTEMBER

10 – Welcome!

17 - Introduction: Defining ‘Public History’ and ‘the public’

24 – Archives, Museums and Historic Sites, Part I

OCTOBER

01 – Archives, Museums and Historic Sites, Part II

08 - NO CLASS: FALL READING WEEK!

15 – SITE VISIT TO MUSEUM LONDON

22 – SITE VISIT TO BANTING HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

29 – SITE VISIT TO MUSEUM OF ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGY

NOVEMBER

05 – Family, Oral and Community History

12 – Heritage Conservation/ Preservation

19 – Popular History, Part I:
Comics, Games, Novels and the Web

26 - Popular History, Part II:
Film, Television and the Documentary

DECEMBER

03 – Digital Public History



Image: The Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto.



Image: Banting House NHS, London.

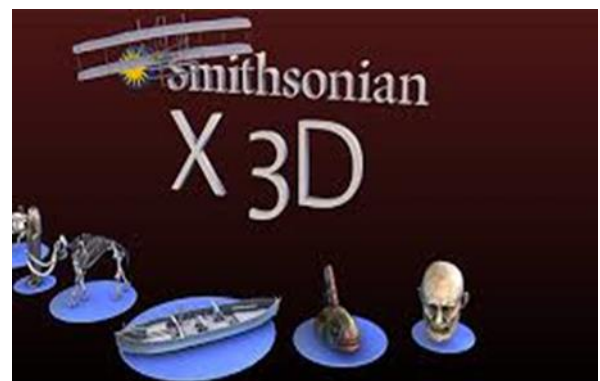


Image: Smithsonian Museum 3D Artifacts.

WINTER 2019

JANUARY

07 – Groupwork & Collaborative Projects/ The Small Group Project

14 – Archival Collections & Management

21 – SITE VISIT TO LONDON LIFE CORPORATE ARCHIVES

28 – Material Culture/ SITE VISIT TO WESTERN'S MEDICAL ARTIFACT COLLECTION

FEBRUARY

04 – Historical Research Consulting/ GUEST SPEAKER: SEAN STOYLES, CDCI RESEARCH, OTTAWA

11 – Dramatizing the Past

18 - NO CLASS: WINTER READING WEEK!

25 – The Business of History, Part I: Corporate Uses of the Past

MARCH

04 – SITE VISIT TO HISTORIC LABATT HOMETOWN BREWERY

11 – The Business of History, Part II: Heritage Tourism

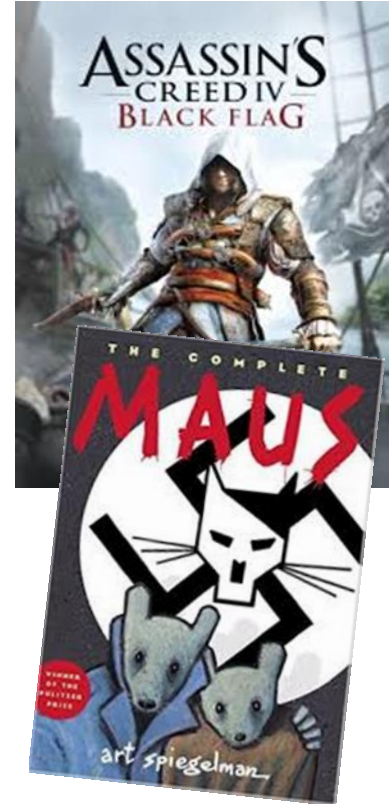
18 – Small Group Meetings

25 – Small Group Project Presentations

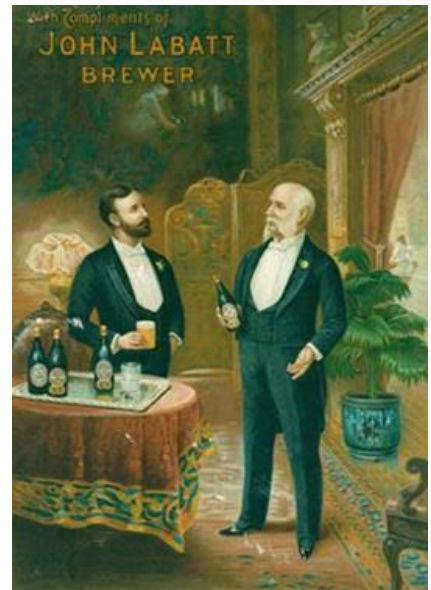
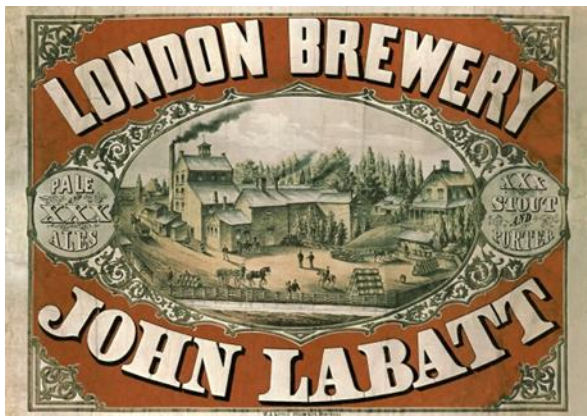
APRIL

01 – Small Group Project Presentations

08 – Small Group Project Presentations



Images: Assassin's Creed Video Game; Maus Graphic Novel.



Images: Labatt Brewery beer label; Labatt advertisement.

Additional Statements

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

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 for such checking 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>).

Accessibility Options:

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 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

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. 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.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html

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.

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Support Services

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

Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices are allowed during the midterm examination, unless approved by the instructor and Accommodated Exams.

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, Heidi Van Galen, Administrative Officer, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84963 or e-mail vangalen@uwo.ca.