

## HISTORY 3813E: PUBLIC HISTORY

Fall/Winter 2023-2024

Professor Mike Dove

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Image: *Overlaid London Streetscape*

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Please note that this is a draft syllabus. The final version of the syllabus, including a list of all reading assignments, site visits and guest lecturers, will be available on the OWL-Sakai course website prior to the beginning of classes in September.

### 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.

### Course Syllabus:

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, heritage conservation, heritage tourism, editorial services, digital history, oral history, genealogy, and public policy research and historical research consulting. Students will meet practitioners in the field and experience several public history-related sites.

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, including digital media, oral history and documentary filmmaking techniques;
- 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 community project;
- made contacts with public history professionals and institutions;
- experienced in-person several local public history-related sites;
- and a clearer sense of the diversity of career options open to them.

### Course Materials:

There is one textbook for the course, freely available to be read online through Western Libraries:

<https://ocul->

[uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma991044447759105163&context=L&vid=01OCUL\\_UWO:UWO\\_DEFAULT&lang=en&search\\_scope=OCULDiscoveryNetwork&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&tab=OCULDiscoveryNetwork&query=any,contains,cauvin,%20thomas&offset=0](https://ocul-uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma991044447759105163&context=L&vid=01OCUL_UWO:UWO_DEFAULT&lang=en&search_scope=OCULDiscoveryNetwork&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&tab=OCULDiscoveryNetwork&query=any,contains,cauvin,%20thomas&offset=0) or available for purchase in hardcopy at the Western Book Store.

Additional readings, consisting of book chapters, articles, illustrations and videos, are accessible through the OWL (Sakai) course website, as noted in the final course syllabus.

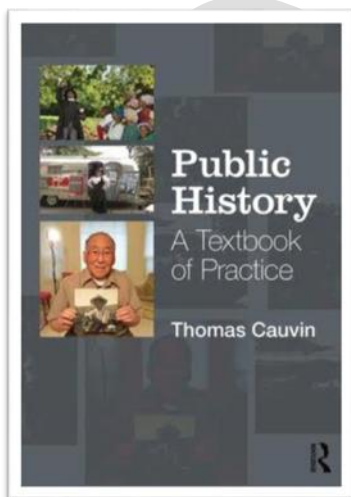


Image: Thomas Cauvin, *Public History: A Textbook of Practice* (Taylor & Francis, 2016).

### Methods of Evaluation:

Class Participation 25%

'Me in 3' Exhibit	10%
Comparative Site Review	20%
Public History Project	45%

Students must submit all assignments in order to pass this course. Students are also expected to attend all classes (including site visits), complete the weekly readings, and to participate in weekly discussions.

Because public interaction is a key element to practicing public history, scheduled weekly 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 guest lectures 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, a participation update and suggestions for improvement will be given at the mid-point of the year prior to returning to classes in January. Participation is valued at 25% of the final course grade.

**The 'Me in 3' Exhibit** assignment is designed to provide students with the opportunity to tell their own story by curating an exhibit about their own lives. Each student will tell their own story in three minutes using three objects of their choosing. Presentations will take place during class scheduled for Monday, 06 November 2023. In the event of illness or otherwise approved absence, a student will present their exhibit the following week. More information will be provided through the OWL course website. The 'Me in 3 Exhibit' will be weighted at 10% of the final course grade.

Students will submit a written **Comparative Site Review** on their experiences at the following three sites we make during the fall term: Eldon House, Banting House National Historic Site of Canada, and the Museum of Ontario Archaeology. The review will be limited to 1500 words and should incorporate material from the relevant course lectures and readings. All submissions should be made to Drop Box via the OWL course website by 11:59pm EST on Monday, 27 November 2023. The Review will be worth 20% of the final course grade. More information about this assignment will be provided on the course website.

Groups of 3-4 students will complete a **Public History Documentary Film Project** during the Winter 2024 term. Topics may be chosen from a list provided by the instructor or may be one of your own creation. In the spirit of collaboration, student groups will be encouraged to consult with individuals and/or community heritage organizations whose work is particularly relevant to their project proposals. Two classes scheduled in January will be devoted to the theory and practice of documentary filmmaking. More information about this assignment will be provided on the course website.

All projects will include a brief summary of the intended proposal and group contract, due by 11:59 EST on 29 January; a 30 minute presentation of the project to the class, to be scheduled on one of the designated class dates in March/ April; and a final written proposal of 12 pages, due on Monday, 08 April 2024. More information will be provided through the OWL course website. The Public History Project is weighted at 45% of the final course grade (5% - proposal; 20% - presentation; 20% - final write-up).

**Policy for Missed/ Late Assignments:**

Students with an approved absence from an assignment will be required to complete it at a later date. Only the academic counselling office of a student's home faculty can approve such a request. Late submissions of written assignments will be penalized 5% the first day, and 2% each day thereafter, including holidays and weekends.

**Policy for Use of Generative AI Tools:**

The use of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT is permitted in this course for activities such as brainstorming and refining your ideas, drafting an outline to organize your thoughts, or checking grammar and style. Any use of such tools should be properly documented and cited. If in doubt, please ask me for clarification.

**Tentative Course Schedule and Readings:**

**Please note that several additional readings will be assigned in this course. They will appear on the final version of the syllabus, which will be posted on the OWL course website prior to the beginning of term.**

This course will be partially taught through the OWL (powered by Sakai) course website. It contains all course readings except the textbook and is where students will access the course syllabus, calendar, announcements, additional assigned readings, their grades, and submit their written assignments. I hope this will be an enjoyable experience for you. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are encountering issues or have concerns and we will work towards finding a solution. See you soon!

**Images: *Dunkirk* film poster; *Assassin's Creed* video game; Indigenous protests; Alma College ruins; family history mementos; *Maus* graphic novel**



## FALL 2023

### SEPTEMBER

11 - Welcome & Introductions: Defining 'Public History' and 'the public(s)'

Readings: Cauvin textbook, pp. 1-21; 205-206; 216-226; 230-245; 250-266.

TBA

18 - Museums & Historic Sites

Readings: Cauvin textbook, pp. 27-48; 140-157.

TBA

**25 - 'Reading Objects': Material Culture Workshop/ SITE VISIT: WESTERN'S MEDICAL ARTIFACT COLLECTION!**

### OCTOBER

**02 - SITE VISIT: ELDON HOUSE!**

**09 - NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING!**

**16 - SITE VISIT: BANTING HOUSE NHSC!**

**23 - SITE VISIT: MUSEUM OF ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGY!**

**30 - NO CLASS: FALL STUDY BREAK!**

NOVEMBER

06 - 'Me in 3' Exhibit Presentations!

13 - Peoples' Stories: Family & Community History

Readings: Cauvin textbook, pp. 89-102.

TBA

**20 - Heritage Conservation/ GUEST SPEAKER: DR, MARK TOVEY, HERITAGE SPECIALIST!**

Readings: Cauvin textbook, pp. 55-81.

TBA

27 - Popular History: Comics, Games, & Novels

Readings: Cauvin textbook, pp. 107-110; 115-124; 163-172; 195-197. TBA

DECEMBER

04 – Digital Public History

Readings: Cauvin textbook, pp. 174-183; 197-200.

TBA

**WINTER 2024**

JANUARY

08 - Careers in Public History: Preparing Letters, Resumes and Applications/ THE GROUP PROJECT

Readings: TBA

15 – Documentary Filmmaking I

22 – Documentary Filmmaking II

29 - Archival Collections & Management

Readings: TBA

NOTE: Group Project & Contract Due by 11:59EST today!

NOTE: Site Review Due by 11:59EST on Friday, 03 February!

FEBRUARY

**05 – SITE VISIT: TBA!**

**12 - Historical Research Consulting/ GUEST SPEAKER: SEAN STOYLES, CDCI, OTTAWA!**

Readings: Cauvin textbook, pp. 250-266.

TBA

**19 - NO CLASS: WINTER STUDY BREAK!**

26 - The Business of History, Part I: Corporate Uses of the Past

Readings: TBA

MARCH

04 - The Business of History, Part II: Heritage Tourism

Readings: TBA

11 - Public History Group Project Presentation Preparation - Group Meetings

18 - Public History Group Project Presentations!

25 - Public History Group Project Presentations!

APRIL

01 - Public History Group Project Presentations!

**08 - Final Write-ups for Public History Group Projects Due by 11:59pm EST!**



**Image: Camping on the moon – heritage tourism**

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Please review the Department of History's shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at: [https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program\\_module\\_information/policies.html](https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html) for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.